

**INTERSTATE FMP FOR SPINY DOGFISH RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE & THE ADVISORY PANEL**

FMP GOALS

- **The Advisory Panel commented** that the goal should be specific to females (spawning stock biomass). It would be helpful to people if we simply said that we are focusing on spawning stock biomass for rebuilding.

OBJECTIVES

- **The Advisory Panel commented** that emphasis should be placed on Objective number 3 – minimize bycatch/discards. Refer to the example of no night fishing for dogfish to the reduce bycatch of striped bass as well as protected species (i.e. turtles).

MANAGEMENT AREA: NO RECOMMENDATIONS

SPAWNING STOCK REBUILDING

- **The Technical Committee recommends** that the FMP express the biomass target in survey units rather than area swept units. This will allow for easy adjustment if the estimate of survey trawl's footprint or efficiency is re-estimated. To improve clarity, the targets and current biomass can be presented as percentage of the target along with the current estimate new scaling.
- **The Advisory Panel** could not reach consensus:
 - Option 2 (90%) was supported as it is more in line with the options already explored by the New England Fishery Management Council.
 - Option 1 (100%) was supported as a more conservative option and it supports a sustainable resource. This option could also be consistent with the Federal plan.

STOCK REBUILDING SCHEDULE

- **The Technical Committee recommends** setting the minimum probability to define rebuilt in the projections (minimum 50% probability that biomass is equal or above the biomass target).

MONITORING COMMERCIAL CATCH & EFFORT: NO RECOMMENDATIONS

BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION: NO RECOMMENDATIONS

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- **The Technical Committee notes** that "no landing and possession of spiny dogfish at all times in state waters" will result in a complete closure of the fishery in both state and federal waters since vessels will be unable to land dogfish taken in the EEZ.
- **The Technical committee recommends** including a 5.5 million lbs. constant quota approach as an additional option in the FMP. The addition of this option provides a constant quota approach that is similar to one proposed for the Amendment 1 to the Federal FMP.
- **The Advisory Panel** could not reach consensus:

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- Option 4 (Constant Harvest Strategy – 8.82 million lbs) was supported in order to maintain the fishery and allow fishermen to continue fishing for this species.
- Option 3 (Constant Fishing Mortality – $F=0.03$) was supported to be consistent with current Federal plan.

FISHING YEAR

- **The Advisory Panel recommends** Option 1 (May 1 – April 30) as this keeps things simple and this year will be consistent with the groundfishing year.

REFERENCE PERIODS

- **The Technical committee comments** that there is no technical basis for developing a preferred reference period and therefore provides no recommendation for determining reference periods.
- **The Technical Committee recommends** that for determining reference periods and allocations, North Carolina's reported landings should be used for North Carolina landings. All other states should use the NMFS landings.
- **The Advisory Panel recommends** 1988-1999 as a reference period, as this period reflects when the unregulated commercial fishery started and ended.

SEASONAL QUOTA ALLOCATION: NO RECOMMENDATIONS

STATE-BY-STATE QUOTA ALLOCATION

- **The Advisory Panel recommends** state-by-state quota allocation to be fair to all states in allowing each to take its historical portion of the harvest.

REGIONAL QUOTA ALLOCATION

- **The Technical Committee notes** that a regional attribution of landings would be complicated because Massachusetts straddles the proposed Gulf of Maine Region and Southern New England.

QUOTA SPECIFICATION

- **The Advisory Panel** could not reach consensus:
 - Panel members who supported a constant harvest management strategy preferred option 3 (fixed quota).
 - Those who were not in support of a constant harvest management strategy supported options 1 or 2 (either an annual quota specification or a quota specification every three years).

PAYBACK OF QUOTA OVERAGES

- **The Advisory Panel recommends** Option 2 (payback of overages will be deducted from the party that exceeds the quota).

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QUOTA TRANSFERS

- **The Technical Committee recommends** no rollover until the stock is fully rebuilt and the rollover should be capped at 5%.
- **The Advisory Panel recommends** Option 2a (transfers permissible only within a single fishing year).
- **The Advisory Panel recommends** Option 3c (not permissible until the stock rebuilds) relative to rollover.

TRIP OR POSSESSION LIMITS

- **The Technical Committee** can not comment on the impact of trip limits without knowing the preferred management scenario.
- **The Advisory Panel** could not reach consensus:
 - Option 2 (7,000-lb) trip limit was supported in order to be consistent with current fishing and processing practices.
 - Option 3 (600/300 split) was supported in ordered to limit a directed fishery on spiny dogfish.

SIZE LIMITS

- **The Technical Committee recommends** the Management Board not implement a minimum size.
- **The Advisory Panel recommends** Option 1 due to complications in enforcement of minimum size regulations and agreement with the Technical Committee concerns.

SIZE-SPECIFIC QUOTAS

- **The Technical committee recommends** against implementing size specific quotas.

GENDER-SPECIFIC QUOTAS

- **The Technical committee recommends** against implementing gender specific quotas.
- **The Advisory Panel requests** that if the data was available to support Technical Committee evaluation of this option then perhaps it should be considered at that time.

BIOMEDICAL/SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SUPPLY

- **The Technical Committee recommends** rejecting setting a separate quota for biomedical/ scientific supply.
- **The Advisory Panel recommends** Option 3 (no quota designated for this demand). The Advisors noted the opportunity to obtain these specimens from the fishing industry.

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FINNING

- **The Advisory Panel supports** no finning for dogfish.

DE MINIMIS STATUS

- **The Technical Committee recommends** that the time period for *de minimis* status be similar to the allocation period. The basis of this recommendation is to maintain consistency.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY

- **The Technical Committee recommends** that management of dogfish in state and federal waters should be consistent relative to fishing mortality targets (or quota), biomass targets, and rebuilding strategies.

IMPLEMENTATION & COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

- **The Technical committee recommends** that the Management Board should consider mechanisms to prevent an unregulated fishery due to a gap between the expiration of the emergency action and implementation of the interstate FMP.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE ADVISORY PANEL:

- AP noted that a small scale directed fishery will provide additional data to characterize populations.
- AP noted that dogfish are pelagic species and some reference to this should exist in the FMP.
- AP noted that incentives should be included in the FMP to reduce bycatch and discards.
- AP noted that discard mortality studies and additional bycatch information should be sought after and evaluated.
- AP noted that a risk analysis of each option considered should be provided for public comment.
- AP noted that a rationale for each option should also be provided for public comment.