



Background Information of the Northern Region Appeal of Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Addendum XXX

ISFMP Policy Board

May 2018

Appeal Process



- Appeal is reviewed by Commission Leadership within 15 business days
 - Current Chair and Vice-Chair and Past Chair
- Appeal must be justified with following criteria:
 - Decision not consistent with FMP
 - Failure to follow process
 - Insufficient/inaccurate/incorrect application of technical information
 - Historical landings period not adequately addressed
 - Management actions resulting in unforeseen circumstances/impacts

Black Sea Bass Fishery



- Recommendation for federal waters regulation if Northern States set measures to meet the RHL
- If not: NOAA would implement backstop measures
 - 14 inches, 5 fish, May 15- Sept 15
- Stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring

Addendum XXX



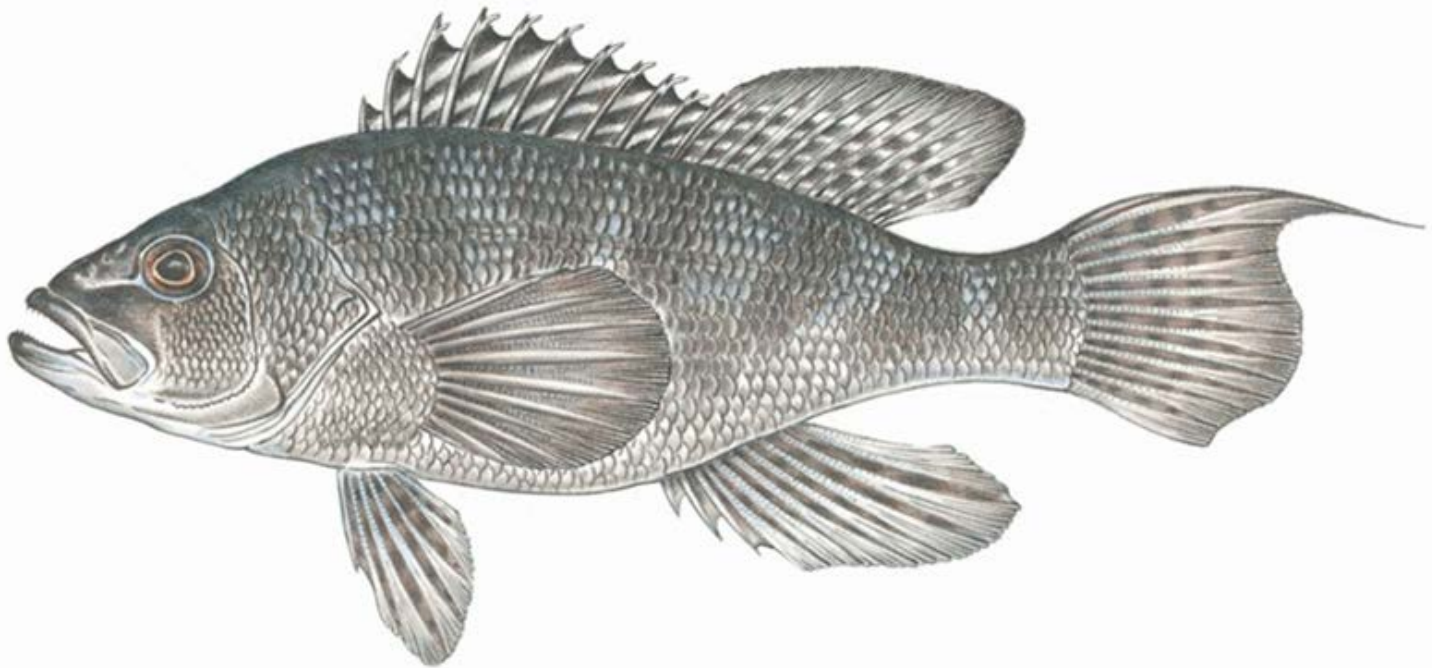
- Approved in February 2018
- Establishes a process for the 2018 Black Sea Bass Recreational Fishery
 - Set Regional Management Areas: MA-NY; NJ; DE-NC
 - Allocated the RHL averaging a 5 and 10 year historical timeframe
 - Set Regional Standards: bag and size limits

Northern States Appeal



- Appeal met qualifying guidelines:
 - Criterion One: Decision not Consistent with FMP
 - Criterion Three: Incorrect Application of Technical Data
- Appeal did not meet qualifying guidelines under criterion five (unforeseen circumstances/impacts)

Questions



Proposed 2018 Measures



Date Measures Could be Implemented

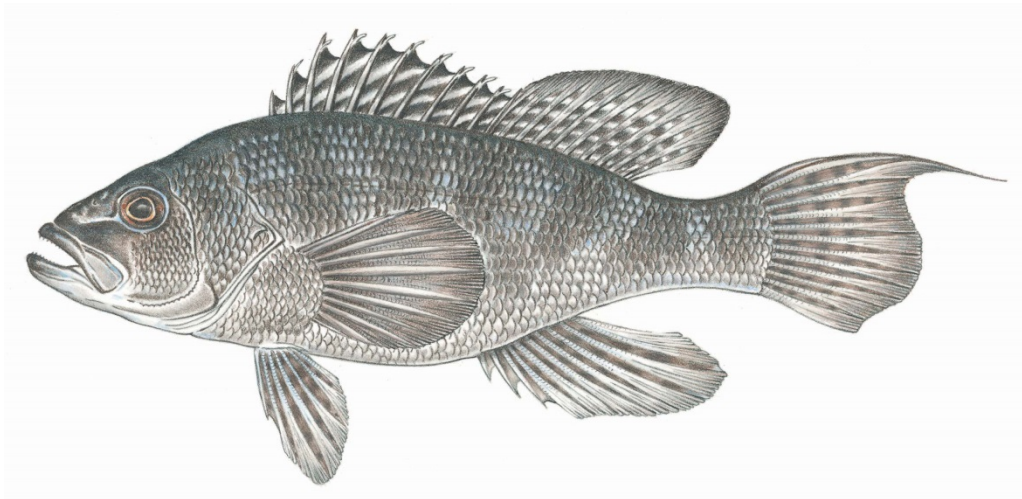
ME	Final	NJ	May 11
NH	Final	DE	Sept 21
MA	May 11	MD	May 8
RI	May 10	PRFC	May 7
CT	May 19	VA	May 11
NY	Jun 4	NC	May 11

Proposed 2018 Measures



State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
Maine	13	10 fish	May 19 - September 21; October 18 - December 31
New Hampshire	13	10 fish	January 1 - December 31
Massachusetts	15	5 fish	May 19 – Sept 12
Rhode Island	15	3 fish	June 24- August 31
		7 fish	September 1 - December 31
Connecticut All Modes	15	5 fish	May 19-Dec 31
CT Authorized Party/Charter Monitoring Program Vessels		7 fish	September 1-December 31
New York	15	3 fish	June 23- August 31
		7 fish	September 1- December 31
New Jersey	12.5	10 fish	May 15-June 22
	12.5	2 fish	July 1 - August 31
	12.5	10 fish	October 8-October 31
	13	15 fish	November 1 - December 31
Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, North of Cape Hatteras (N of 35° 15'N)	12.5	15 fish	May 15 - December 31

Northern Region Appeal of Black Sea Bass Addendum XXX



May 3, 2018

Background

- Addendum XXX
 - Regional allocation of RHL
 - 3 regions: MA-NY, NJ, DE-NC
 - Exploitable biomass & historical harvest basis
 - Timeframe for allocation:
 - Options: 2006-2015 & 2011-2015
 - Outcome: average allocations from two timeframes
 - **Basis of Northern Region Appeal**

Justifications for Appeal

- Decision not consistent with FMP
 - Outcome inconsistent with Add. XXX objective
 - Outcome inconsistent with FMP objectives
- Insufficient Application of Technical Information
 - Significant change in NJ 2017 harvest estimate
 - Stock redistribution caused by climate change

Inconsistent with Addendum Objective

- Reduce growing regulatory inequities
 - Under ad hoc approach: MA-NJ repeated cuts; DE-NC largely status quo

	Season (# days)	Min. Size	Bag (# fish)	2018 Target	2018 Rule Changes
2010 Coastwide	204	12.5"	25		
2017 MA-NY	Avg. 182	15"	3-10	-11.71%	Avg. 169 days, 3-5 fish
2017 NJ	157	12.5"	2-15	+46.71%	186 days
2017 DE-NC	201	12.5"	15	+21.83%	231 days

Inconsistent with FMP Objectives

- Prevent overfishing & improve yield
 - 2016 Benchmark Stock Assessment Results

	F/F _{MSY} proxy (2015 adjusted)
Overall	Underfishing
MA-NY sub-unit	Underfishing
NJ-NC sub-unit	Overfishing

- Regulations that are compatible between state & federal; effectively enforced; minimal
 - 7 years since MA-NY & federal regulations aligned; large NR cut drives further apart from federal & harder to align within region

Insufficient Application of Harvest Data

- Smoothing of NJ 2017 Wave 3 Harvest Estimate
 - Projected 1.41-mlb harvest revised to 0.75 mlb after the Board’s allocation decisions
 - Management Implications for 2018:

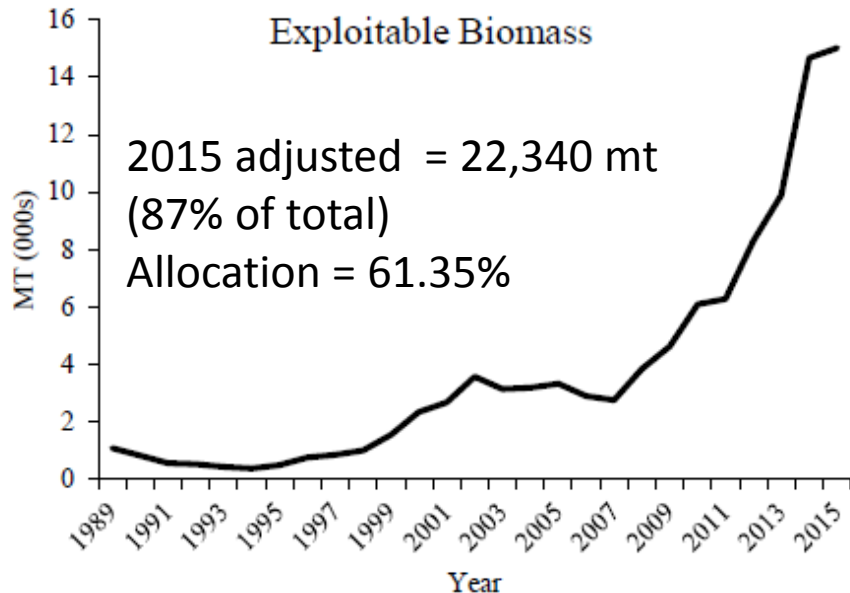
	Projected 2011-2015 Timeframe	Projected Averaging Approach	Actual Averaging Approach	Actual 2011-2015 Timeframe
MA-NY	-3.64%	-10.02%	-11.71%	-5.45%
NJ	-30.27%	-21.69%	+46.71%	+30.63%
DE-NC	+4.69%	+19.39%	+21.83%	+6.83%

- 2011-2015 timeframe emerges as more equitable approach for 2018 management

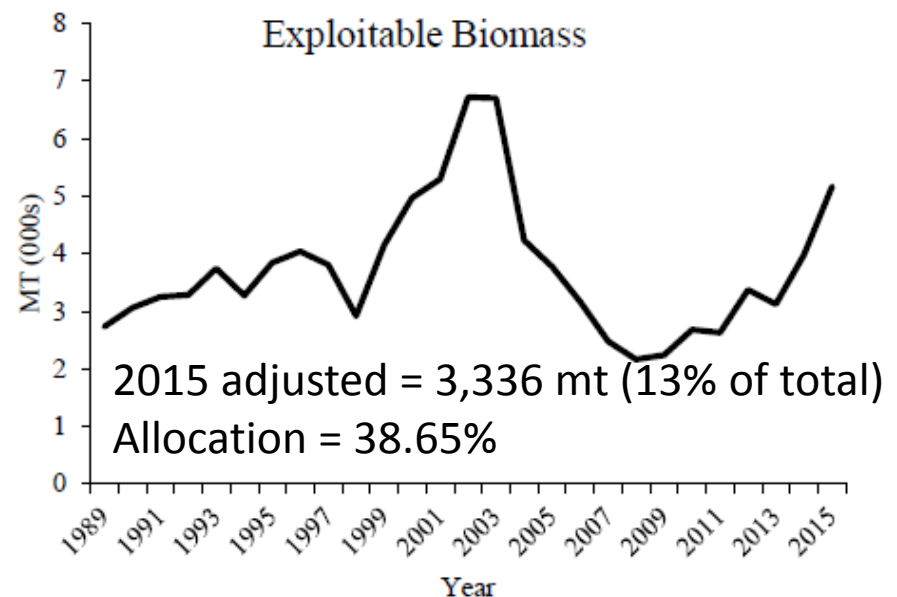
Insufficient Application of Climate Science

- Climate change causing northward shift in distribution & increased productivity in NR
 - Supported by Bell et al., 2014; Hare et al., 2016
 - 2011 year class to be repeated (e.g., 2015 cohort)

Northern Sub-unit



Southern Sub-unit



Estimated of regional exploitable from 2016 Stock Assessment. Note difference in y-axis scale.

Corrective Action

- Short-term (letter):
institute the 2011-2015
timeframe for allocation
under Addendum XXX

Region	Current Allocation	Revised Allocation
MA-NY	61.35%	65.79%
NJ	30.24%	26.85%
DE-NC	8.41%	7.36%

- *Revised* short-term: because of GARFO
position on backstop measures
 - May 15–September 15, 14”, and 5 fish if don’t
know measures today
 - Challenge of scaling back NJ-NC liberalizations
under lower allocation

Revised Short-term Corrective Action

- Replace Add. XXX allocations with interim approach
- Considers expected resource availability in 2018
 - SSB decline in North; recruitment of 2015 cohort in South
- NJ & DE-NC maintain their approved 2018 regulations
- MA-NY develop regulations with small liberalization, applying “regulatory standard” guidelines

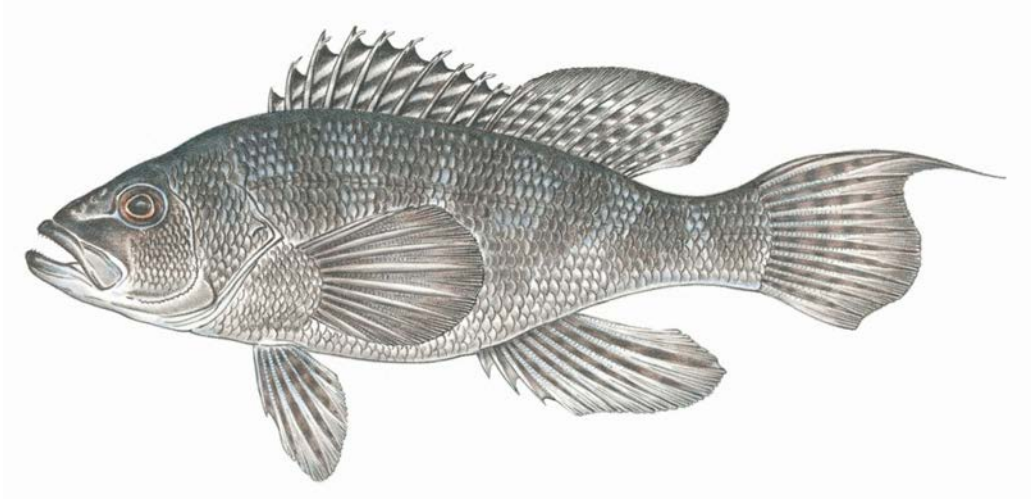
Region	Prelim. 2017 Harvest (lb)	SSB Decline	2015 Year Class @12.5" (lb)	2018 Proposed Lib.	Feb 2018 Harvest (lb)	2018 Proj Harvest (lb)
MA-NY	2,544,638	-16%		3.76%		2,217,882
NJ	704,451		73,849	46%		1,136,317
DE-NC	252,783		21,136	12%	5,206	311,996
Total						3,666,195
RHL						3,661,878

Proposed Compromise Measures for 2018

State	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	Open Season
ME	13"	10 fish	May 19–Sep 21; Oct 18–Dec 31
NH	13"	10 fish	Jan 1–Dec 31
MA	15"	5 fish	May 19–Sep 12
RI	15"	3 fish	Jun 24–Aug 31
		7 fish	Sep 1–Dec 31
CT, Private/Shore	15"	5 fish	May 19–Dec 31
CT, Authorized Party/Charter	15"	5 fish	May 19–Aug 31
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NY	15"	3 fish	Jun 23–Aug 31
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NJ	12.5"	10 fish	May 15–Jun 22
	12.5"	2 fish	Jul 1–Aug 31
	12.5"	10 fish	Oct 8–Oct 31
	13"	15 fish	Nov 1–Dec 31
DE, MD, VA, & NC (North of Cape Hatteras)	12.5"	15 fish	May 15–Dec 31

Corrective Action

- Short-term: institute the proposed compromise measures for 2018
- Long-term: initiate management actions to address northward shift in distribution





Artificial Reef Committee Report

Presented to ASMFC Policy Board

May 3rd, 2018

Joint ASMFC/GSMFC Meeting



- Met February 28 – March 1 in New Orleans, LA with GSMFC Artificial Reef Committee
- Discussions on 2017 AFS Meeting AR symposium, state of historical resource reviews, BP-funded projects in GoM, state protocols for SCUBA, and aerial flight data
- Guest presentation regarding sea turtle considerations in reef module designs
- State updates
- Next meeting: hosted by ASMFC in early 2019

Upcoming Project



- Committee is creating a document compiling the state artificial reef monitoring protocols
 - Currently have to contact each state directly
 - Can aid in standardization of protocols for comparisons along the coast
- Next year: use this information to identify best practices, gaps, and make recommendations for monitoring

New Members



- Christine Kittle is replacing Brad Ennis as the FL representative
- Eric Schneider is replacing Chris Deacutis as the RI representative



**As always, we welcome suggestions for
action items you would like the
committee to work on.**

Questions?



Law Enforcement Committee

- Species Issues
 - Ropeless Fishing Technologies
 - Rhode Island winter flounder
 - Shortfin Mako shark NOAA rule



Law Enforcement Committee

- Request to Policy Board
 - NOAA Cooperative Enforcement Agreement
 - Possible Fund Cut in 2019
 - ASMFC support for continued funding



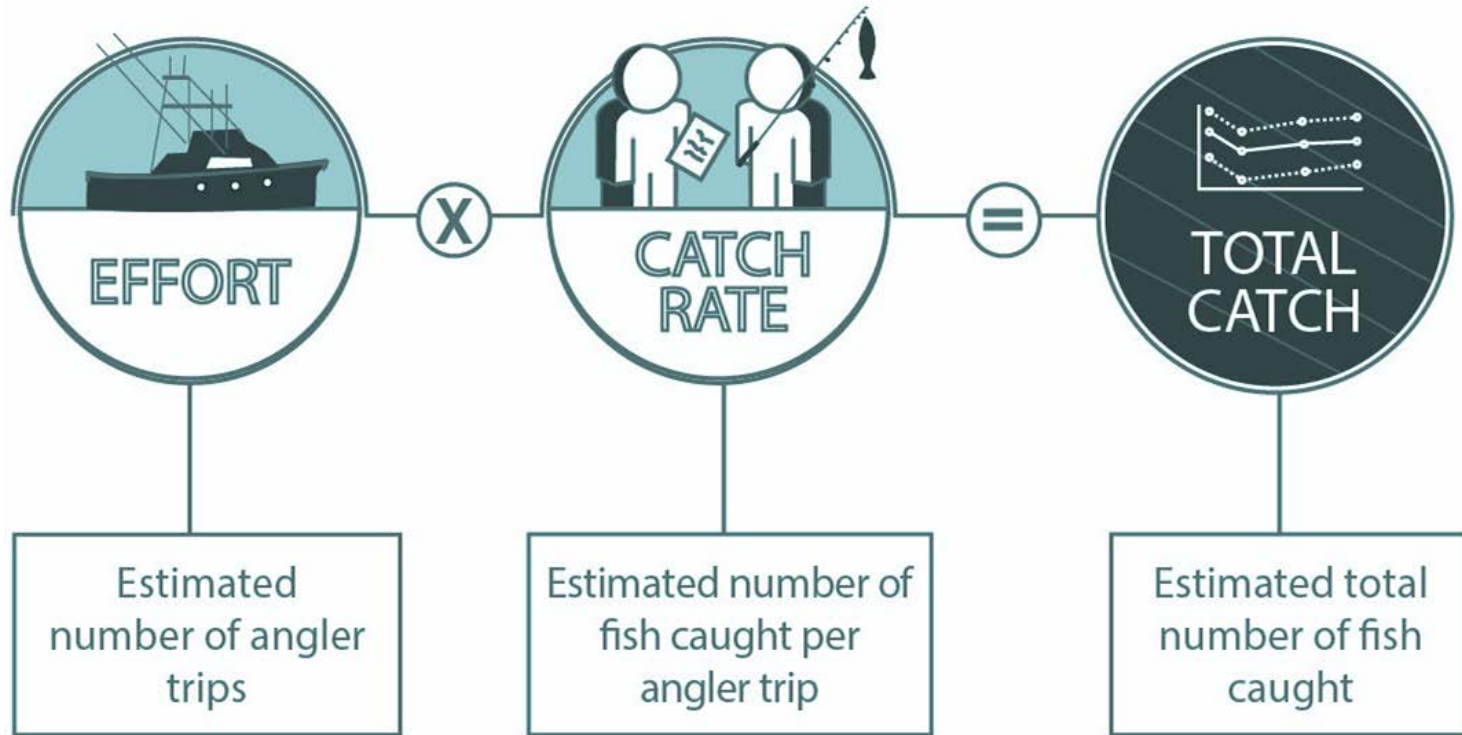
**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Marine Recreational Information Program

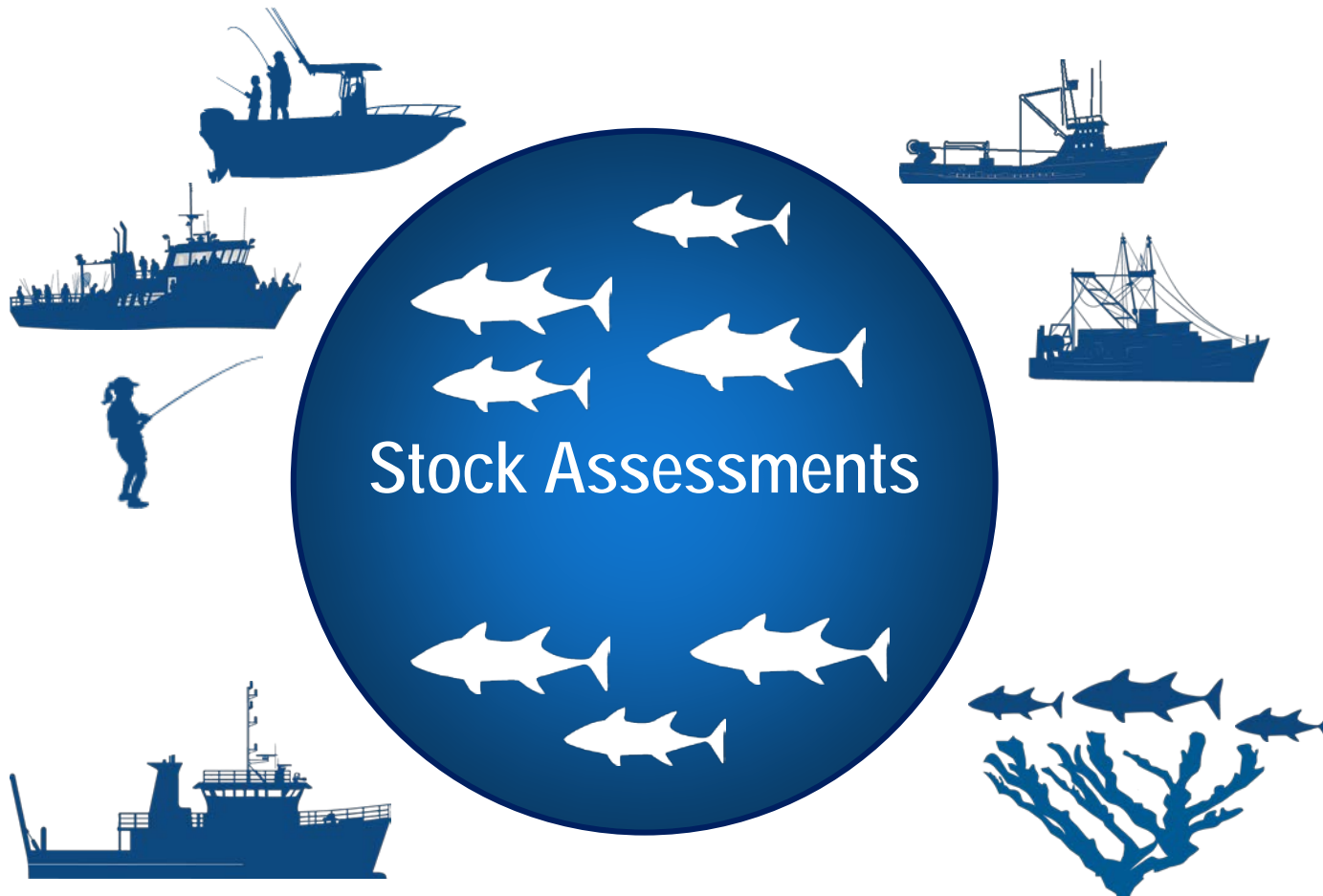
FES Transition Update

Kelly Denit
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Estimating Total Recreational Catch

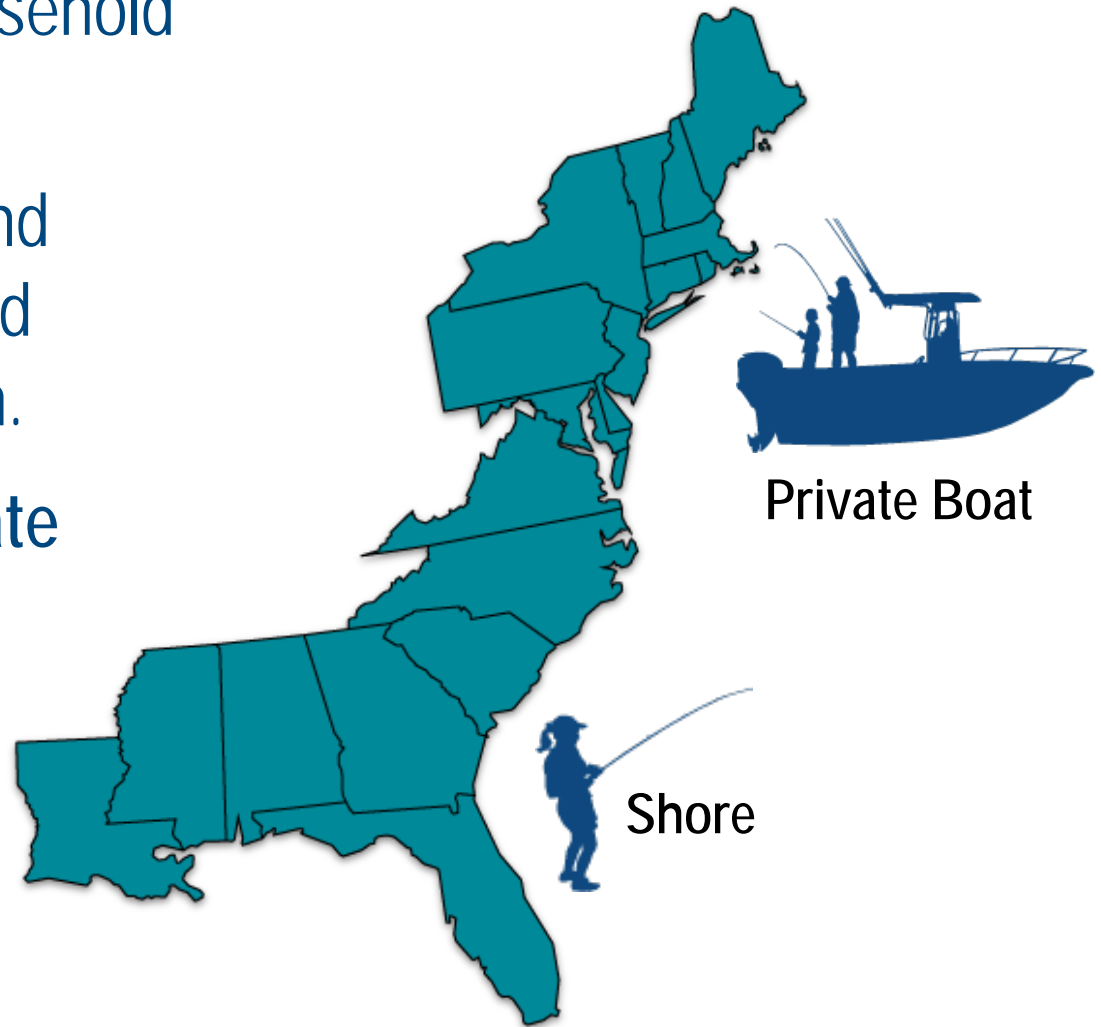


Assessing the Health of Fish Stocks



Fishing Effort Survey

- Replaces Coastal Household Telephone Survey.
- Uses USPS records and state-based license and registration information.
- Provides **more accurate** estimates.



More Accurate Estimates



Improved questionnaire.



We're reaching more anglers.



Surveys get into the right hands.



More complete answers.

3X

Three times the response rate.

Extensive Testing and Peer Review

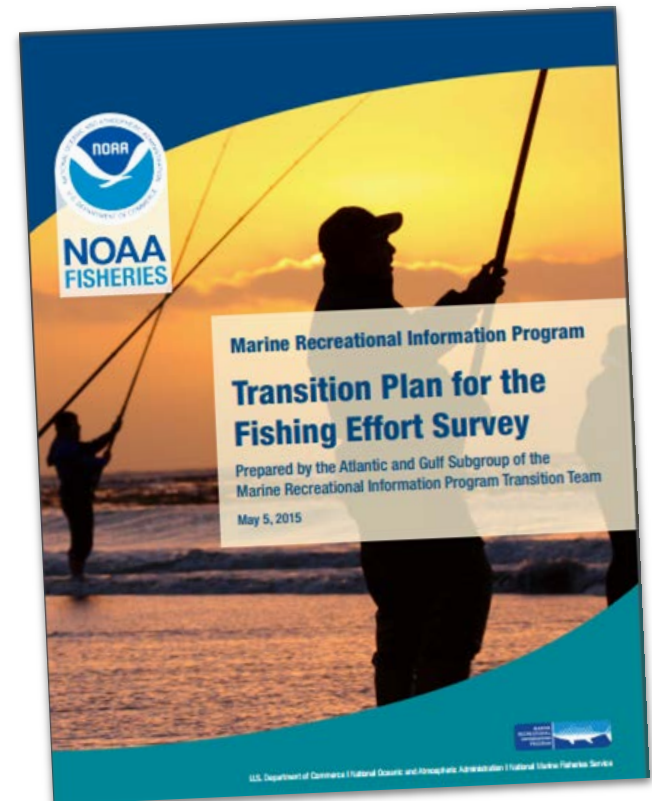
“The [FES] methodologies, including the address-based sampling survey design, are major improvements.”

*The National
Academies of*

SCIENCES
ENGINEERING
MEDICINE

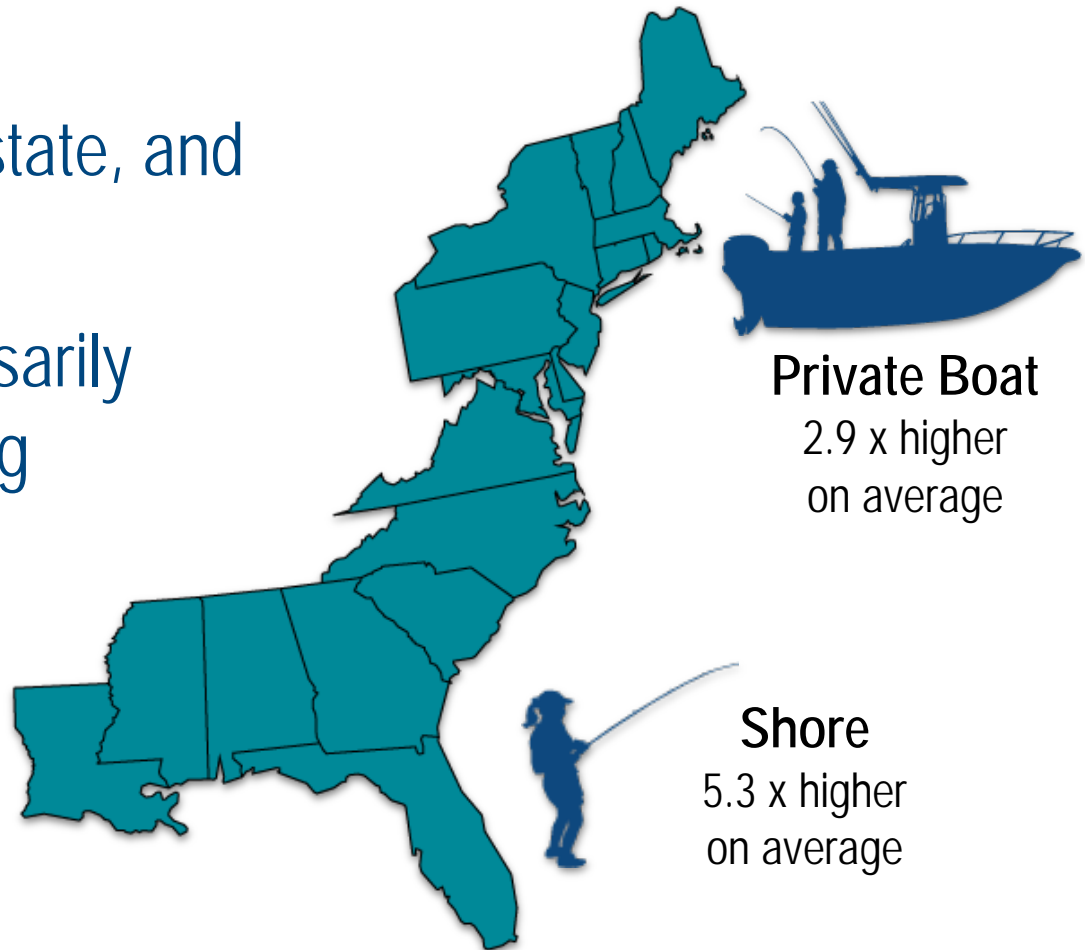
Implementing the FES

- Three-year Transition Plan.
- Developed by NOAA, states, councils, commissions.
 - ✓ Side-by-side benchmarking.
 - ✓ FES calibration model.
 - APAIS adjustments.
 - Re-estimation.
 - Stock assessments.
 - Management decisions.



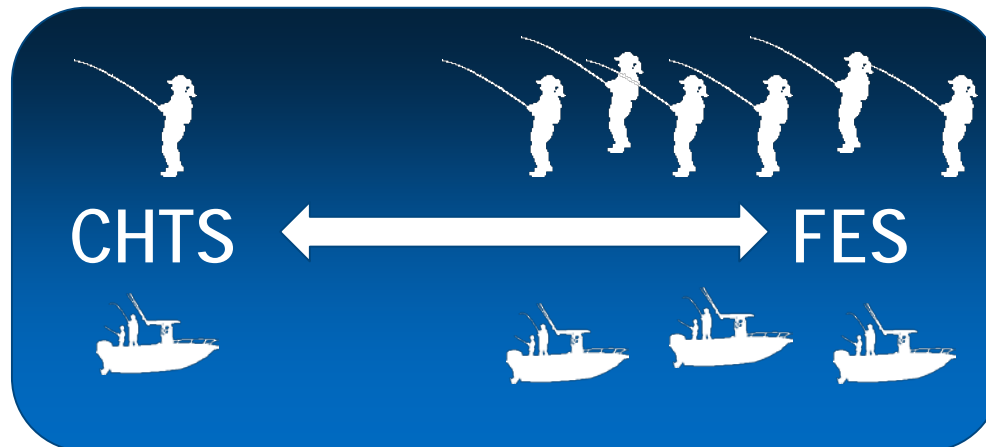
Side-by-Side Benchmarking

- FES estimates are several times higher than CHTS.
 - Vary by mode, state, and wave.
 - Does not necessarily mean overfishing has been or is occurring.



FES Calibration Model

- Developed with independent consultants.
- Peer-reviewed.
- Will create common effort currency for 1981-2017.
- Not indicating a recent increase in effort.
 - Calibrated estimates will be higher back through 1981.



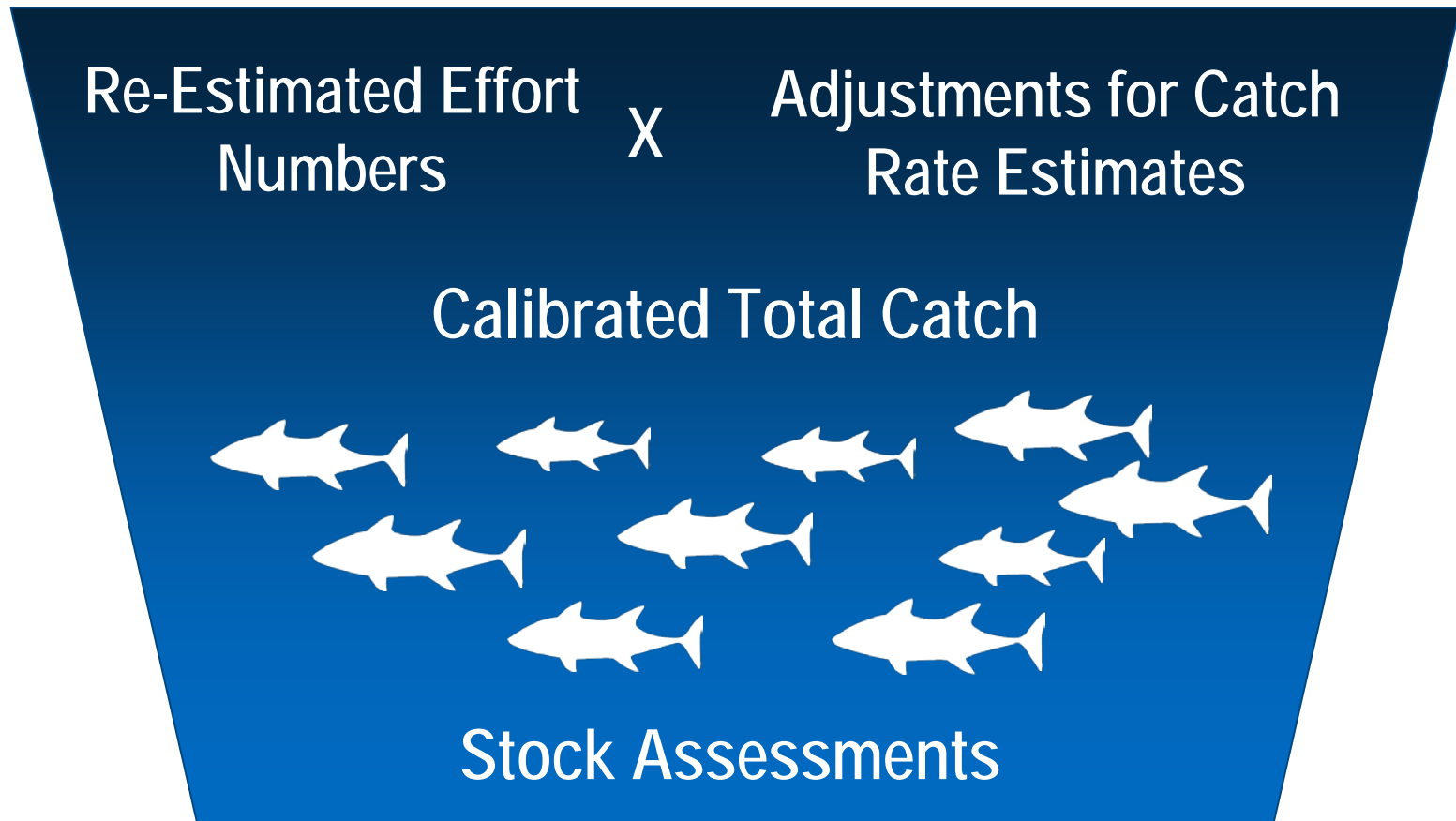
APAIS Adjustment Model

- Developed with independent consultants.
- Peer review workshop March 20-22, 2018.
- Accounts for survey design improvements implemented 2013.



Re-Estimation

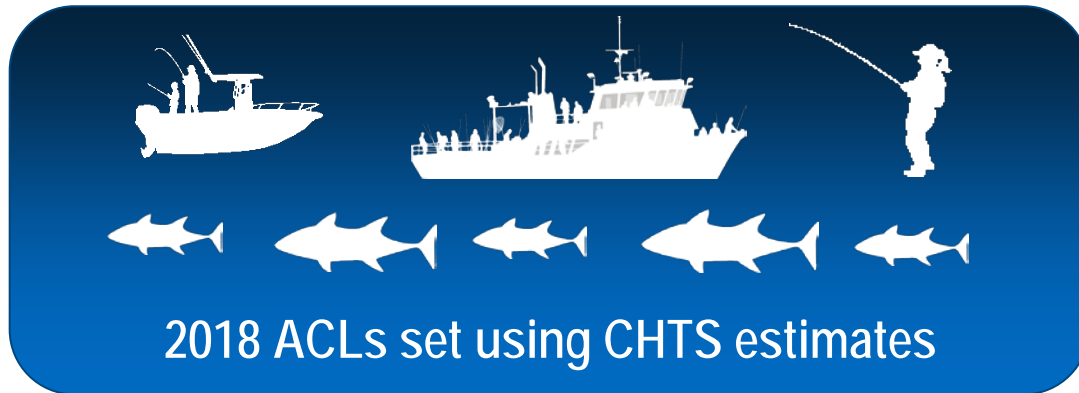
- Will be completed July 2, 2018.



FES and Recreational Fishing



2018 Annual Catch Limits



What's Next

2018

- Revised total catch estimates available July 2 for use in planned stock assessments.

2019

- Preliminary management changes may be made for re-assessed stocks.
- Calibrated statistics incorporated into additional stock assessments.

2020

- Based on new stock assessments, management changes could occur for a number of species.

Communications and Outreach

Collaborative approach

- Ensure partners, data users, and other stakeholders are **fully informed and engaged** in the transition to the FES.

Who we're reaching

- Councils and commissions.
- Recreational fishermen.
- Commercial fishermen.
- NGOs.

How we're reaching them

- Presentations and webinars.
- New council member training.
- MREP and IFISSH.
- Saltwater fishing shows.
- Web content.
- Fact sheets and handouts.
- Recreational fishing summit.
- Spring/summer road show.



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

What have you heard?

What do you need?