



Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Amendment 7 for Board Review



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
October 20, 2021

Outline



- Overview and Timeline
- Review Draft Options and Board Discussion Issue-by-Issue
 - Management Triggers
 - Measures to Protect the 2015 Year Class
 - Recreational Release Mortality
 - Conservation Equivalency
- AP comments on the scope of draft options
- **Board action for consideration today: Consider approval of Draft Amendment 7 for public comment**



PDT Members



- Max Appelman (NMFS)
- Simon Brown (MD DNR)
- Brendan Harrison (NJ DEP)
- Nicole Lengyel Costa (RI DEM)
- Nichola Meserve (MA DMF)
- Olivia Phillips (VMRC)
- Greg Wojcik (CT DEEP)
- Emilie Franke (ASMFC)



Background



- The status and understanding of the striped bass stock and fishery has changed considerably since Amendment 6 (2003)
- The 2018 benchmark stock assessment indicated the striped bass stock has been overfished since 2013 and is experiencing overfishing
- In August 2020, the Board initiated development of Amendment 7 to update the management program to better align with current fishery needs and priorities and build on the Addendum VI action to initiate rebuilding



Background



- In February 2021, the Board approved for public comment the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 7
- Following public comment, the Board approved four issues for development in Draft Amendment 7 in May 2021:
 - Management Triggers
 - Measures to Protect the 2015 Year Class
 - Recreational Release Mortality
 - Conservation Equivalency



Amendment 7 Timeline



August 2020	Board initiates development of Amendment 7
February 2021	Board approves PID for public comment
Feb - Apr 2021	Public comment on PID
May 2021	Board reviews public comment and AP report; selected issues for development in Draft Am7
May - Sep 2021	PDT prepares Draft Amendment
October 2021	Board reviews Draft Amendment and considers approving for public comment <i>Current Step</i>
Nov 2021 - Jan 2022	Public comment on Draft Amendment
January 2022	Board reviews public comment and selects final measures for the Amendment; Policy Board and Commission approve the Amendment
<i>October 2022</i>	<i>Expected stock assessment update</i>
<i>2023</i>	<i>Expected implementation of Amendment 7 if approved</i>

Note: The timeline is subject to change per the direction of the Board.

Draft Amendment Components



1.0 INTRODUCTION

- Statement of Problem
- Benefits of Implementation
- Description of Resource
- Description of Fishery
- Habitat Considerations
- Impacts of the Fishery Management Program

**At the request of North Carolina, additional clarifying language will be added further describing the Albemarle Sound Roanoke River stock*

2.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- History of Management
- Purpose and Need for Action
- Goal and Objectives
- Management Unit*
- Reference Points
- Stock Rebuilding Program

3.0 MONITORING PROGRAMS

- Catch and Landings Information (including Commercial Tagging)
- Social/Economic Information
- Biological Information
- Assessment of Stock Condition
- Bycatch Information



Draft Amendment Components



4.0 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM*

- Management Triggers
- Recreational Measures
- Commercial Measures
- Habitat Conservation/Restoration Recommendations
- Alternative State Management Regimes (including CE)
- Adaptive Management
- Emergency Procedures
- Management Institutions
- Recommendations for Complementary Actions in Federal Waters
- Cooperation with Other Institutions

5.0 COMPLIANCE

- Mandatory Elements for States
- Compliance Schedule
- Compliance Reports
- Procedures for Determining Compliance
- Enforceability
- Recommended Mgmt Measures

6.0 MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH NEEDS

- Stock Assessment, Habitat, Socioeconomic

7.0 PROTECTED SPECIES

- MMPA, ESA
- Potential Species Interactions

**Board clarification needed on the Chesapeake Bay trophy fishery*



Board Discussion Today



- Staff review draft options for each issue
- Before moving on to the next issue, does the Board have any questions or proposed modifications to the draft options?
 - Management Triggers (Section 4.1)
 - *Board clarification on Chesapeake Bay trophy fishery*
 - Measures to Protect the 2015 Year Class (Section 4.2.2 Ocean Recreational Fishery)
 - Recreational Release Mortality (Section 4.2.3)
 - Conservation Equivalency (Section 4.5.2)



Advisory Panel General Comments



- AP met on September 29, 2021 to provide feedback on the scope of draft options:
 - Overall concern about the complexity of the draft document and the large number of options presented
 - This would be difficult to present at public hearings and would make the public comment process challenging





SECTION 4.1

MANAGEMENT TRIGGERS

Management Triggers



Statement of the Problem

- When SSB is below the target, variable fishing mortality can result in continued need for management action
- Shorter timetables for corrective action are in conflict with the desire for management stability; changes to management before stock can respond to previous management measures
- Use of point estimates does not account for uncertainty
- Long periods of below average recruitment raise question about recruitment trigger



Tiered Options for Triggers



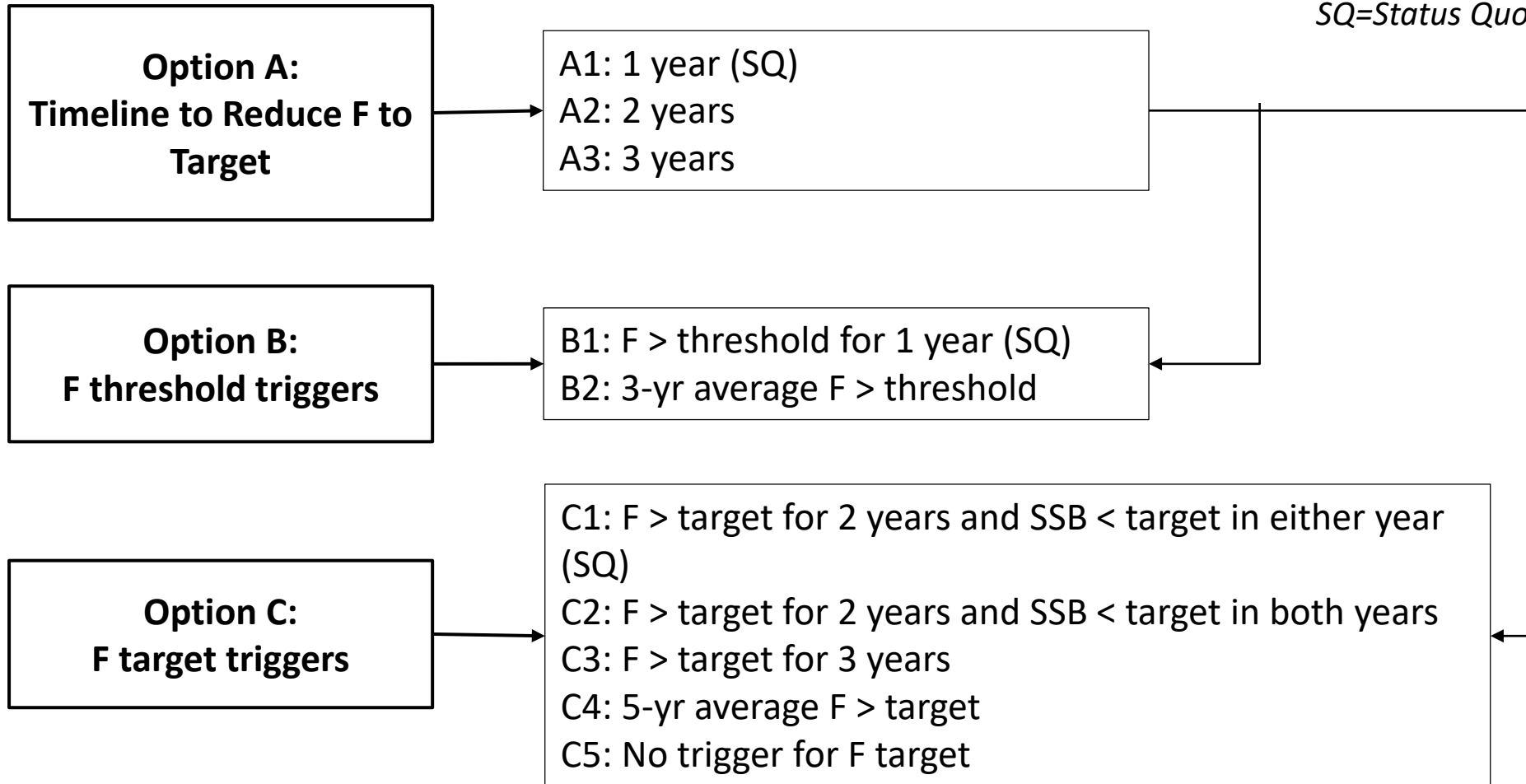
- Tier 1: Fishing Mortality (F) triggers
- Tier 2: Female spawning stock biomass (SSB) triggers
- Tier 3: Recruitment Trigger
- Tier 4: Deferred Management Action



Tier 1: F triggers



SQ=Status Quo



Tier 2: SSB triggers



SQ=Status Quo

Option A: Deadline to Implement Rebuilding Plan

A1: No deadline (SQ)
A2: 2-yr deadline

Option B: SSB threshold trigger (rebuild by 10 yrs)

B1: SSB < threshold for 1 year (SQ)
B2: No trigger for SSB threshold

Option C: SSB target trigger (rebuild by 10 yrs)

C1: SSB < target for 2 years and $F > \text{target}$ in either year (SQ)
C2: SSB < target for 2 years and 3-yr average $F > \text{target}$
C3: SSB < target for 3 years
C4: SSB < target and $\geq 50\%$ probability of SSB < threshold in 3 yrs
C5: No trigger for SSB target

Note: There must be at least one SSB trigger.

AP concern about options that would eliminate an SSB trigger.



Tier 3: Recruitment Trigger Definition



- **A1. Status Quo** – Any JAI (ME, NY, NJ, MD, VA, NC) is below 25th percentile of reference period (1950s/1980s-2009) for 3 consecutive years → recruitment failure
- **A2. Moderate Sensitivity** – Any of the four core JAIs (NY, NJ, MD, VA) is below the 25th percentile of values from 1992-2006 for 3 consecutive years
- **A3. High Sensitivity** – Any of the four core JAIs (NY, NJ, MD, VA) is below the median of values from 1992-2006 for 3 consecutive years



Tier 3: Recruitment Trigger



Table 2.

	Recruitment (Model age 1 estimates lagged back 1 year)	Sub-option A1 Status Quo	Sub-option A2	Sub-option A3	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: red; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></div> Below average recruitment <div style="background-color: green; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></div> Above average recruitment <div style="background: repeating-linear-gradient(45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, black 2px, black 4px); width: 20px; height: 10px;"></div> No data available <div style="background-color: white; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></div> Trigger not tripped <div style="background-color: black; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></div> Trigger tripped </div>
		Ref. period = Established through Addendum II	Ref. period = High recruitment (1992-2006)		
		One or more JAI below 25th Percentile for 3 consecutive years	One or more of the "core" JAIs below 25th Percentile for 3 consecutive years	One or more of the "core" JAIs below Median for 3 consecutive years	
2003					
2004					
2005					
2006					
2007					
2008					
2009					
2010					
2011					
2012					
2013					
2014					
2015					
2016					
2017					
2018					
2019					
2020					
# Years tripped		1	3	6	



Tier 3: Recruitment Trigger Response



- **B1. Status Quo** – Board reviews and determines action as trigger is tripped
- **B2.** Manage under interim (lower) F based on low recruitment regime
- **B3.** If SSB is below target, adjust to interim (lower) F to rebuild to SSB target using low recruitment assumption



Tier 3: Recruitment Trigger



SQ=Status Quo

Option A: Recruitment trigger definition

- A1: Any JAI below 25th percentile for Add II reference period (SQ)
- A2: Any core JAI below 25th percentile for high recruitment reference period (moderate sensitivity)
- A3: Any core JAI below median for high recruitment reference period (high sensitivity)

Option B: Management Response

- B1: review trigger and determine appropriate action (SQ)
- B2: Manage under interim F calculated using low recruitment assumption
- B3: If SSB is below the target, manage under interim F calculated to rebuild SSB using low recruitment assumption



Tier 4: Deferred Management Action



- **A. No deferred management action** (status quo)
- **Defer until the next assessment if:**
 - **B.** Less than 3 years since last action responding to a trigger
 - **C.** F target trigger is tripped and SSB is above target
 - **D.** F target trigger is tripped and SSB projected to increase/remain stable over 5 years
 - **E.** F target tripped and at least 50% probability SSB is above threshold over 5 years
 - **F.** Board has already initiated action in response to another trigger
 - AP concern about these options that would allow the Board to defer management action since there is already public concern about the Board not responding quickly enough



Management Triggers



Before moving on to the next issue, does the Board have any questions or proposed modifications to the draft trigger options?

- Is this the correct range of options to address this issue?
- Are these options viable for implementation?
- Does the Board have more specific direction for these options?
- Is it clear in the draft document how these options would affect the management program?





BOARD CLARIFICATION: CHESAPEAKE BAY TROPHY FISHERY

Board Clarification: Ches Bay Trophy Fishery



- **Addendum VI** specifies: “the Chesapeake Bay fishery is defined as all fisheries operating within Chesapeake Bay”
- **Addendum IV** specifies: “the Chesapeake Bay spring trophy fishery is part of the coastal fishery for management purposes”
 - Chesapeake Bay state implementation plans developed to reduce trophy harvest by 25% consistent with required reduction for the ocean fishery.
 - Trophy fishery targets migratory coastal fish.

Clarification needed from the Board on the Chesapeake Bay trophy fishery for Draft Amendment 7.





SECTION 4.2.2

OCEAN RECREATIONAL FISHERY: MEASURES TO PROTECT 2015 YEAR CLASS

Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



Statement of the Problem

- Issue raised by stakeholders and the Board that protection of strong year classes is important for stock rebuilding
- Concern the strong 2015 year class is entering the current ocean recreational slot limit (28" to <35")
- If this slot limit is maintained, the 2015 year class may be subject to high recreational harvest for the next several years, reducing its potential to help rebuild the stock
- The 2015 year class will also be subject to recreational release mortality



Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



- **Option A** (status quo): The current recreational slot limit for the ocean fishery of 28" to <35" and one fish bag limit will be maintained, along with all currently approved state implementation plans and approved CE programs for Addendum VI.
- **Option B**: Recreational minimum size for the ocean fishery of 35" and a one fish bag limit.
- **Option C**: Recreational slot limit for the ocean fishery of 32" to <40" and a one fish bag limit.
- **Option D**: Recreational slot limit for the ocean fishery of 28" to <32" and a one fish bag limit.
- **Option E**: Moratorium on recreational harvest (ocean and Chesapeake Bay)



Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



- AP concerns about size/slot options
 - Concern from for-hire industry about slot limits and large minimum size options
 - Some AP members noted support for a large minimum size option considering simplicity for compliance and enforcement as compared to slot limit
 - Concern about higher discards associated with slot limits



Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



- **Option E:** Moratorium on recreational harvest (ocean and Chesapeake Bay)
 - E1. Moratorium through December 31, 2024.
 - E2. Moratorium through December 31, 2025.
 - E3. Moratorium through December 31, 2026.
 - E4. Moratorium through December 31, 2027.



Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



- TC discussion and analysis
 - 2017 and 2018 year classes were above average in multiple JAIs, include in analysis with 2015s
 - Estimated length-at-age
 - Percent protected from harvest, i.e., percent outside the size/slot limit
 - Importance of developing stock projections to evaluate the potential impact on SSB and stock productivity



Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



Table 4. Estimated mean striped bass size-at-age based on the 2012-2016 state age data (weighted by state recreational catch) compiled for the 2018 benchmark stock assessment. The ages of the 2015, 2017, and 2018 year classes are in bold. Note: Size-at-age is highly variable along the coast and there is overlap among age classes. Source: ASMFC.

Age	Estimated Mean Total Length (in)
0	3.8
1	6.4
2	12.7
3	17.0
4	20.9
5	24.1
6	26.4
7	28.7
8	31.6
9	33.8
10	35.5
11	37.2
12	39.1
13	41.0
14	42.2
15+	44.0

2018 year class in 2023

2017 year class in 2023

2015 year class in 2023



Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



Table 5. Percent of fish protected from harvest (outside the size/slot limit) for each age. The ages of the 2015, 2017, and 2018 year classes in 2023 are in bold. Note: The percent protected for ages 15 and above is the percent of all fish age 15+ combined.

					2018 YC in 2023	2017 YC in 2023		2015 YC in 2023							
Option	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	A13	A14	A15+
Option A: 28 to <35	100	100	100	98.9	90.0	68.8	46.6	33.4	40.1	56.9	75.1	92.0	98.4	99.7	100
Option B: 35 min	100	100	100	100	100	99.4	95.5	82.9	64.0	44.2	25.1	8.0	1.6	0.3	0.0
Option C: 32 to <40	100	100	100	100	99.5	95.1	81.3	55.8	32.7	22.9	24.2	38.1	64.1	80.3	93.9
Option D: 28 to <32	100	100	100	98.9	90.5	73.2	61.0	61.4	74.6	86.7	94.8	99.3	99.9	100	100

- Level of protection from harvest for each year class will change each year the fish age
- All fish are still subject to release mortality



Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



- For each size/slot limit option, projections estimate the change in total female SSB over time as compared to the status quo
 - Assuming the stock is fished at the target rate through 2032
 - Projected change in total SSB for each option as compared to the status quo ranges from 2 - 4%
- The projections indicate that the stock recovery timeline for each size/slot option would be the same as the status quo recovery timeline
- For all options, there is uncertainty around how angler behavior and effort would change in response to a change in size/slot limit



- **Tier 1: Conservation Equivalency Consideration for Ocean Size/Slot Limit Options**
 - A. CE would be permitted (considering other CE restrictions/requirements)
 - B. CE would not be permitted



- **Tier 2: Addendum VI Conservation Equivalency Programs Splitting the Reduction between Sectors**
- Consider how changing the recreational status quo—either a different slot/size or coastwide moratorium—would impact Addendum VI CE proposals that combined recreational and commercial measures to achieve the 18% reduction
- Specifically CE programs that implemented a less than 18% reduction in commercial quota which was offset by a larger reduction in recreational removals
 - A. The commercial quota levels implemented through those CE programs would carry forward, resulting in some quota levels that are less than an 18% reduction
 - B. The commercial quota levels implemented through those CE programs would not carry forward, those states would be subject to base quotas



Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



Table 6. Addendum VI base quota and 2020 CE-adjusted quota.

State	Add VI (base)	2020 CE-Adjusted Quota [^]
Ocean		
Maine*	154	154
New Hampshire*	3,537	3,537
Massachusetts	713,247	735,240
Rhode Island	148,889	148,889
Connecticut*	14,607	14,607
New York	652,552	640,718
New Jersey**	197,877	215,912
Delaware	118,970	142,474
Maryland	74,396	89,094
Virginia	113,685	125,034
North Carolina	295,495	295,495
Ocean Total	2,333,409	2,411,154
Chesapeake Bay		
Maryland	2,588,603	1,442,120
Virginia		983,393
PRFC		572,861
Bay Total		2,998,374

* Commercial harvest/sale prohibited, with no re-allocation of quota.

** Commercial harvest/sale prohibited, with re-allocation of quota to the recreational fishery.

[^] 2020 quota changed through conservation equivalency by either changing size limit with equivalent 18% quota reduction (MA, NY), or by taking a greater than 18% reduction in recreational removals to offset a less than 18% commercial quota reduction (NJ, DE, MD, PRFC, VA).

Note: Maryland's Chesapeake Bay quota for 2020 was adjusted to account for the overage in 2019.

Measures to Protect 2015 Year Class



Before moving on to the next issue, does the Board have any questions or proposed modifications to the draft options to protect the 2015 year class?

- Is this the correct range of options to address this issue?
- Are these options viable for implementation?
- Is it clear in the draft document how these options would affect the management program?





SECTION 4.2.3

RECREATIONAL RELEASE MORTALITY

Recreational Release Mortality



Statement of the Problem

- Large component of fishing mortality
- The current management program primarily uses bag limits and size limits to constrain recreational harvest and is not designed to control effort, which makes it difficult to control overall fishing mortality
- Efforts to reduce overall fishing mortality through harvest reductions may be of limited use unless recreational release mortality can be addressed



Rec Release Mortality



- Option A. Status Quo (Addendum VI circle hook measures)
- Option B. Effort Controls (Seasonal Closures)
- Option C. Gear Restrictions
- Option D. Outreach and Education



Rec Release Mortality



- Option A: Status Quo Circle Hook Requirement

The use of circle hooks, as defined herein, is required when recreationally fishing for striped bass with bait, which is defined as any marine or aquatic organism live or dead, whole or parts thereof. This shall not apply to any artificial lure with bait attached... It is recommended that striped bass caught on any unapproved method of take must be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury.



Rec Release Mortality



- Option B. Effort Controls (Seasonal Closures)
 - Intended to reduce the number of live releases by reducing the number of fishing trips (effort) that interact with striped bass
 - The majority of options developed by the PDT are no-targeting options in order to address recreational releases resulting from both harvest trips and catch-and-release fishing trips
 - In advance of future management actions, PDT recommendation that the TC discuss and establish a standardized method for estimating the reduction in removals from a no-targeting season closure



Rec Release Mortality



- Option B. Effort Controls (Seasonal Closures)
 - **B1 and B2 – Wave 4 no-targeting closures**
 - **B1. Coastwide Wave 4 No-Targeting Closure**
 - B1-a. July 1-15
 - B1-b. July 16-31
 - B1-c. August 1-15
 - B1-d. August 16-31



Rec Release Mortality



- Option B. Effort Controls (Seasonal Closures)
 - **B1 and B2 – Wave 4 no-targeting closures**
 - **B2. State or Regional Wave 4 No-Targeting Closure**
 - B2-a. States select 2-week closure in Wave 4
 - B2-b. ME/NH select 2-week closure and all other states select 3-week closure in Wave 4
 - B2-c. Regions select 2-week closures in Wave 4
 - Gulf of Maine: ME, NH, MA
 - Long Island/Block Island Sound: RI, CT, NY
 - Mid-Atlantic: NJ, DE, MD ocean, VA ocean, NC ocean
 - Chesapeake Bay: MD Chesapeake Bay, VA Chesapeake Bay
- AP concern about state coordination and accountability for a regional closure option



Rec Release Mortality



- Option B. Effort Controls (Seasonal Closures)
 - **B3. State-specific Any Wave No Targeting Closures**
 - B3-a. States select 2-week closure during a wave with at least 15% of directed trips
 - B3-b. States select 2-week closure during a wave with at least 25% of directed trips
 - Some AP members noted that even a 2-week closure could have a significant, negative impact on fishing businesses, particularly in northern states.



Proportion of Directed Trips by Wave



Table 7. Proportion of each state's striped bass directed trips (primary and secondary target) by wave for 2017-2019. Note: the distribution of directed trips reflects closures that were already in place in 2017-2019 and so may not fully reflect when fish are available. Source: MRIP (AP note)

	Jan-Feb Wave 1* Percent	Mar-Apr Wave 2* Percent	May-Jun Wave 3 Percent	Jul-Aug Wave 4 Percent	Sep-Oct Wave 5 Percent	Nov-Dec Wave 6* Percent
MAINE	0.0%	0.0%	34.7%	41.6%	23.7%	0.0%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0.0%	0.0%	25.6%	53.7%	20.8%	0.0%
MASSACHUSETTS	0.0%	2.3%	33.7%	34.5%	23.8%	5.7%
RHODE ISLAND	0.0%	12.9%	30.3%	20.6%	19.2%	17.1%
CONNECTICUT	0.0%	22.9%	29.9%	18.7%	13.2%	15.3%
NEW YORK	0.0%	21.3%	26.3%	13.5%	20.3%	18.6%
NEW JERSEY	0.0%	24.7%	18.4%	4.1%	11.7%	41.1%
DELAWARE	0.0%	30.9%	15.3%	8.1%	7.8%	38.0%
MD CHES BAY	0.0%	14.6%	21.1%	26.7%	17.7%	19.9%
VA CHES BAY	0.0%	7.7%	5.5%	1.6%	15.0%	70.1%
MD OCEAN	0.0%	0.6%	20.7%	0.4%	40.7%	37.6%
VA OCEAN	0.0%	1.3%	24.1%	31.4%	0.0%	43.2%
NC OCEAN	5.1%	9.0%	12.2%	17.8%	1.7%	54.3%

Rec Release Mortality



- Option B. Effort Controls (Seasonal Closures)
 - **B4. Applicability of No-Targeting Closures implemented in 2020 through Addendum VI CE**
 - B4-a. Existing no-targeting closures implemented in 2020 would fulfill new closure requirements
 - B4-b. Existing no-targeting closures implemented in 2020 would not fulfill new closure requirements. States would need to implement additional closures or implement FMP standard size limit.
 - **B5. Spawning Area Closures (existing closures would fulfill these requirements)**
 - B5-a. No-harvest closure for Wave 1 and Wave 2
 - B5-b. No-targeting closure for 2 weeks during peak spawning



Rec Release Mortality



- Option C. Gear Restrictions
 - C1. Prohibit any device other than a nonlethal device to remove a striped bass from the water or assist in the releasing of striped bass.
 - C2. Prohibit treble hooks
 - C3. Require barbless hooks
 - C4. Prohibit trolling with wire
 - C5. Incidental Catch Requirement: Striped bass caught on any unapproved method of take would be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury.
- Significant AP concern about gear restriction options:
 - Targeting certain components of the recreational sector
 - Gear is used differently across states
 - Enforcement concerns



Rec Release Mortality



- Option D. Outreach and Education
 - D1. Required Outreach (required in annual compliance reports)
 - D2. Recommended Outreach
 - AP member noted that required outreach should be clearly defined.



Rec Release Mortality



Before moving on to the next issue, does the Board have any questions or proposed modifications to the draft options to address recreational release mortality?

- Are these options viable for implementation?
- Does the Board have more specific direction for these options?
- Is it clear in the draft document how these options would affect the management program?





SECTION 4.5.2

CONSERVATION EQUIVALENCY

Conservation Equivalency



Statement of the Problem

- Value in allowing states to implement alternative regulations based on the needs of their fisheries
- Results in regulatory inconsistency among states and within shared waterbodies with associated challenges (e.g., enforcement)
- Difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of CE programs due to the challenge of separating out other variables (like angler behavior and availability of fish)
- Concerns that some alternative measures implemented through CE could potentially undermine management objectives
- Limited guidance on how and when CE should be pursued and how “equivalency” is defined



CE Options



- Option A: Status Quo – Board discretion
- Option B: Restrict CE based on Stock Status
- Option C. Precision Standards for MRIP in CE Proposals
- Option D. CE Uncertainty Buffer for Non-Quota Managed Fisheries
- Option E. Definition of Equivalency for Non-Quota Managed Fisheries
- Option F. Prohibition on the Use of CE

- AP noted the importance of accountability



CE Options



- **Option A: Status Quo – Board discretion**
 - The Board has final discretion regarding the use of CE and approval of CE programs
 - The Board may restrict the use of CE on an ad hoc basis for any FMP requirement



CE Options



Option B. Restrict the Use of CE Based on Stock Status

- **Option B1: Restrictions**

- B1-a. No CE if stock is overfished (i.e., below the SSB threshold)
- B1-b. No CE if SSB is below target
- B1-c. No CE if overfishing is occurring

- **Option B2. Applicability**

- At a minimum, stock status restrictions would apply to non-quota managed recreational fisheries (except the Hudson River, Delaware River, Delaware Bay, and Chesapeake Bay spring trophy)
- The Board could extend the restrictions to also include one or more of the following:
 - B2-a. Hudson River, Delaware River, Delaware Bay recreational fisheries
 - B2-b. Chesapeake Bay spring trophy fisheries
 - B2-c. Quota-managed rec fisheries (e.g., bonus programs)
 - B2-d. Commercial fisheries



CE Options



- **Option C. Precision Standards for MRIP**
- May not exceed:
 - C1. 50
 - C2. 40
 - C3. 30
- States are encouraged to increase APAIS sampling
- AP member noted concern that 50 was too high for the threshold



CE Options



- **Option D. CE Uncertainty Buffer for Non-Quota Managed Fisheries**
 - D1. 10%
 - D2. 25%
 - D3. 50%
- The buffer would apply to the percent reduction required or liberalization allowed (after any potential transfer of reduction/liberalization between fisheries).

Example: If 20% reduction is required with a 10% uncertainty buffer, proposed CE programs would need to demonstrate a 22% reduction. Similarly, if a 20% liberalization is allowed with a 10% uncertainty buffer, proposed CE programs may liberalize up to 18%.

The Board may need to further determine how the buffer is applied for some future management actions.



CE Options



- **Option E. Definition of Equivalency for Non-Quota Managed Fisheries**
 - Proposed CE programs would be required to demonstrate equivalency to:
 - E1. the percent reduction/liberalization projected for the FMP standard at the coastwide level (e.g., each state required to achieve 18% as projected coastwide for Add VI)
 - E2. the percent reduction/liberalization projected for the FMP standard at the state-specific level



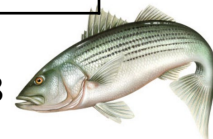
CE Options



- Option E. Definition of Equivalency for Non-Quota Managed Fisheries**

Example: Suppose an FMP standard is adopted that achieves a 20% change in fishery removals when applied coastwide. However, at the state level, the FMP standard is projected to achieve a 25% change in State A and a 10% change in State B.

	State Change to be Demonstrated in a CE Proposal under Each Sub-option	
(FMP Standard achieves a 20% change when applied coast-wide)	Sub-option E1: Use coastwide change	Sub-option E2: Use state-specific change
State A (25% state change under FMP standard)	20%	25%
State B (10% state change under FMP Standard)	20%	10%



CE Options



- **Option F. Prohibition on the Use of CE**
 - Remove the allowance for CE from the striped bass management program (with the exception of management program equivalencies that are written into the FMP) until reinstated by the Board in a future management action
 - Previously existing CE programs would remain in place until states are required to implement new FMP standards relevant to the specific fishery.
 - Note: if Amendment 7 changes the Ocean region's status quo recreational slot limit and if the Board prohibits the use of CE, the new size limit(s) would apply to the Hudson River, Delaware River, and Delaware Bay recreational fisheries—unless the FMP establishes separate standards for these fisheries



Conservation Equivalency



Before moving on to the next issue, does the Board have questions or proposed modifications to the draft options for CE?

- Is this the correct range of options to address this issue?
- Do these options address the Board's concerns?
- Are these options viable for implementation?
- Is it clear in the draft document how these options would affect the management program?



Draft Amendment 7

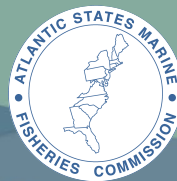


Board action for consideration today: Consider approval of Draft Amendment 7 for public comment.





QUESTIONS?



Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum VII to Amendment 6 For Board Review

Commercial Quota Transfer for the Ocean Region



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
October 20, 2021

Background/Problem Statement



- In February 2021, PID for Draft Amendment 7 was approved for public comment
 - Included coastal commercial quota allocation issue
- In August 2021, the Board initiated an addendum to consider allowing voluntary commercial quota transfers
 - Transfers of commercial coastal quota only between states with coastal quota
 - Bay jurisdictions manage commercial quota separate from the ocean region
 - Immediate relief for states seeking changes in commercial allocation



Proposed Timeline



Date	Action
August 2021	Board initiated Draft Addendum VII
Aug-Oct 2021	PDT develops Draft Addendum document
October 2021	Board consider Draft Addendum VII for public comment (<i>current step</i>)
Nov-Jan 2021	Public comment period
January 2022	Board review public comment and consider final approval of Draft Addendum VII

Note: This timeline is subject to change per the direction of the Board.



Proposed Options



- **Option A. Status Quo-no transfers permitted**
- **Option B. Allow transfers of coastal commercial quota**
 - Occur up to 45 days after last day of calendar year
 - Must receive letter from giving and receiving state
 - No limit on the poundage of a transfer
 - Transfer is approved after written correspondence from commission
 - Transfers are final upon approval
 - Transfers do not permanently impact state shares
 - States are still responsible for quota overages of transferred quota



PDT Recommendation



- Significant concerns with adding ocean region commercial quota transfers at this time
- If the document is approved, recommend adding the PDT concerns to the draft for public comment
- PDT concerns were previously raised when the same issue was discussed under Draft Add IV in 2014



PDT Concerns



- Concern transfers could undermine the goals and objectives of the Addendum VI reductions
 - Commercial fishery consistently underutilized quota (due to fish availability and state specific measures)
 - Assumed the commercial fishery would perform as it had in the past in order to achieve the commercial reduction
 - This assumption would be violated if transfer are permitted



PDT Concerns



- A pound of commercial quota is not equal across all states
 - Through CE state commercial size limits have been adjusted, resulting in changes to their quota
 - Add VI CE: MA increased its com minimum size limit, which increased its quota
 - Add VI CE: NY lowered its commercial slot limit minimum, which decreased its quota
 - Given additional time the PDT might be able to address this issue





QUESTIONS?