



Summer Flounder State Recreational Proposals

February 2012





State Proposals

- **Included summary of**
 - **Fishery performance since CE began (2002)**
 - **Detailed analysis for most recent 2 years**
 - **Analysis of methods from the last liberalizations**
- **Each proposal assumes effort and availability in 2011 will be similar to prior years**



Effect of Availability on Harvest

- **Availability of summer flounder any given year impacts harvest**
- **Good & bad weather (all states)**
- **Year class strength of 2008 and 2009**



MRIP

	MRFSS	MRIP	Years MRIP Estimates Less than MRFSS	Annual Average % MRIP higher or lower than MRFSS
	Liberization	Liberization	out of 8	
MA	259%	100%	1	31% higher
RI	11%	12%	5	3% higher
CT	67%	95%	4	3% lower
NY	71%	33%	1	13% higher
NJ	38%	50%	7	10% lower
DE	8% Reduction	8%	7	12% lower
MD	183%	367%	7	26% lower
VA	73%	53%	3	6% higher
NC	139%	171%	7	11% lower



Harvest Distribution

- **Unequal distribution of harvest and risk amongst states**
- **10% overage in NJ in 2012 would equal 109,040 fish, whereas a 10% overage in DE would equal 9,485 fish**
- **States with highest quotas harvest overages can have severe impacts on the coastwide quota**



State Proposals

- **TC approved Rhode Island, Maryland, and North Carolina using both MRFSS and MRIP with no additional comments**



Massachusetts

Option 1: 16.5", 5 fish, May 22-Sept 30

Option 2: 17", 5 fish, May 22-Sept 30

- **MREFFs Approve**
- **MRIP Not approve Option 1**
- **Option 1 is risk prone: landings history and increased fish availability**



Connecticut

- **MRFSS and MRIP approve , do not approve shore mode options unless a commitment to enhanced data collection**
- **If Board approve a shore mode, TC recommends a gradual decrease in the size limit, 16.5”**
- **Little to no data to support shore mode analysis**



New York

Option	Min Size	Bag Limit	Season	Liberalization
1	19.5	3	May 1 – September 30	37.0%
2	19	3	May 12 – September 16	54.0%
3	19	3	May 14 – September 23	52.2%
4	19	3	May 11 – September 3	52.8%
5	19	3	May 15 – September 30	52.0%
6	19.5	4	May 1 – September 30	50.7%

- **MRFSS: Approve**
- **MRIP Approve option 1, not option 2-6**
 - Liberalization substantially higher than allowed under MRIP (33%)



New Jersey

- **MRFSS and MRIP: Approve**
- **Options 6-7 risk prone using MRFSS because there is no buffer to account for uncertainty**
- **Reservations using NJ VAS for effort calculations**
- **Task TC to evaluate the use of VAS for use other than length data**
- **Split size limits is valid but will make future years analysis more difficult**



Delaware

Option	Min Size	Bag Limit	Open Season	Reduction
1	18"	4	January 1-October 23	0%
2	18"	4	January 1-September 6	7.6%
3	18"	3	January 1-October 7	7.6%
4	18"	2	All Year	10.7%
5	18.5"	4	All Year	8.5%

- **MRFSS Approve option 2-5, not approve option 1**
- **Option 1 does not meet the MRFSS reduction of 8%**
- **MRIP Approve options 1 – 5**



Virginia

Option	Min Size	Bag Limit	Open Season	Liberalization
1	17.5"	5	All year	4.2%
2	17"	5	All Year	19-49% average 27%
3	17"	4	All Year	15-44.5% average 22.4%
4	16.5	4	All Year	31-106% average 55%

- **MRFSS approve**
- **MRIP Not approve option 4, approve option 1-3**



Recreational Length Sampling

State	2010 Number of Type A Fish ^b	2005 Number of Type A Fish ^b
MA	31	46
RI	70	401
CT	28	104
NY	127	581
NJ	281	645
DE	222	367
MD	59	104
VA	157	294
NC	247	205
Coastwide Total	1,222	2,747
^aRecreational landings ('000 fish)	1,473	4,036



TC Request

- **The Board task the TC to evaluate the use of VAS for use in recreational proposals other than length data**



Scup Proposals – North East Region

- **Methodology and Data Sources:**
 - Seasonal changes - MRIP harvest data 2011, 2010, or average 2009 - 2011
 - Bag limit changes - MA FH bonus season + MRFSS 2007 catch data
 - Minimum size changes - by MRFSS 2011 length data
- **Caveat – 2011 data had low harvest rates, if 2010 used many options not compliant**



**Draft Addendum XXII for
Public Comment
Black Sea Bass Recreational
Management
February 2012**





Addendum Time Line

- **Board considers approval for public comment (January)**
- **Public comment (January)**
- **Board reviews comment (February)**
- **Final Action (February)**



Purpose

- **Proposes to sub-divide the recreational black sea bass coastwide allocation into regional or state-by-state management for 2012 only**



Proposed Action

- **Addendum XXI expired at the end of 2011, which allowed for state-by-state measures in the recreational black sea bass fishery**
- **The Board found that regulations impact states differently**
- **Board initiated Addendum to give management flexibility to mitigate potential disproportionate impact on states that can result from coastwide measures**



Proposed Management

- **All proposed regulations are for 2012 only**
- **Effective in State waters only**
- **Federal permit holders would have to follow federal regulations**
- **Council recommended the following regulations for 2012 to NOAA Fisheries:**
 - **open season, May 19 – Oct. 14 and Nov 1- Dec 31. 12.5” size limit, 25 fish bag limit**



State vs Federal Waters

- **MA, RI, CT, and NY majority of the fishery occurs in state waters**
- **DE to NC the majority of fishery occurs in the EEZ.**
- **VA, NJ and DE in recent years have trended significantly closer to 50% of the harvest in state waters and 50% of the harvest in the EEZ.**



Option 1: Continuation of 2012 measures with NC exception

State	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	Open Season
Massachusetts	14"	10 fish	May 22 to October 11
Rhode Island	13"	12 fish	July 11 to December 31
Connecticut	13"	25 fish	July 1 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
New York	13"	10 fish	June 13 to October 1 and November 1 to December 31
New Jersey	12.5"	25 fish	May 28 to September 11 and November 1 to December 31
Delaware	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
Maryland	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
PRFC	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
Virginia	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
North Carolina (North of Cape Hatterass 35° 15'N Latitude)	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31



Option 2: State-by-State with Liberalization/Reduction in the Northern Region

- All states would agree to the regulations implemented within the region.**
- While not required, states will work to develop consistent regulations to allow for a seamless as possible recreational management program within the region.**



Option 2

State	% liberalization	% Reduction
MA	34%	
RI	16%	
CT		29%
NY	72%	
NJ	100%	

State	Size limit	Possession limit	Open season
Delaware	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
Maryland	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
PRFC	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
Virginia	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
North Carolina (North of Cape Hatteras 35° 15'N Latitude)	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31



Option 3: Regional Liberalization with State-by-State Measures

- **All states would agree to the regulations implemented within the region.**
- **While not required, states will work to develop consistent regulations to allow for a seamless as possible recreational management program within the region.**



Option 3

- **MA-NJ could liberalize 57 %**
- **DE-NC would have the following regulations:**

State	Size limit	Possession limit	Open season
Delaware	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
Maryland	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
PRFC	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
Virginia	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
North Carolina (North of Cape Hatteras 35° 15'N Latitude)	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31



Option 4: Regional Liberalization with State-by-State Measures

- All states would agree to the regulations implemented within the region.**
- While not required, states will work to develop consistent regulations to allow for a seamless as possible recreational management program within the region.**



Option 4

- **MA-NY could liberalize 45 %**
- **NJ could liberalize 100%**
- **DE-NC would have the following regulations:**

State	Size limit	Possession limit	Open season
Delaware	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
Maryland	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
PRFC	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
Virginia	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31
North Carolina (North of Cape Hatteras 35° 15'N Latitude)	12.5"	25 fish	May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31



Option 4

- **States have proposed the following measures for 2012:**
- **Min size of 13 inches in RI, CT, NY and a min size of 14 inches MA**
- **Possession limit 12 fish**
- **Open season of July 1 - Dec 31 in RI, CT, NY and May 12-October 27 in MA**
- **Note that the states have indicated there may be some adjustment to the season dates**



Public Comment

Hearing

- **RI- 1 attendee**
- **Supported option 2-state-by –state to allow for flexibility to craft measures to meet state needs**

Written Comment (2 letters)

- **Support for option 2, 4**



Advisory Panel

- **3 members of the panel were present for the call (NY, RI, and VA)**
- **Support for state-by-state measures (option 2) to allow for states to develop measures to meet the needs of their fishery**
- **Southern states should adjust their measures to mirror federal measures**
 - **Change the season to May 19-Oct 14 and Nov 1-Dec 31**