



# **TC Review of New Jersey Summer Flounder Rec Management in 2017**

May 16, 2017

# New Jersey proposed measures



- Shore mode for Island Beach State Park only: 16-inch minimum size limit; 2-fish possession limit and 104-day open season (May 25-Sept 5)
- Delaware Bay only (west of the COLREGS line): 17-inch minimum size limit; 3-fish possession limit and 104-day open season (May 25-Sept 5)
- All other marine waters: 18-inch minimum size limit; 3-fish possession limit and 104-day open season (May 25-Sept 5)



## **TC guidance in reviewing measures**

- evaluating the projected 2017 harvest and harvest reduction from 2016 associated with the proposed measures against those specified for NJ in Addendum XXVIII for 2017 recreational summer flounder management.



# Discussion

- NJ Proposal based upon different concept:
  - 18", 3 fish, and 104 days
  - Considered total recreational fishery removals relative to 2016 estimates
    - Harvest + Dead Discards
    - Wanted to reduce discard mortality through 18" size limit and angler education/outreach
  - NJ concerned that under Add. XXVIII Option 5, dead discards > harvest (in numbers of fish)



# Proposal Review

- Original NJ proposal used following estimates:
  - Preliminary MRIP harvest estimates
  - NJ Volunteer Angler Survey based discard:kept
  - Assumed education/outreach would decrease discard mortality from 10% to 8%
- After TC review:
  - Final MRIP harvest estimates
  - Discard:kept based upon 2016 Final MRIP estimates
  - TC did not accept discard mortality decrease due to inability to quantify change and lack of detailed approach



# Original NJ Proposal & TC Review

	Recreational Discard mortality rate	Measures	Total Harvested	Total Dead (Harvested + Dead Discards)	Total Recreational Fishing Removals Compared to 2016 Regulations	Total Recreational Fishing Removals Compared to ASMFC Addendum XXVIII
Preliminary 2016 MRIP data through Wave 5 (Sept/Oct)*	10%*	Addendum XXVIII Measures	526,898	1,159,176	-14%	0%
	8%*	NJ 2017 Proposed	605,256	944,199	-30%	-19%
Final 2016 MRIP data**	10%	Addendum XXVIII Measures	<b>505,201</b>	<b>1,115,438</b>	<b>-18%</b>	0%
	10%**	NJ 2017 Proposed	<b>599,032</b>	<b>1,083,843</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>-3%</b>



# Discards after closed season

- NJ Proposal tries to account for all fishing removals
- Season was reduced from 128 days to 104 days
- Discard method used in proposal calculations assumes knife-edge shut off of fishery discards
- An alternative analysis showed discard mortality during closed season could be important
  - NJ did show summer flounder discard numbers declined in Oct. relative to Sept.
  - The answer lies somewhere in the middle



# Comparison of Harvest under standard methodology

Approach	Area specific	Management Measures	Projected Harvest in numbers of fish (MRIP data A+B1)	Percentage Reduction
2016 Status quo measures	New Jersey*	18" 5 fish 128 days	754,706	0%
	NJ/DE Bay COLREGS**	17" 4 fish 128 days		
NJ 2017 Proposed measures	New Jersey	18" 3 fish 104 days	599,032	20.6%
	NJ/DE Bay COLREGS	17" 3 fish 104 days		
ASMFC Addendum XXVIII Measures	New Jersey*	19" 3 fish 128 days	505,201	33.1%
	NJ/DE Bay COLREGS**	18" 3 fish 128 days		





# TC Review Summary

- After data used in analysis was changed, differences between NJ Proposal and Add. XXVIII total removals decreased (reduction - 18% Add. 28, -21% NJ)
- Discard mortality decrease couldn't be quantified but the TC was in favor of angler outreach efforts to reduce dead discards
- Influence of discards after season closure uncertain, more work on this issue is needed
- NJ Proposal harvest (only) reduction -20.6% vs. Add. 28 -33%



# TC Review Summary (continued)

- Total removals vs Harvest = different standard of evaluation for NJ relative to other states
- Timing of proposal makes it difficult for other states to consider the new standard relative to their measures
- Increased harvest by NJ could threaten the ability of the states to constrain harvest to the 2017 RHL
- Managing for total removals instead of by harvest alone is a potential improvement to the current approach but it warrants further refinement before it can be incorporated into management
  - Fishing mortality based management is another holistic approach



# Add. XXVIII Option 5 Final MRIP

FINAL ESTIMATES						
OPTION 5						
STATE	Harvest (A+B1)	REGION	SIZE	BAG	2017 HARV	2017 CHANGE
MASSACHUSETTS	55,223	55,223	-0.312	0.000	37,982	-31%
RHODE ISLAND	86,669	86,669	-0.329	-0.032	56,333	-35%
CONNECTICUT	217,807					
NEW YORK	711,706	929,513	-0.253	-0.093	629,772	-32%
NEW JERSEY	754,706	754,706	-0.305	-0.037	505,201	-33%
DELAWARE	89,875					
MARYLAND	21,926					
VIRGINIA	71,973	183,774	-0.238	0.000	140,037	-24%
NORTH CAROLINA	17,887	17,887	0.000	0.000	17,887	0%
<b>COAST</b>		<b>2,027,772</b>			<b>1,387,211</b>	<b>-32%</b>



**Questions?**