



Draft Addendum XXV Public Comment Summary

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass
Management Board

February 4, 2014





Purpose

Address the recreational management of Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass in 2014.

- Proposes alternate approaches for management



Background

- Draft Addendum XXV was approved for public comment at the Joint ASMFC/MAFMC December 2013 Meeting
- It proposed status quo and regional management options for both Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass recreational fisheries.
- Public comment period closed on January 24, 2014 .



Proposed Management Program: Summer Flounder

- **Option 1: Status Quo: Coastwide or Conservation Equivalency**

- **Option 2: Utilization of Additional RHL**

This option is designed to be used in conjunction with conservation equivalency as outlined in option 1 status quo.

- **Option 3: Adaptive Regional Management**

Option 3a: Adaptive Regional Management (Region 1)

STATE	Size Limit	Possession Limit	# of Days Open	Projected 2014 Harvest	Projected 2014 Regional Harvest
MASSACHUSETTS	16	5	132	32,936	32,936
RHODE ISLAND	18	4	135	97,359	
CONNECTICUT	18	4	135	245,761	
NEW YORK	18	4	135	685,725	
NEW JERSEY	18	4	135	947,337	1,976,182
DELAWARE	16	4	365	76,161	
MARYLAND	16	4	365	48,521	
VIRGINIA	16	4	365	187,428	312,110
NORTH CAROLINA	15	6	365	45,936	45,936
TOTAL				2,367,164	

Option 3b: Adaptive Regional Management (Region 2)

STATE	Size Limit	Possession Limit	# of Days Open	Projected 2014 Harvest	Projected 2014 Regional Harvest
MASSACHUSETTS	17	5	132	21,079	
RHODE ISLAND	17	5	132	162,448	183,528
CONNECTICUT	18	4	128	227,939	
NEW YORK	18	4	128	640,523	
NEW JERSEY	18	4	128	906,348	1,774,810
DELAWARE	16	4	365	76,161	
MARYLAND	16	4	365	48,521	
VIRGINIA	16	4	365	187,428	312,110
NORTH CAROLINA	15	6	365	45,936	45,936
TOTAL				2,316,384	

Proposed Management Program: Black Sea Bass

- **Option 1: Status Quo: Coastwide measure**
 - **13 in TL min size, 5 fish possession limit, season from June 1-September 30**
- **Option 2: Ad Hoc Regional Measures**
 - **Two Regions : Northern Region (MA-NJ), Southern Region (DE-NC)**
 - **Proposed federal measures: 12.5 in TL min size, 15 fish possession limit, season from May 19-September 18 and October 18- December 31**
 - **Each Region would adjust their regulations to achieve reduction needed to meet 2014 coastwide RHL**



Proposed Management Programs: Time frame

- Option 1: Options approved through this addendum will expire at the end of 2014
- Option 2: Options approved through this addendum could be extended for one year by Board action and expire at the end of 2015



Public Comment Summary

- Public Hearings
 - Virginia – Massachusetts in January 2014
 - 205 people attended across 8 states
 - Commissioners in attendance
- Written Submitted Comments
- A total of 225 comments were received
 - 13 groups/organizations provided comments
 - 148 form letters were received

Public Hearings Summary

Summer Flounder

- Support was split between the 8 states for Option 1, status quo and Option 3, adaptive regional management
- Total numbers from public hearings favored support for Option 1 (140) compared to support for Option 3 (65)
- Of those supporting Option 1, a majority (107) also favored option 2, utilization of additional RHL

Public Hearings Summary Cont'd

Summer Flounder Cont'd

Reasons cited in support of Option 1

- Concern over being locked into a mandatory region
- Concern over reduced flexibility in setting measures at the state level
- Concern over accuracy of MRIP harvest estimates
- Concern over potential loss of harvest in regional management
- Preference to continue management with current state allocation
- Concern that regional management was created by politics and not based on science

Public Hearings Summary Cont'd

Summer Flounder Cont'd

Reasons cited in support of Option 3

- Preference for the same regulations between neighboring states within a region
- Potential improvements in the estimation of recreational harvest through aggregating data at the regional level
- Concern over the state allocation for 2014 based on the preliminary 2013 harvest
- Need for equitable access to the resource through adaptive management plans

Public Hearings Summary Cont'd

Black Sea Bass

A significant majority of attendees (197) indicated support for option 2, continuation of ad hoc regional approaches

Reasons cited in support of Option 2:

- Preferred bag limit in this option
- Concern over economic viability if Option 1 was approved
- Need to continue regional management due to different fisheries along the coast
- The need to be able to extend the season further into the fall months

Written Comment Summary Cont'd

Summer Flounder

- More than half (146) of the individual comments received were in favor of option 1, status quo conservation equivalency or coastwide measures
 - Nearly all (130) in favor of option 1 were in favor of option 2, utilization of additional RHL
 - Many individual comments received in favor of option 1 also noted opposition to option 3, adaptive regional management

Written Comment Summary Cont'd

Summer Flounder

Reasons cited in favor of Option 1:

- Preference for current state by state management
- Satisfaction with current state harvest targets
- Concerns over the estimates of harvest by MRIP
 - Concern regarding need for full transition from MRFSS to MRIP
- Concern over changing current state allocations
- Concern over punitive measures might from exceeding RHL using other measures

Written Comment Summary Cont'd

Summer Flounder

Reasons cited in favor of Option 3:

- Inequities anglers in the state of New York experience relative to other states
- The need to address outdated allocations to the states
- The measure would bring the fishery management plan into compliance with federal mandates
- Concern over the accuracy of the recreational catch data

Written Comment Summary Cont'd

Black Sea Bass

- More than half (133) of the individual comments received were in favor of option 2, continuation of ad-hoc regional approaches for the black sea bass recreational fishery in 2014.
- Reasons cited in favor of Option 2
 - Satisfaction with the current regulatory measures for their state
 - Preference for ad hoc regional approaches over coastwide measures
 - Concern over the economic viability of the industry if coastwide measures were adopted

All Public Comment

			Public Hearings		Written Individual Comments		Written Group Comments		Total Support	Total Opposed
			Support	Opposed	Support	Opposed	Support	Opposed		
Summer Flounder Recreational Fisheries Management Options										
	Option 1	Status Quo: Conservation Equivalency	140		146		6		292	0
	Option 2	Utilization of Additional RHL	107**		130		7**		130	0
	Option 3	Adaptive Regional Management	65	134	35	127	4	2	104	263
			**Includes additional support for Option 2 if option 3 is not adopted							
Black Sea Bass Recreational Fisheries Management Options										
	Option 1	FMP Status Quo: Coastwide Measures	8		4	3	4	1	16	4
	Option 2	Ad Hoc Regional Approaches	197		132	1	5	0	334	1



Questions?



Scup Recreational Management 2014

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Background

- 2014 RHL- 7.03 million lbs
- December 2013 Board Meeting
 - Continue Adaptive Management approach
- 2014 Scup Proposed Measures
 - Status Quo

2013 Scup Proposed Measures

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
Massachusetts For Hire	10	45 fish from May 1- June 30; 30 fish from July 1- Dec 31	July 1- December 31
Private Angler	10	30 fish; private vessels with 6 or more persons aboard are prohibited from possessing more than 150 scup per day	May 1- December 31
Rhode Island For Hire	10	30 fish from May 1-Aug 31 and Nov 1- Dec 31; 45 fish from Sept 1-Oct 31	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10"; and 9" or greater for shore mode at 3 designated sites	30 fish	May 1- December 31
Connecticut For Hire	11	20 fish from May 1-Aug 31 and Nov 1- Dec 31; 45 fish from Sept 1-Oct 31	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10.5; and 9" for shore mode at 46 designated sites	20 fish	May 1- December 31
New York For Hire	10	30 fish from May 1-Aug 31 and Nov 1- Dec 31; 45 fish from Sept 1-Oct 31	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10	30 fish	May 1- December 31
New Jersey	9	50 fish	Jan 1-Feb 28 and July 1 – December 31
Delaware	8	50 fish	All Year
Maryland	8	50 fish	All Year
Virginia	8	50 fish	All Year
North Carolina	8	50 fish	All Year



Questions?