



Rec WG Recommendations Draft Addendum XXX



**Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass
Management Board
October 18, 2017**

Outline



- Background
- Updated sections of the Draft Addendum XXX Management Options
 - Highlight Rec WG Recommendations
- Next steps
- Questions

Background



- May 2017 Joint ASMFC Meeting
 - Addendum initiated with options for *‘regional allocations, regions with uniform regulations, and other alternatives to current North/South regional delineation (MA-NJ/DE-NC)’*
- Summer 2017: Developed memo with management options based on Rec WG Feedback
- August 2017: Draft document further adjusted based on Board Feedback
- October 2017: Rec WG provided recommendations on updated document



Coastwide Recreational Catch Limits

- For 2017
 - Recreational Harvest Limit= 4.29 million pounds
(52% increase from 2016)
- For 2018
 - Recreational Harvest Limit= 3.66 million pounds
(14% decrease from 2017)

Proposed Management Options



- Option 1: Default Management Program
- Option 2: State Allocation of Annual RHL
 - Sub-Option 2A: Timeframes for specifying state allocation
 - **New 2016 NY annual harvest modified with Gaussian Process Regression (GPR)**
 - **New Timeframe added (2004-2010)**
 - **New Sub-Option 2B: Revisiting timeframes for setting allocation**
- Option 3: Regional Allocation of Annual RHL
 - Sub-Option 3A: Regional alignment
 - Sub-Option 3B: Timeframes for specifying regional allocation
 - Sub-Option 3C: Management measures within a region
 - **New 2016 NY annual harvest modified with Gaussian Process Regression (GPR)**
 - **New Timeframe added (2004-2010)**
 - **New Sub-Option 2B: Revisiting timeframes for setting allocation**
- Additional Sub-Option for 2 & 3: Accountability
- **(New) Option: Alternative Allocation Management**

'Smoothing' 2016 NY BSB (p 1/4)



- TC call Sept 2017
 - Gaussian Process Regression (GPR)
 - Summary: inter-annual changes in harvest should be related to each other (i.e. effort & potential harvest) and should not change by orders of magnitude from year to year.
 - MRIP data from the entire time series (1981-2016) was evaluated and the GPR created new ANNUAL estimates for the entire time series (**not just wave specific**)

'Smoothing' 2016 NY BSB (p 2/4)



- New GPR estimates differ year to year from MRIP estimates
 - 2011-2015 MRIP estimates are lower than GPR estimate
 - 2016 NY (number of fish): MRIP (1,032,603), GPR (565,869)
 - Only looked at NY; unclear how this would effect coastwide estimate
 - TC: if approach were to be used, needs to go both ways
 - J had some more homework based on TC discussion

'Smoothing' for 2016 NY BSB (p 3/4)



- Ratio Approach

- Summary: examine years where there is minimal regulation change and create ratio from those 'candidate' years for harvest between wave 5- wave 6 to create a modified new wave 6 estimate
- Candidate timeframes were: 2012-2016, 2006-2008 & 2012-2016, 2006-2008 & 2012-2015, and 2012-2015

'Smoothing' 2016 NY BSB (p 4/4)



FINAL 2016 MRIP UPDATE	FISH		LB	
YEARS	WV 6: WV 5 AVG	MOD WV 6 HARV	WV 6: WV 5 AVG	MOD WV 6 HARV
2016 (un-modified)	1.517	305,772	1.975	764,871
2012-2016	0.345	69,455	0.443	171,653
2006-2008 & 2012-2016	0.324	65,352	0.372	144,063
2006-2008 & 2012-2015	0.154	31,006	0.143	55,376
2012-2015	0.051	10,376	0.060	23,349

- TC: liked the method, more simple & straightforward
 - But, no consensus on whether to use 'smoothing'
- Rec WG Recommendation: without clear guidance on how either smoothing so be applied, **recommend removing allocation timeframe options that include 2016 harvest estimates**

Allocation Timeframe of 2001-2010



- Initial request from to add 2001-2010
 - Post-stratified data for North Carolina north of Cape Hatteras not available prior to 2004
 - WG member agreed to have the timeframe be 2004-2010 (7 years)
- Rec WG: 7 years at odds with other timeframe options and prior recommendation for recent data
Recommendations: **1) remove timeframe option of 2004-2010 and 2) change allocation timeframes to be 2006-2015 (10 years) and 2011-2015 (5 years)**



State Allocation of RHL & Regional Reductions

- Rec WG: concerns regarding an approach similar to summer flounder rec management under Conservation Equivalency
 - Recommendation: **remove state Allocation of Annual RHL option**
- Rec WG: too much similarity between Sub Options on management measures within a region AND ad-hoc regional management
 - Recommendation: **remove option that proposes setting regional % reduction**

Sub-option: Revisiting Allocations



- Revisiting timeframes for setting allocations
 - 3 Options
 - 3 years (2018-2020), 5 years (2018-2022), 7 years (2018-2025)
 - Prior to year 4 (2021), year 6 (2023), year 8 (2026), allocations would be revised
- Rec WG: interest in having the addendum in place more than 1 year, but revisit allocation after it expires
- Rec WG Recommendation: **remove Sub-Option AND 1 year only option from section 3.1**

(New) Option for allocation (p 1/5)



- General idea
 - move away from MRIP harvest estimates for allocation decisions
 - Move towards making allocation decisions based on recreational Catch per Angler (CPA) & angler population
 - Use state license information
 - CPA was used in 2016 Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Included in Appendix A of Rec WG memo

(New) Option cont'd (p 2/5)



- 2 Regions: 1) New York – Maine and 2) New Jersey-North Carolina north of Cape Hatteras
- Allocation:
 - CPA is similar for both regions at approx. 1.7 fish per trip in recent years
 - License information as proxy for angler population would be a modifier to = allocation
 - Allocation for each region would be % of annual RHL
- 1 set of management measures for each region
 - Example measures included in the memo

(New) Option cont'd (p 3/5)



- Example measures would likely be a liberalization from 2017
 - But low bag limit and earlier season closure may buffer against volatile late season harvest estimates (i.e. 2016 wave 6)
- Compromise: liberalize regs, BUT increase rec data collection (5 parameters)
 - 1) Biological sampling, 2) reduce refusal rates for MRIP interviews, 3) increase discard composition info, 4) reduce discarding, 5) improve compliance with management measure
 - State proposals would need to demonstrate they had made significant improvements to the above by 2020

(New) Option cont'd (p 4/5)



- Potential Timetable
 - Nov-Dec 2017: Northern region develop measures that achieve regional allocation, won't exceed coastwide F_{MSY} target, AND include initial timetable for states to address 5 parameters
 - Dec 2017 Joint ASMFC/MAFMC: 2018 federal measures set
 - Jan 15 2018: State Proposals due
 - Feb 2018: Board takes final action on Addendum XXX. If option is selected, implementation plans on 5 parameters due from the states by July 1, 2018
 - Feb-Apr 2018: States implement 2018 measures

(New) Option cont'd (p 5/5)



- Review and evaluation of Management moving forward (if option is selected)
 - Operational Stock Assessment scheduled for early 2019
 - If coastwide F_{MSY} target not exceeded, states maintain current or similar measures
 - If coastwide F_{MSY} target is exceeded, states must reduce harvest through changing current measures
 - In theory, states could draw on improved data collection to demonstrate how measures would achieve needed reduction
 - Regional allocation may be revisited following the next stock assessment but no later than 2021 ASMFC Annual Meeting in preparation for 2022 (5 years from 2018 season)
 - Brandon comment: Rec F is only a portion of coastwide F.

Rec WG feedback on new option



- Rec CPA may not appropriate for allocation
 - Catch rate similar between both modelled regions
 - License data also be problematic
- Potential better approach- base allocations on exploitable biomass within reach region
- Interest in collecting more recreational data
- Concern raised on New Jersey's position in regions
- Further discussion needed on evaluating performance
- Recommendation: **interest in further developing option for inclusion in Addendum XXX**

Summary



- Needing to further develop new option, **majority of the Rec WG support delaying approval of Draft Addendum XXX until joint ASMFC/MAFMC Meeting in December 2017**
- **No action needed today**
- Request for additional management issue to be addressed in Draft Addendum XXX
 - Holding for-hire permit holders/operators responsible for violations of recreational regulations during a for-hire trip
 - More information in Appendix B



Questions



**MRIP Preliminary Wave 4 Harvest
Estimates for Summer Flounder, Scup,
Black Sea Bass
&
2018 Management Options Discussion**

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

October 18, 2017

Outline



- Summer Flounder Rec data update (Thru Wv 4)
 - Relative to 2017 RHL
- Black Sea Bass Rec data update (Thru Wv 4)
 - Relative to 2017 RHL
- Scup Rec data update (Thru Wv 4)
 - Relative to 2017 RHL
- Rec Management options for 2018
- Questions

Summer Flounder



Coastwide Harvest in Weight (Pounds)

Year	Coastwide Harvest	RHL (millions of pounds)	Percent of RHL
2015	4,044,478	7.38	55%
2016	5,598,844	5.42	103%
2017	2,833,151	3.77	75%
Percent Change '16-'17	-49	-30	

Summer Flounder



Coastwide Harvest in Weight (Pounds)

Year	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC
2015	108,777	590,461	301,509	1,177,323	1,336,012	98,263	100,859	286,397	44,877
2016	120,744	262,551	674,849	2,227,033	1,854,912	217,269	42,563	181,923	17,000
2017	69,856	216,226	278,138	625,603	1,227,619	77,719	74,900	231,771	31,319
Percent Change '16-'17	-42	-18	-59	-72	-34	-64	76	27	84

Summer Flounder



Coastwide Harvest (Numbers of Fish)

Year	Harvest in numbers of fish	RHL (in numbers of fish)	Percent of RHL
2015	1,382,008	2,453,037	56%
2016	1,830,107	1,881,944	97%
2017	907,725	1,207,886	75%
Percent Change '16-'17	-50.4	-35.8	

Summer Flounder



Coastwide Harvest (Numbers of Fish)

Year	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC
2015	66,047	159,903	81,451	365,661	462,242	44,006	42,763	131,166	28,769
2016	52,689	83,974	216,457	695,283	602,081	83,981	17,367	68,641	9,634
2017	25,257	56,681	82,122	188,774	395,931	27,295	25,043	87,496	19,126
Percent Change '16-'17	-52.1	-32.5	-62.1	-72.8	-34.2	-67.5	44.2	27.5	98.5

Summer Flounder Recreational Specs



- 2017 RHL
 - 3.77 million lbs
 - Approximately 1.21 million fish*
- 2018 RHL
 - 4.42 million lbs
- Percentage change for 2018 RHL (from '17 RHL)
 - **17% increase**



Scup Coastwide Harvest

Year	in numbers of fish	in pounds	RHL	Percent of RHL
2016	2,818,837	3,341,424	6.09	55%
2017	2,781,832	2,644,752	5.5	48%
Percentage change	-1%	-21%		

Black Sea Bass



Coastwide Harvest through Wave 4 in Weight (pounds)

Year	Northern Region (MA-NJ)	Southern Region* (DE-VA)	Coastwide Harvest	RHL	% of RHL
2016	3,232,802	122,404	3,355,206	2,820,000	119%
2017	2,430,165	160,713	2,590,878	4,290,000	60%
% Change from 2016 to 2017	-25%	31%	-23%	52%	

Black Sea Bass



Coastwide Harvest through Wave 4 in numbers of Fish

Year	Northern Region (MA- NJ)	Southern Region (DE- VA)	Coastwide Harvest
2016	1,581,327	71,470	1,652,797
2017	1,298,610	109,598	1,408,208
% Change from 2016 to 2017	-18%	53%	-15%

Black Sea Bass Rec Specifications



- For 2017
 - Recreational Harvest Limit= 4.29 million pounds (52% increase from 2016)
- For 2018
 - Recreational Harvest Limit= 3.66 million pounds (**14% decrease from 2017**)



Rec Management Options for 2018

- Summer Flounder
 - FMP Status Quo or State by state CE
 - Addendum XXVIII (2017)
- Black Sea Bass
 - FMP Status Quo
 - Draft Addendum XXX
- Scup
 - Status Quo regional management measures



Next Steps

- No action needed at this time
- Board and Council will jointly set 2018 recreational specifications in December 2017



Questions?



Re-consideration of a 2018 Wave 1 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery



Norfolk, Virginia

October 18, 2017

Background



- **Consideration to open Wave 1 fishery**
 - Feb 2017 – implementation through an EFP
 - May 2017 – development of an LOA program
 - June 2017 – specification setting
 - Aug 2017 – considered but not approved
 - Open Sat & Sun only; Open entire wave
 - Oct 2017 – reconsideration and decision
 - February 1 – 28, 2018; 15 fish possession; 12.5" minimum size

Potential Wave 1 Harvest



Scenario	Number of Vessels	Number of Trips / Vessel	Ave Number of Anglers / Trip	Avg. Harvest / Angler	Total Wave 1 For-Hire Harvest (lb)	Total Wave 1 Harvest (lb)	Total February Harvest (lb)
1	25	6	26	11.1	88,312	176,623	64,821
2	30	6	26	11.1	105,974	211,948	77,785
3	39	6	26	11.1	137,766	275,532	101,120
4	45	6	26	11.1	158,961	317,922	116,677
5	50	6	26	11.1	176,623	353,246	129,641
6	55	6	26	11.1	194,286	388,571	142,606

- Used for-hire sector estimates to scale total harvest
 - Evaluation of Wave 6 and Wave 2 catch as a proxy for Wave 1
- Proportion of Wave 1 harvest in Feb and avg. Feb harvest/day
- Application of 2013 VTR data to potential 2018 fishery
- Higher sea bass availability and high angler interest

Potential Wave 1 Harvest and Implications



Scenario	Projected Harvest (lb)	Reduction to Rest of Rec Fishery	Season Implications
1	64,821	1.7%	Coastwide: 3 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 2 days in Wv 3 or 2 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 1 day Wv 3 in MA; 1 day Wv 4 in NY; 1 day Wv 3 in NJ
2	77,785	2.1%	Coastwide: 4 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 3 days in Wv 3 or 6 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 1 day Wv 3 in MA; 2 days Wv 4 in NY; 1 day Wv 3 in NJ
3	101,120	2.8%	Coastwide: 5 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 4 days in Wv 3 or 3 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 2 days Wv 5 in MA; 2 days Wv 4 in NY; 2 days Wv 3 in NJ
4	116,677	3.2%	Coastwide: 5 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 4 days in Wv 3 or 4 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 2 days Wv 3 in MA; 2 days Wv 4 in NY; 2 days Wv 3 in NJ
5	129,641	3.5%	Coastwide: 6 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 5 days in Wv 3 or 4 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 2 days Wv 3 in MA; 3 days Wv 4 in NY; 2 days Wv 3 in NJ
6	142,606	3.9%	Coastwide: 7 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 5 days in Wv 3 or 5 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 2 days Wv 3 in MA; 3 days Wv 4 in NY; 3 days Wv 3 in NJ

Preliminary 2017 Estimates & Projections through Wave 4



	2016		2017	
	# of Fish	Weight (lb)	# of Fish	Weight (lb)
MA	360,576	845,156	221,192	576,685
RI	125,003	279,258	114,660	246,486
CT	367,190	767,090	244,416	532,764
NY	525,326	1,059,227	115,877	230,308
NJ	203,234	282,072	602,465	843,919
DE	16,858	22,335	30,876	43,898
MD	30,679	37,742	62,102	96,251
VA	23,934	62,327	16,620	20,564
Total	1,652,800	3,355,207	1,408,208	2,590,875

- 2017 estimates through Wave 4 are 15% lower in number of fish and 23% lower in weight
- Projected harvest for the rest of 2017 is estimated to be 3.97 mill lbs
- 2017 projections would be approx. 7.5% below 2017 RHL of 4.29 mill lbs and 8% higher than 2018 RHL of 3.66 mill lbs

2018 Wave 1 Considerations Review



- Harvest analysis caveats
- Implications for rest of season
 - ~2% - 4% of 2018 RHL
- Preliminary 2017 harvest estimates & projections
 - Wave 1 “allocation” in addition to any necessary reductions (if needed)
- Data collection – catch, effort information

Council Motion

Move to recommend NMFS open the black sea bass recreational fishery in federal waters from 2/1/18 - 2/28/18 with a min. size limit of 12.5" and a per person daily possession limit of 15 fish. Based on staff analysis, the 2018 recreational harvest limit that applies to the remainder of the fishing year will be reduced by the preliminary estimate of 100,000 lb to account for expected catch during the February season. Adjustments to the 2018 recreational measures to account for this estimated February catch will be required only of states that participate in the February fishery.

QUESTIONS?

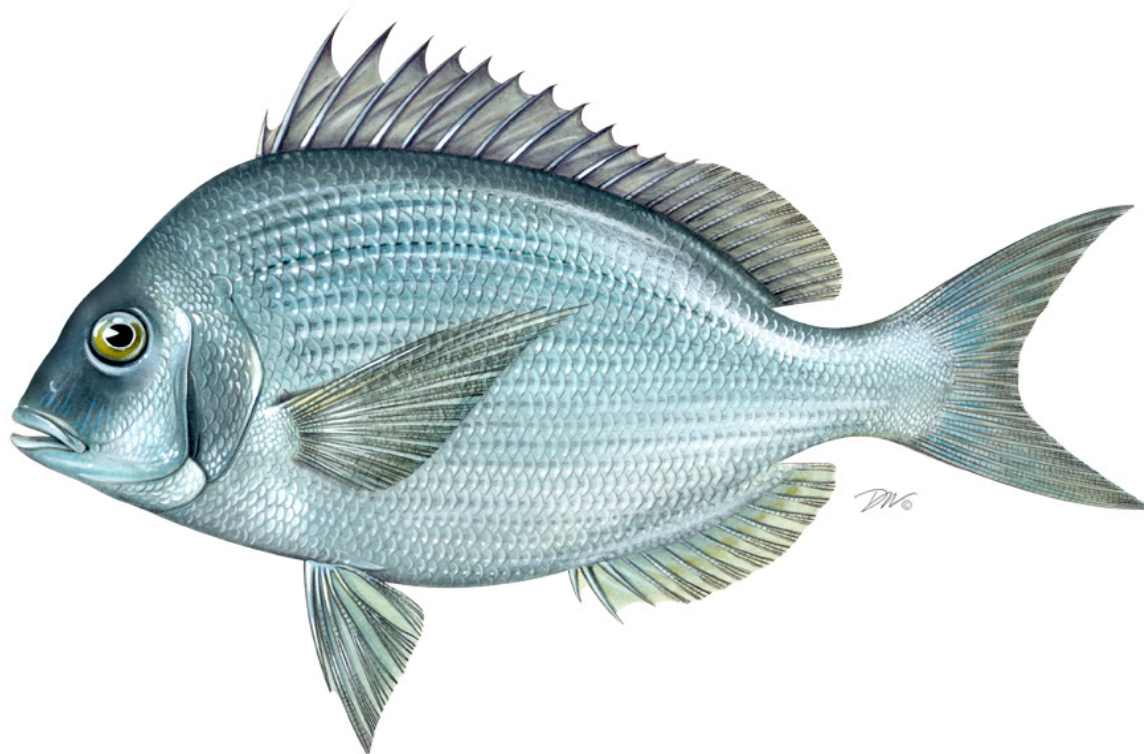




2017 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP Reviews

Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Board
October 18, 2017

Scup



Compliance & De Minimis request



- PRT notes that Massachusetts' measures are not consistent with those in the FMP
 - MA did not enforce the minimum mesh size requirements or the threshold for triggering those requirements from April 23 to June 9 because of overlap with the state's squid fishery
- PRT noted that Rhode Island's measures are not consistent with those in the FMP***
 - RI did not implement the minimum mesh or escape vent size requirements
 - ***RI has communicated with staff that their measures were incorrectly stated and that they are consistent with the FMP
- *De minimis* request from Delaware



Overall PRT Recommendations

- State compliance reports should explicitly list all required regulations and whether they are in compliance with the FMP.
- Pots/traps should be separated from other types of gear in the commercial harvest by gear table.



Questions?