

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1444 Eye Street, N.W., 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 289-6400 phone
(202) 289-6051 fax

Summary Motions of the Bluefish Management Board
August 6 1996
Wilmington, Delaware

The following motions were made and approved at the Board meeting in Wilmington on August 6 1996. This was a joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Unless noted otherwise, all motions were approved by the Council as well as the Board.

Move to adopt as an overfishing definition for bluefish a threshold of F20% and a target of F30%. Made by Cupka/Colvin, carried.

Move to adopt a preferred commercial and recreational minimum size that will protect age 0 fish; establish a framework between 6" and 23" TL; allow deviations from the preferred that are conservation equivalents. Made by Cole/Spitsbergen, carried.

Move to include equivalency tables for preferred minimum sizes of 10" and 14". Made by Cupka/Cole, carried.

Move to continue the current recreational possession limit provisions. Made by Cole/Cupka, carried.

Move to adopt 1981-1989 as the preferred baseline years for commercial-recreational allocation purposes. Also include as options the periods 1985-1989 and 1981-1993. Made by Cole/Carpenter, carried.

Move to include seasonal closures as a management tool, allowing annual framework adjustments ranging from no closure to full closure, and requiring a minimum closure period of 1 calendar month for recreational fisheries. Current commercial season provisions would be retained. Made by Carpenter/Cole, carried.

Move to discontinue consideration of area closures. Made by Cupka/Cole, carried.

Move to modify the current gear restriction provisions to allow gear restrictions of any gear types and threshold levels through framework procedures. Made by Cole/Shipman, carried.

Move to include provisions prohibiting recreational sale, and requiring a bluefish commercial permit similar to the summer flounder and scup permit requirements (a vessel permit). Made by Cupka/Cole, carried. Carried as a non-preferred alternative by the MAFMC.

Move to include provisions that will prohibit the sale of recreationally landed bluefish. Also, allow party/charter operators and crew to sell fish if they possess a valid commercial license and are not carrying passengers for hire. Made by W. Cole/R. Cole, carried as a non-preferred alternative.

Motion to amend, by Mason/Shipman, to maintain the existing commercial license provisions and to require that everyone aboard party/charter boat complies with the recreational possession limit. Motion carried as a non-preferred alternative.

Motion to include as the preferred alternative the status quo regarding recreational sale and party/charter permits and reporting requirement. Made by Crecco/Shipman, failed. Carried by MAFMC.

Motion to include commercial reporting requirements that are in accordance with other FMPs. This should include operator permits, vessel permits, and mandatory reporting for party/charter and commercial vessels, and dealer permits and reporting. Made by Shipman/Cole, carried.

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1444 Eye Street, NW, 6th Floor
Washington DC 20005
(202) 289-6400 phone
(202) 289-6051 fax

Bluefish Management Board with
MAFMC Coastal Migratory Committee

August 6 1996
Wilmington, Delaware

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Travelstead. John Carmichael took the roll. Public comment was solicited.

Rick Marks requested that Amendment 1 include a reasonable commercial landings cap, reasonable recreational bag and size limits, and the regulations be maintained for several years to determine their impact and allow improved data collection.

Ray Bogan requested that options be left open regarding no-sale provisions, and urged that members keep in mind that bag limits may rise.

Rhodes moved, and Cupka seconded, approval of the October 1995 minutes. Motion carried

John Carmichael reviewed the Technical Committee recommendations for Amendment 1 management measures.

Overfishing Definition

The Technical Committee recommended a target-threshold approach.

Cupka moved, Cole seconded, adoption of the F30% target-F20% threshold overfishing definition as a preferred alternative. Motion carried

Size Limit

The advisors support a slot limit, to preserve SSB and older spawners. A downside is discard mortality; due to the number of releases, nature of the fishery, and difficulty of hook removal. The Technical Committee cannot attribute a conservation benefit to a maximum size. Additional concern regarding impact of size limits on shore based fishermen.

A slot could raise the value of the reference points.

States could be allowed flexibility to select different shore-boat size limits, or perhaps an undersize allowance.

Cole moved, Spitsbergen seconded, to establish a preferred commercial and recreational minimum size that will protect age-0 fish; establish a framework measure to allow implementation of a size limit between 6" and 23" TL; and to allow deviations from the preferred minimum size that are conservation equivalents. Motion carried.

It is not clear what "protect age 0 fish" means. To protect all?

Cupka moved, Cole seconded, to include as options for a preferred minimum size both 10" and 14", and to prepare conservation equivalency tables for both. Motion carried.

Recreational Possession Limit

Cole, W moved, Cupka seconded, to maintain the existing recreational possession limit provisions. Motion carried.

Baseline Allocation Years

Cole, W moved, Carpenter seconded, to adopt the years 1981-1989 as a baseline for determining commercial and recreational allocations, and retaining 1985-1989 and 1981-1993 as options. Motion carried

Seasonal Closures

There was discussion of minimum closure periods. The Technical Committee can probably evaluate a one month period in the recreational fishery. Shorter periods could possibly be evaluated in the commercial fishery, depending on how data are reported. Very short closure may not be effective.

Carpenter moved, Cole, W seconded, to include seasonal closures as a management tool, to allow annual framework adjustments from no closure to full closure, and to require a minimum closure of 1 calendar month for the recreational fishery. The commercial season would be used as it is currently. Motion carried

Area Closures

Cupka moved, Cole seconded, to not include area closures. Motion carried.

Commercial Gear Restrictions

Cole moved, Shipman seconded, to allow restriction of any gear and establishment of appropriate thresholds through the framework process. Motion carried.

Recreational Gear Restrictions.

This item was dropped by consensus.

Recreational No-Sale Provision

There was significant discussion on this issue.

One option would be to maintain the license requirements, and allow party/charter crews to sell fish when they are not carrying passengers for hire.

Cole, W moved and Cole seconded to maintain the license to sell requirement, and prohibit sale by the crew of fish harvested on vessels carrying passengers for hire.

A concern is enforcement. Enforcing current regulations is labor intensive and difficult. The motion does not prohibit a commercially licensed fisherman from boarding a party/charter boat and retaining fish for sale. Could require all aboard a party/charter vessel to obey the possession limit. NMFS defines a party/charter vessel as a vessel carrying passengers for hire.

Mason moved, Shipman seconded, to amend the motion to require that party/charter operators and crew must comply with the recreational possession limit.

Removes sale from discussion at this time. Would prohibit sale and possession of more than the possession limit. Could also require that everyone on board must obey the rec. possession limit. Possible inequity because the motion does not prohibit persons on private recreational vessels from selling bluefish.

Crecco moved, McCloy seconded, to table the motion until permitting is addressed.

Cupka moved, Cole, W seconded, as a non-preferred alternative, to prohibit recreational sale and adopt a commercial bluefish permitting system that is similar to that in the summer flounder and scup FMP's. Motion carried.

Mason/Shipman amendment, modified to read: as a non-preferred alternative, to maintain the commercial license requirements; require everyone on party/charter vessels to comply with the individual recreational possession limit. Motion to amend carried.

Cole/Cole original motion, as amended by Mason/Shipman, carries as non-preferred alternative 2.

Crecco moved, Shipman seconded, to maintain the status quo as the preferred alternative. Motion fails.

Reporting Requirements

Shipman moved, Cole, W seconded, to include reporting requirements for bluefish that are in accordance with the other joint FMP's. This includes operator permits for commercial and party/charter vessels; vessel permits for commercial and party/charter vessels; dealer permits; and reporting requirements for commercial, party/charter vessels, and dealers. Motion carried.

Other Items

Spitsbergen moved, Cole W seconded, to include as a non-preferred alternative, a coastwide commercial trip limit, allow framework adjustments and require an annual review.

Mason moved, Spitsbergen seconded, to include a state-by-state quota, based on 1981-1994 data. Motion failed.

Other years were considered as well. Motion failed, Board wishes to consider additional data and analysis before making such decisions.

The use of recreational landings, as opposed to catch, was discussed. As the number of released fish increases, as it has recently, the difference between the two may get quite large.

Motion by Cole, W, seconded by Spitsbergen, that allocations should be based on landings in both the commercial and recreational fishery. Motion carried.

The Board would like to go to Public Hearing in February 1997, and consider final approval at the Spring 1997 ASMFC meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.