Background Information for the New York Appeal of Addendum XXXIII to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP Black Sea Bass Commercial Allocation

ISFMP Policy Board

May 2021

NY Appeal

- Addendum XXXIII: Commercial Black Sea Bass State-by-State Quota
- Appeal to be considered by the ISFMP Policy Board under criterion one - Decision not consistent with the Statement of the Problem

Presentation Outline

- Appeal Process
- Background on the development and approval of Addendum XXXIII
- Board justification for the approval of Ad. XXXIII
- Potential impacts to states under the actions requested in the appeal

Appeal Process

- Appeal is reviewed by Commission Leadership within 15 business days
  - Current Chair and Vice-Chair and Past Chair
- Appeal must be justified with following criteria:
  - Decision not consistent/contrary to FMP goal/objective or statement of the problem of addenda
  - Failure to follow process
  - Insufficient/inaccurate/incorrect application of technical information
  - Management actions resulting in unforeseen circumstances/impacts not considered by the Board as the document was developed

Policy Board Decisions

- Was the SF, S, and BSB Board's action justified?
  - Did the Board address the expansion of the BSB stock into LIS for New York waters in the change in allcoation as approved?
- If yes- no further action required
- If no:
  - The Policy Board must forward a corrective action to the SF, S, and BSB Board
    - The PB should state that finding and provide specific guidance
    - The guidance can give the board flexibility in determining the details of the corrective action

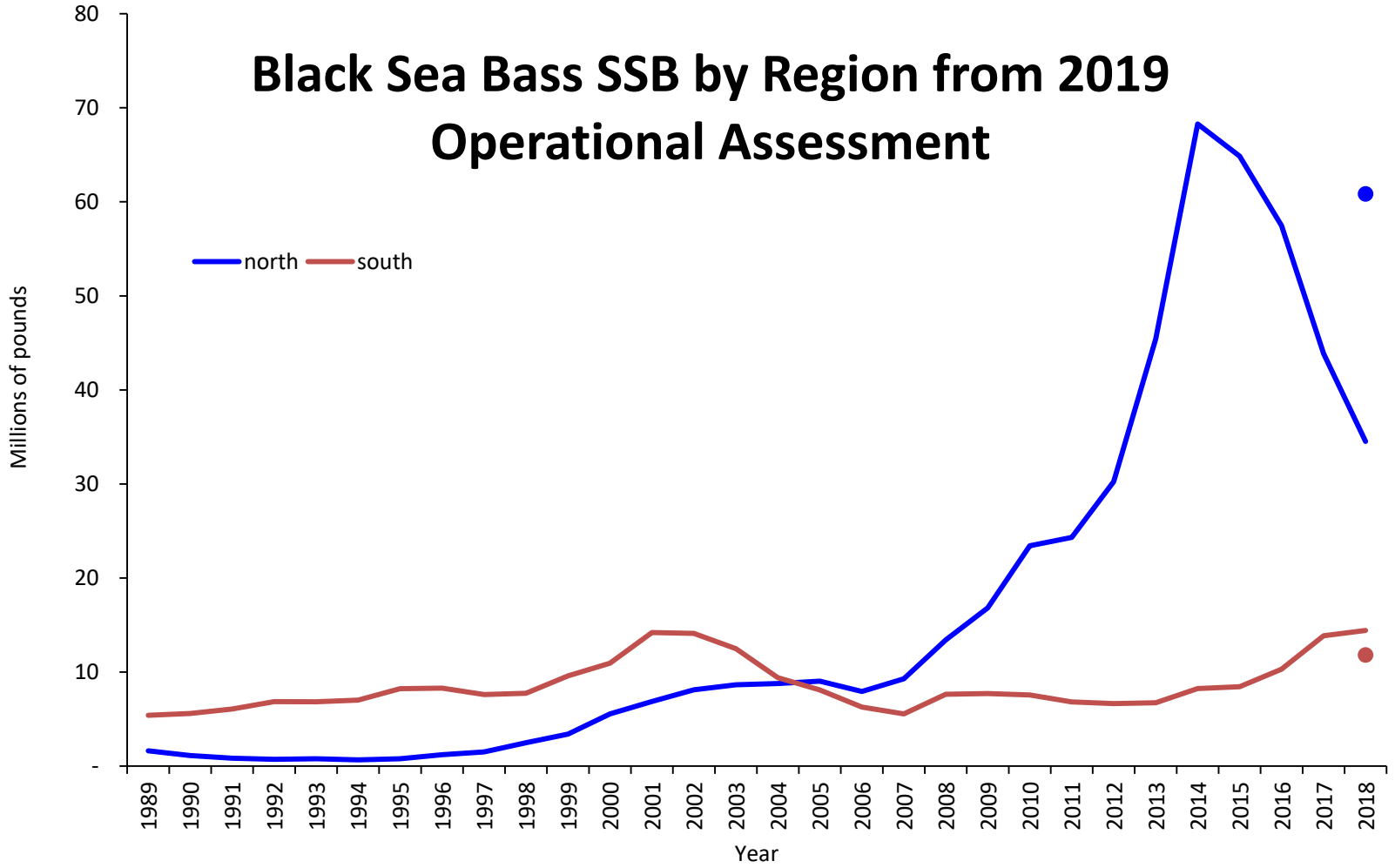
Addendum XXXIII

- Action Goals as Defined by Board and Council
  - Consider adjusting the current commercial black sea bass allocations using current distribution and abundance of black sea bass as one of several adjustment factors to achieve more balanced access to the resource
  - Consider whether the state allocations should continue to be managed only under the Commission's FMP or whether they should be managed under both the Commission and Council FMPs

Statement of the Problem

- State-by state allocations loosely based on landings from 1980-2001
  - 67% to NJ-NC & 33% to ME-NY
  - Had been unchanged since 2003
- Last 10 years distribution of the BSB stock has changed with corresponding changes in effort and fishing behavior

Statement of the Problem



Statement of the Problem

- State-by state allocations loosely based on landings from 1980-2001
  - 67% to NJ-NC & 33% to ME-NY
  - Had been unchanged since 2003
- Last 10 years distribution of the BSB stock has changed with corresponding changes in effort and fishing behavior
- Expansion of the stock into areas with historically minimal fishing effort
  - Creating disparities between allocations and abundance/resource availability (ex CT because of the changes seen in LIS)

Ad XXXIII Allocation Options

- **Management Options for State Allocations**
  A. Status Quo
  B. Increase CT Quota to 5%
  C. Dynamic Adjustments to Regional Allocations
  D. Trigger Approach
  E. Trigger Approach (Increase CT and NY first)
  F. Percentage Approach
  G. Regional Configuration

Ad XXXIII Approved Option

- **Changed the Baseline Allocation:**
  - **CT baseline from 1% to 3%**
- **Coastwide quota allocated using 2 parts-**
  1. **75% based on new baseline (historical allocations with CT's increase)**
  2. **25% to 3 regions based on the regional biomass distribution of the most recent assessment (ME-NY, NJ, DE-NC).**
  3. **States then split the regional allocation using the baseline allocation**
  4. **ME/NH get 1% of the N. region's quota**
- **Evaluate the allocation program within 5 years**

Ad XXXIII Approved Option

- **Changed the Baseline Allocation:**
  - **CT baseline from 1% to 3%**

State	Historical Allocation	Change in Allocation	New Baseline Allocation
ME	0.5%	-0.25%	0.25%
NH	0.5%	-0.25%	0.25%
MA	13.0%	-0.23%	12.77%
RI	11.0%	-0.19%	10.81%
CT	1.0%	2.00%	3.00%
NY	7.0%	0.00%	7.00%
NJ	20.0%	-0.35%	19.65%
DE	5.0%	0.00%	5.00%
MD	11.0%	-0.19%	10.81%
VA	20.0%	-0.35%	19.65%
NC	11.0%	-0.19%	10.81%

Ad XXXIII Approved Option

State	Hisorical Allocation Percentage	Final Add Example % Allocation	Change in Allocation Percentage
ME	0.50	0.40	-0.10
NH	0.50	0.40	-0.10
MA	13.00	15.64	2.64
RI	11.00	13.23	2.23
CT	1.00	3.67	2.67
NY	7.00	8.57	1.57
NJ	20.00	20.10	0.10
DE	5.00	4.11	-0.89
MD	11.00	8.88	-2.12
VA	20.00	16.14	-3.86
NC	11.00	8.88	-2.12

Board Justification

- Options considered would not help CT enough to make a difference because the starting baseline was so low
- NY's baseline did not need to increase to 9%, not that the overall allocation could not reach 9%

Potential Impacts

	CT to 3% and NY to 9%		CT to 3% (approved)	
State	**Base allocation**	**Final (example) with % approach**	**Base allocation**	**Final (example) with % approach**
ME	0.25	0.40	0.25	0.40
NH	0.25	0.40	0.25	0.40
MA	12.47	15.11	12.77	15.64
RI	10.55	12.78	10.81	13.23
CT	3.00	3.63	3.00	3.67
NY	9.00	10.90	7.00	8.57
NJ	19.19	19.51	19.65	20.10
DE	5.00	4.11	5.00	4.11
MD	10.55	8.68	10.81	8.88
VA	19.19	15.79	19.65	16.14
NC	10.55	8.68	10.81	8.88

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New York Appeal of Addendum XXXIII to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan

ISFMP Policy Board - Thursday, May 6, 2021

Background

At the ASMFC 2021 Winter Meeting, the SFSBSB Board and MAFMC jointly approved changes to state allocations for commercial black sea bass through Addendum XXXIII.

- State allocations were unchanged since establishment in 2003.
  - Loosely based upon landings from 1980-2001
- Significant changes have occurred in the distribution and abundance of black sea bass

Background (continued)

SFSBSB Board Decision (Add. XXXIII):

- Increase CT's baseline allocation to 3%
- 75% of coastwide quota
  - new baseline allocation
- 25% of coastwide quota
  - Regional biomass: ME-NY, NJ, DE-NC

State	Historical Allocation	Change in Allocation	New Baseline Allocation
ME	0.5%	-0.25%	0.25%
NH	0.5%	-0.25%	0.25%
MA	13.0%	-0.23%	12.77%
RI	11.0%	-0.19%	10.81%
CT	1.0%	2.00%	3.00%
NY	7.0%	0.00%	7.00%
NJ	20.0%	-0.35%	19.65%
DE	5.0%	0.00%	5.00%
MD	11.0%	-0.19%	10.81%
VA	20.0%	-0.35%	19.65%
NC	11.0%	-0.19%	10.81%

NY Appeal

NY appealed this decision in a March 19, 2021 letter to the ASMFC.

Appeal to be considered by the ISFMP Policy Board under criterion one - Decision not consistent with the Statement of the Problem:

"… the Addendum addresses changes in the distribution of the stock specifically for LIS, which has experienced significant increases in black sea bass abundance and availability. New York correctly notes the Addendum only discusses this increase as it relates to Connecticut in the statement of the problem, though New York is similarly affected by the increase as LIS is a shared waterbody of the two states"

(April 9, 2021 Letter from ASMFC Chair Patrick Keliher)

Addendum XXXIII Statement of the Problem

"In some cases, expansion of the black sea bass stock into areas with historically minimal fishing effort has created significant disparities between state allocations and current abundance and resource availability. "

The example given of this circumstance was the expansion of black sea bass into the Long Island Sound and its impact on the State of Connecticut. However, Long Island Sound is a shared waterbody and New York has been similarly impacted.

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Long Island Sound and Amendment 13 (2003)

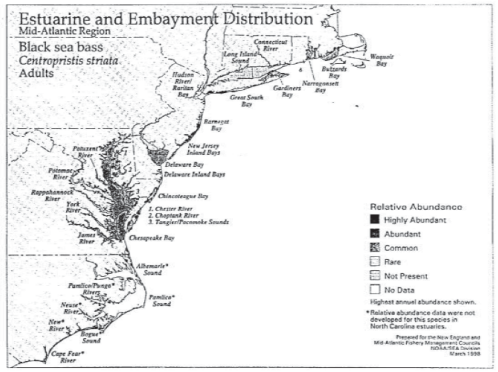

Figure 6d. Relative of abundance and distribution of adult black sea bass in Mid-Atlantic estuaries. Those estuaries in which adults are classified as highly abundant, abundant, or common are designated as essential fish habitat.
Source: ELMR data.

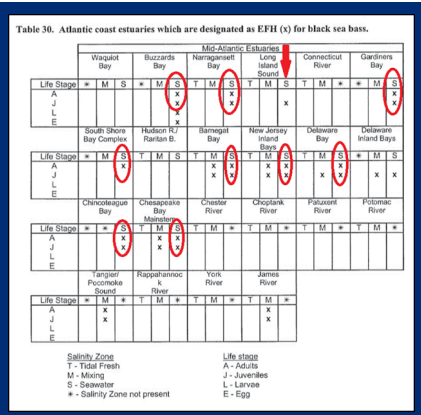

Table 30. Atlantic coast estuaries which are designated as EFH (x) for black sea bass.

Life Stage	Mid-Atlantic Estuaries																	
	Waquoit Bay			Buzzards Bay			Narragansett Bay			Long Island Sound			Connecticut River			Gardiners Bay		
	*	M	S	*	M	S	T	M	S	T	M	S	T	M	*	*	M	S
A						x			x									x
J						x			x			x						x
L						x												
E																		
	South Shore Bay Complex			Hudson R./ Raritan B.			Barnegat Bay			New Jersey Inland Bays			Delaware Bay			Delaware Inland Bays		
Life Stage	*	M	S	T	M	S	T	M	S	T	M	S	T	M	S	*	M	S
A			x					x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x
J			x					x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x
L																		
E																		
	Chincoteague Bay			Chesapeake Bay Mainstem			Chester River			Choptank River			Paluxent River			Potomac River		
Life Stage	*	*	S	T	M	S	T	M	*	T	M	*	T	M	*	T	M	*
A			x			x												
J			x			x												
L																		
E																		
	Tangier/ Pocomoke Sound			Rappahannock River			York River			James River								
Life Stage	*	M	*	T	M	*	T	M	*	T	M	*						
A		x									x							
J		x									x							
L																		
E																		

Salinity Zone
T - Tidal Fresh
M - Mixing
S - Seawater
* - Salinity Zone not present

Life stage
A - Adults
J - Juveniles
L - Larvae
E - Egg

Essential Fish Habitat information on Black Sea Bass

Adults considered “Rare” in LIS

- LIS not EFH for adult black sea bass

Estuaries north and south designated as EFH for adults:

- Buzzards Bay, Narragansett Bay
- Gardiners Bay, South Shore Bays
- Barnegat Bay, Delaware Bay, Chincoteague Bay, Chesapeake Bay

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Long Island Sound and Amendment 13 (2003)

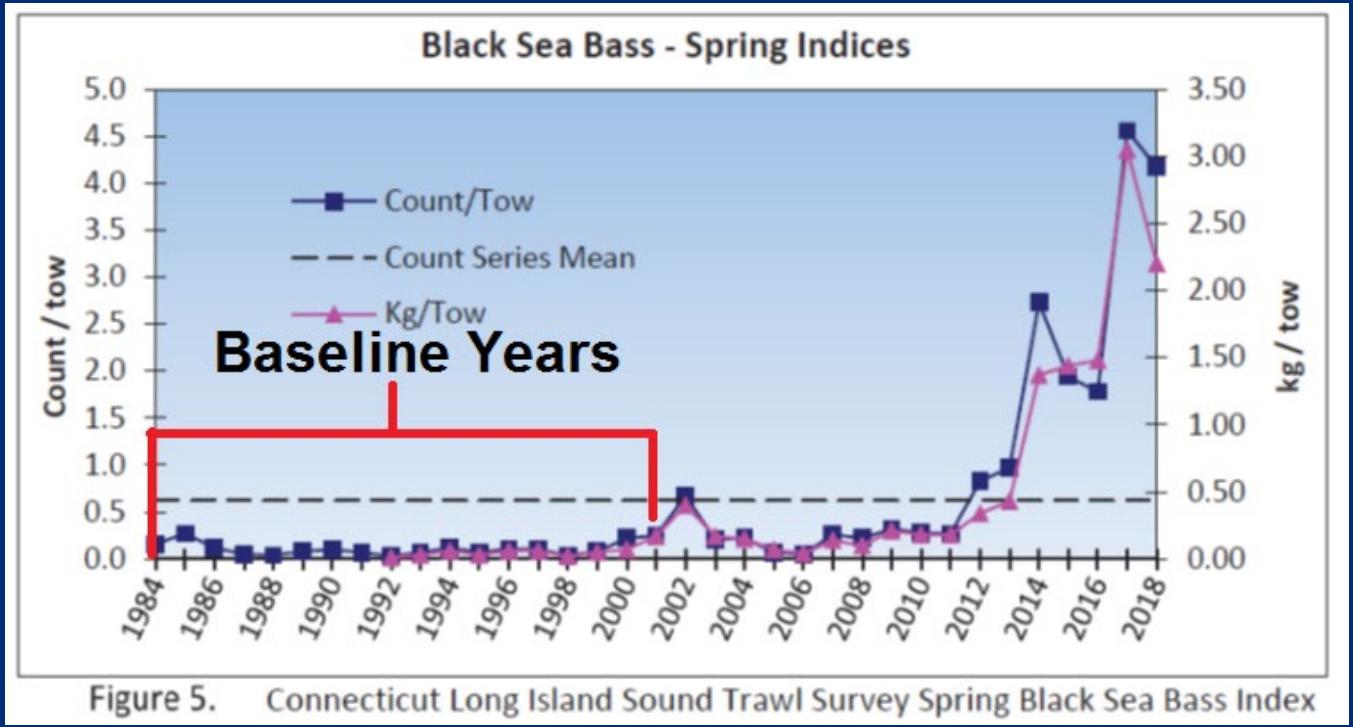

Figure 5. Connecticut Long Island Sound Trawl Survey Spring Black Sea Bass Index

Allocation
Baseline Years
1980 - 2001

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Table 13. Scup commercial landings by distance from shore, 1999.

	Scup			
	0-3 miles ('000 lbs)	3-200 miles ('000 lbs)	Total ('000 lbs)	% EEZ
ME	NA	NA		
NH	NA	NA		
MA	654	8	662	1.2
RI	607	673	1280	52.6
CT	87	10	97	10.3
NY	169	291	460	63.3
NJ	8	788	796	99.0
DE	NA	NA		
MD	0	0	0	
VA	0	28	28	100.0
NC	2	76	78	97.4
Total	1527	1874	3401	55.1

Source: NMFS General Canvass Data.

Table 14. Black sea bass commercial landings by distance from shore, 1999.

	Black Sea Bass			
	0-3 miles ('000 lbs)	3-200 miles ('000 lbs)	Total ('000 lbs)	% EEZ
ME	NA	NA		
NH	NA	NA		
MA	571	3	574	0.5
RI	65	111	176	63.1
CT	2	12	14	85.7
NY	82	127	209	60.8
NJ	8	493	501	98.4
DE	NA	NA		
MD	78	407	485	83.9
VA	2	738	740	99.7
NC	26	564	590	95.6
Total	834	2455	3289	74.6

Source: NMFS General Canvass Data.

Table 12. Summer flounder commercial landings by distance from shore, 1999.

	Summer Flounder			
	0-3 miles ('000 lbs)	3-200 miles ('000 lbs)	Total ('000 lbs)	% EEZ
ME		6	6	100.0
NH	NA	NA		
MA	308	497	805	61.7
RI	727	910	1637	55.6
CT	108	137	245	55.9
NY	354	450	804	56.0
NJ	206	1712	1918	89.3
DE	7	1	8	12.5
MD	67	167	234	71.4
VA	169	2027	2196	92.3
NC	850	1960	2810	69.8
Total	2796	7867	10663	73.8

Source: NMFS General Canvass Data.

Connecticut Fishery and Amendment 13 (2003)

CT 1980-2001 avg annual commercial landings of Black Sea Bass: 14,800 ± 3880 lb

1999 Snapshot:

- 14,000 lb BSB total, 14.3% from state waters
- In contrast, 44% of its fluke (245K) and 90% of its scup (97K) came from state waters

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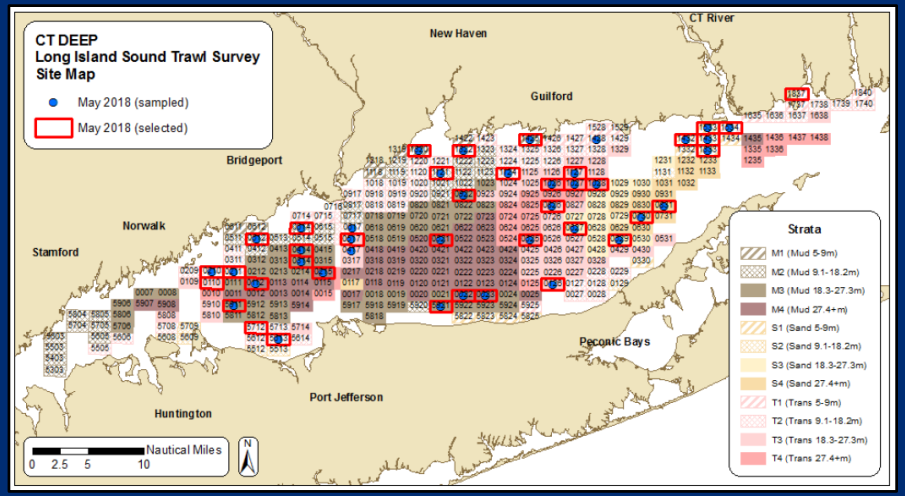
Since late 2000s, Stock Distribution Has Changed



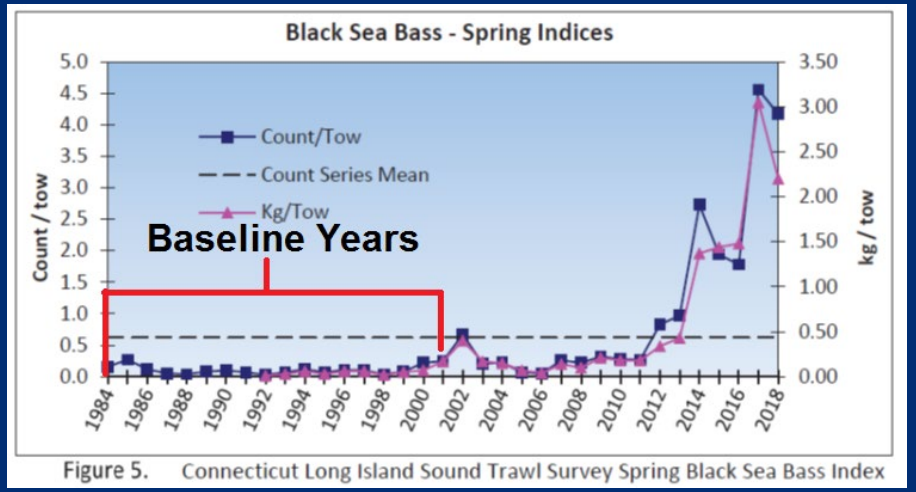


Figure 5. Connecticut Long Island Sound Trawl Survey Spring Black Sea Bass Index

And Expanded into Long Island Sound

A map from a Long Island Sound Trawl Survey Report showing May 2018 Stations.

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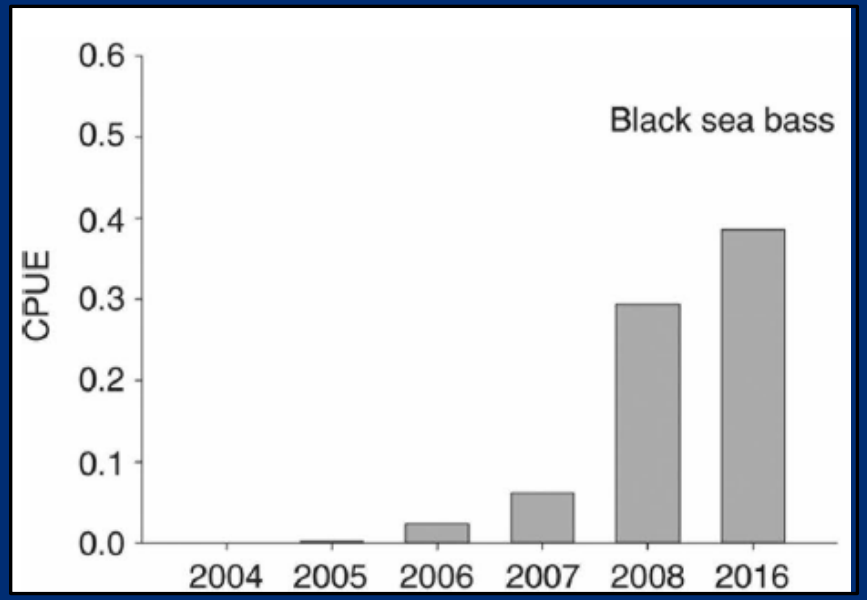
Additional Evidence of Colonization of LIS by Black Sea Bass



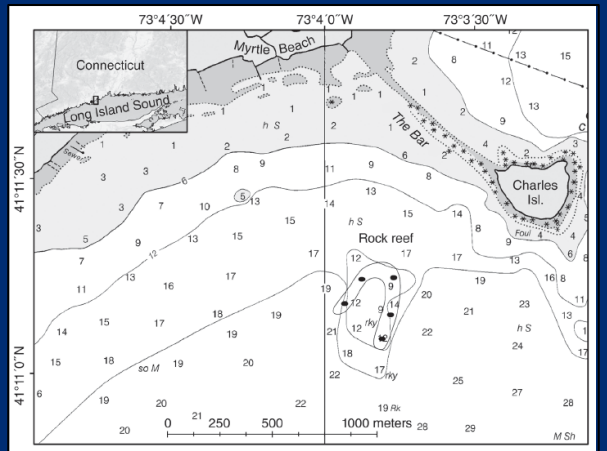


Figure 1

Map of a horseshoe shaped cobble and boulder reef located near Milford, Connecticut, in Long Island Sound, showing areas (black circles) where fish traps were deployed to assess changes in the relative abundance of juvenile finfish during the summer months (June–August) of 2004–2008 and 2016. Small numerals indicate mean lower low water in meters. Light gray shading indicates areas with depths <1.8 m (<6 ft) at low tide. Darker shading indicates areas exposed at low tide. Dotted lines indicate low tide lines. Solid lines indicate depth contours in meters. Asterisks (*) indicate the presence of rocks.

Mercaldo-Allen et al. (2021) out of the NOAA Lab at Milford CT

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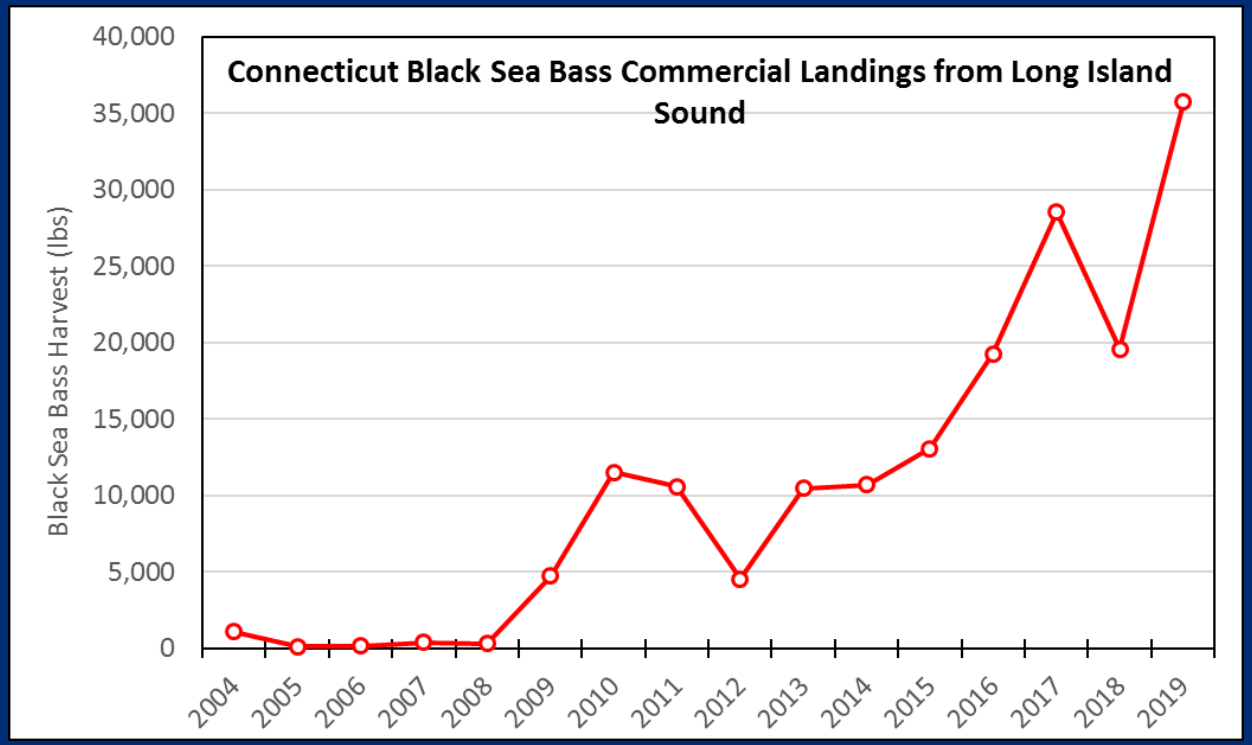
Commercial Black Sea Bass Harvest from LIS



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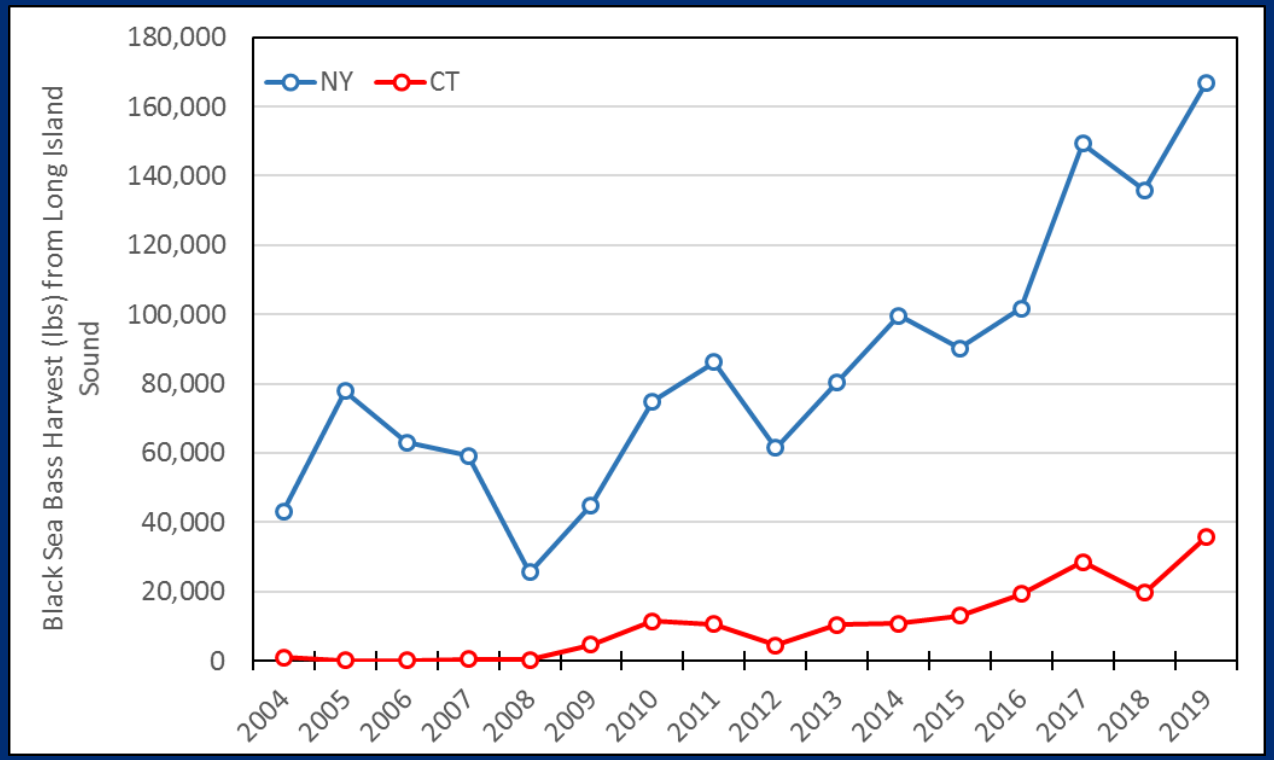
Commercial Black Sea Bass Harvest from LIS



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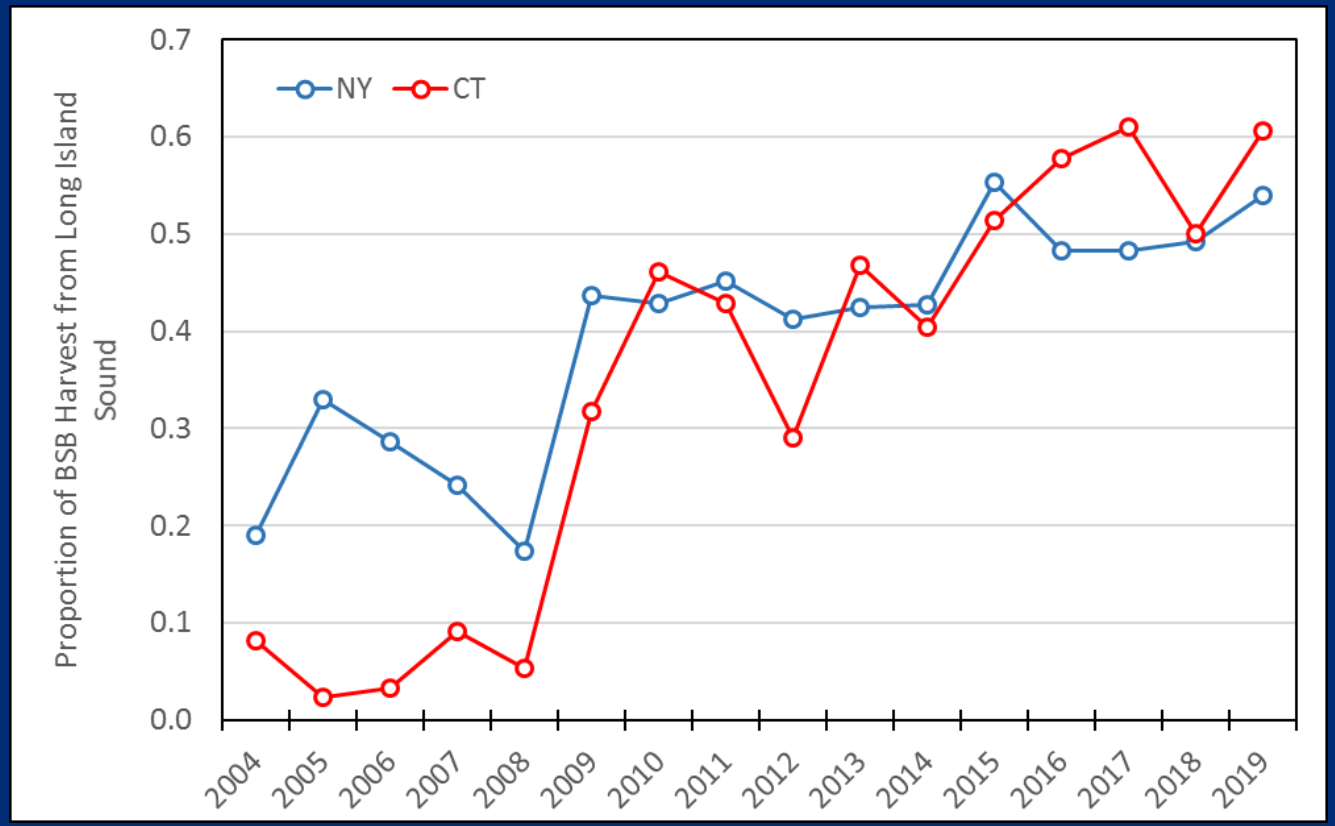
Long Island Sound Black Sea Bass Harvest as a Proportion of the Each State's Total Annual Black Sea Bass Harvest



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Fisheries and Changes

- Adult black sea bass were not present in LIS during the baseline years in appreciable numbers.
- CT fishermen were fishing in LIS, but NOT landing BSB from LIS
- NY fishermen were experiencing the same types of catch from LIS

Fisheries and Changes (continued)

- Majority of landings contributing to baseline allocations (1980-2001) for CT and NY did not originate from LIS, but from the Ocean and Federal Waters.

- NY had a much larger ocean fishery than CT during this time.

- Black sea bass expanded into LIS in the late 2000s

Fisheries and Changes (continued)

- Black sea bass in LIS now represent an abundant resource entirely in State waters shared by NY and CT

- This NEW state waters fishery is causing management difficulties for both states.

- Quota demand in NY is strained between the traditional ocean fishery (that largely made NY's 7% baseline) and the new LIS fishery = low trip limits and unplanned closures.

Addendum XXXIII action as it relates ONLY to Connecticut's Long Island Sound Fishery

3.1.1 Baseline Quota Allocations

Baseline quota allocations have been established (Table 2). Connecticut's initial quota allocation is increased to 3% of the coastwide quota by adjusting other state allocations as shown in Table 2.

Connecticut has experienced a substantial increase in abundance of black sea bass in state waters over the last seven years, though the state's original allocation was only 1% of the coastwide quota. This allocation increase attempts to reduce the disparity between the abundance of black sea bass in Connecticut waters and Connecticut's historical allocation. These revised allocations are used as the starting point for additional allocation changes described in Section 3.1.2.

Changes and Impacts

Long Island Sound is a large shared water body between NY and CT.

Add. XXXIII explicitly grants additional access to a resource newly found in shared state waters to one adjacent state while denying the needs of the other adjacent state.

Inland Waterbody	Surface Area (sq miles)
Chesapeake Bay	4,480
Albemarle-Pamlico	3,000
Long Island Sound (NY)	1,320
Delaware Bay	784
Buzzards Bay	251
Peconic Estuary (NY)	247
Great South Bay (NY)	243
Narragansett Bay	147

This is the equivalent of granting additional access to MD in the Chesapeake, or NJ in Delaware Bay and denying requests by VA or DE for comparable additional access.

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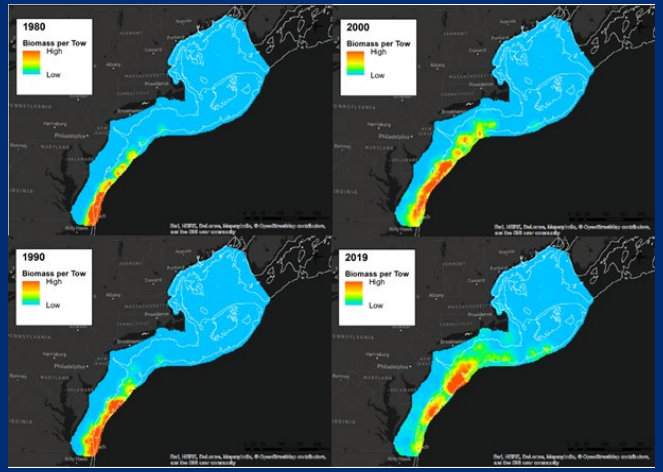
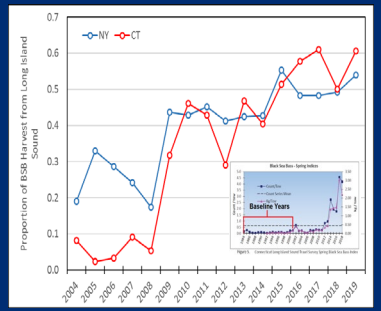
Appeal Summary



Spring NEFSC Data from https://oceanadapt.rutgers.edu/



- Add. XXXIII's allocation of 25% of coastwide quota based upon regional biomass is a step towards addressing the shift in distribution and abundance of the stock acutely experienced by traditional northern region fisheries
- However, by adjusting ONLY the baseline of CT, Add. XXXIII fails to address impacts to NY as a result of the stock expansion into an area (Long Island Sound) with historically minimal fishing effort.

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Suggested Resolution

New York asks that the ISFMP Policy Board find that Addendum XXXIII, as currently written, is not consistent with the Addendum's Statement of the Problem and remand Section 3.1.1. *Baseline Quota Allocations* back to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board for corrective action.

Corrective action taken by the SFSBSB Board should address the identified inconsistency with the Addendum XXXIII Statement of the Problem (below) for New York in a manner comparable with the way in which it has been addressed for Connecticut.

> *"…expansion of the black sea bass stock into areas with historically minimal fishing effort has created significant disparities between state allocations and current abundance and resource availability. "*

Corrective action taken by the SFSBSB Board should not reduce Connecticut's baseline allocation below 3%.

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Suggested Resolution (continued)

New York requests that the SFSBSB Board reconsider the original proposal made by the Commissioner from Massachusetts in order to address the expansion of the black sea bass stock into Long Island Sound.

2% increases to the baseline allocations of both CT and NY:

- 200% increase in baseline allocation for CT
- 29% increase in baseline allocation for NY

Baseline Allocations				
ST	Amend. 13	Add. 33	Proposed	Diff. from Add. 33
ME	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.00
NH	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.00
MA	13.0	12.77	12.47	-0.30
RI	11.0	10.81	10.55	-0.26
CT	1.0	3.00	3.00	0.00
NY	7.0	7.00	9.00	+2.00
NJ	20.0	19.66	19.19	-0.47
DE	5.0	5.00	5.00	0.00
MD	11.0	10.81	10.55	-0.26
VA	20.0	19.65	19.19	-0.46
NC	11.0	10.81	10.55	-0.26

Change Associated with the Suggested Resolution

Example Allocations Based On Current Biomass				
ST	Amend. 13	Add. 33	Proposed	Diff. from Add. 33
ME	0.5	0.40	0.40	0.00
NH	0.5	0.40	0.40	0.00
MA	13.0	15.63	15.10	-0.53
RI	11.0	13.23	12.78	-0.45
CT	1.0	3.67	3.63	-0.04
NY	7.0	8.57	10.90	+2.33
NJ	20.0	20.11	19.52	-0.59
DE	5.0	4.11	4.11	0.01
MD	11.0	8.88	8.68	-0.20
VA	20.0	16.14	15.79	-0.35
NC	11.0	8.88	8.68	-0.20

Thank You For Your Consideration

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De Minimis Provision within Commission FMPs

May 2021

De minimis Guiding Documents

- *Definition: De minimis – A situation in which, under existing conditions of the stock and the scope of the fishery, conservation and enforcement actions taken by an individual state would be expected to contribute insignificantly to a coastwide conservation program required by an FMP or amendment.*
-
- *FMP Provisions: … and provided that each fishery management plan shall address the extent to which States meeting de minimis criteria may be exempted from specific management requirements of the fishery management plan to the extent that action by the particular States to implement and enforce the plan is not necessary for attainment of the fishery management plan's objectives and the conservation of the fishery.*

De minimis in FMPs

- No consistent requirements for qualifying
  - Data requirements vary (1 yr vs avg)
  - Landing cap less than 1% of CW harvest
  - Landing cap set at a specific value
- Can apply to just recreational, commercial or both
- What it means for state regulations is not always clearly defined
  - Biological data collection requirements
  - Board determined measures

Previous Policy Board Discussion

- Balance between standardization across FMPs and the flexibility for the species management boards in developing *de minimis* provisions
- Should *de minimis* apply to commercial, recreational or both and should it be consistent across plans?
- Approach to make changes:
  (1) establishing a broad policy that would modify the *de minimis* provisions in all FMPs
  (2) each species board would consider modification to the provisions as amendments or addenda are developed

Direction to Staff

- Does the Policy Board want to consider changes to *de minimis* provisions?
- Yes? Should the Board (1) establish a broad policy with uniform provisions to qualify for *de minimis*? (2) establish uniform measures states would be exempt? (3) establish some guidelines but allow for some board flexibility?
- How should these changes be addressed? (Most FMPs would be impacted)
  - Broad Policy with uniform provisions
  - Direct species board to consider modification to the provisions
    - Allows flexibility for provisions

EAST COAST CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIO PLANNING INITIATIVE

Update

May 2021

OVERVIEW

UPDATE ONLY – NO ACTION NEEDED TODAY

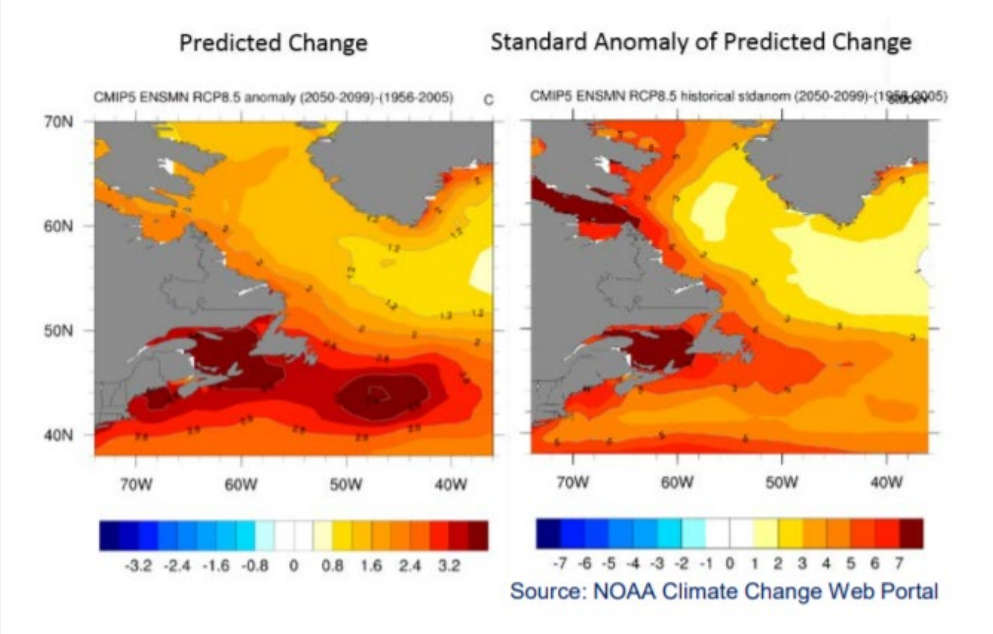
1. Recap of Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) initiation.
2. Brief review of what scenario planning means.
3. Overview of **DRAFT** proposed process (pending further approval from NRCC and discussion with facilitator).
   - Core team & facilitation
   - Benefits & expected outcomes
   - Structure & participation
   - Proposed process
4. Next steps

1. NRCC DISCUSSION RECAP

- **November 2019:** NRCC agreed to explore scenario planning (SP) initiative to address governance issues related to shifting stocks.
- **Early 2020:** Formed working group (WG) to explore & plan, with reps from MAFMC, NEFMC, ASMFC, GARFO, NEFSC, SAFMC.
- **July and November 2020:** Discussed WG recommendations and agreed to move forward with East Coast initiative.
- NRCC + South Atlantic rep. will serve as primary decision-making body.

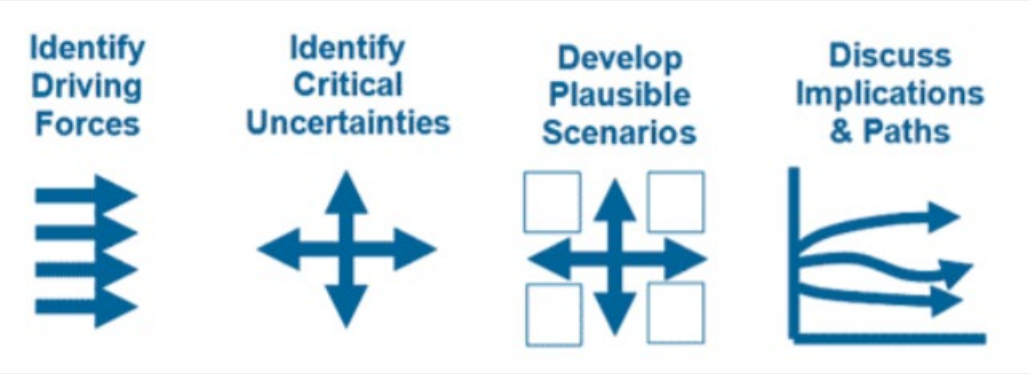
2. WHAT IS SCENARIO PLANNING?

- "A tool that managers can use to test decisions or develop strategy in a context of uncontrollable and uncertain environmental, social, political, economic, or technical factors."
  - NPS 2013: "Using Scenarios to Explore Climate Change: A Handbook for Practitioners"



2. WHAT IS SCENARIO PLANNING?

- Explores plausible alternative scenarios under different assumptions of future conditions.
  - Allows for explicit consideration of uncertainty in future conditions.
  - Not a prediction or forecast.
  - Does not have to be data intensive.



HOW IS SCENARIO PLANNING USED?

- Use resulting scenarios to strategize and prioritize for future.
- Helps managers identify actions to take or avoid now to prepare for and adapt to different possible future conditions.
  - Which actions are likely to be beneficial under a range of future conditions?
  - Which actions should be avoided due to reduced flexibility or increased difficulty of adapting to future conditions?

A FEW BENEFITS

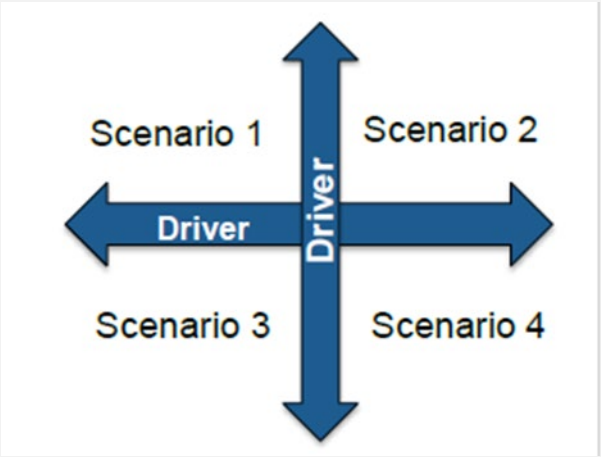
- Helps explore underlying assumptions and perceptions about future conditions.
- Avoids overconfidence about future conditions or focus on a narrow view of future.
- Stimulates creative and innovative thinking about how to prepare for change.

Photo credit: Borggaard, Dick et al, 2019

SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

- Typically involves one or more workshops with managers & stakeholders.
- Identify most critical/uncertain drivers.
- Develop scenarios based on these drivers that are plausible, relevant, challenging, divergent.

Common scenario building format:



SCENARIO PLANNING OVERVIEW MATERIALS

- More thorough introduction for managers & stakeholders planned for initial scoping phase (format TBD – webinar, video, etc.)
- Resources available at new website for this initiative: https://www.mafmc.org/actions/climate-change-scenario-planning
- Pacific Council SP initiative underway: https://www.pcouncil.org/actions/climate-and-communities-initiative/

EAST COAST SP CORE TEAM

- Primary technical group, working with contracted facilitator to conduct research, planning, coordination, producing materials.
- Analogous to FMAT or PDT
- Initial meeting March 11, 2021; second meeting April 30, 2021
- NRCC may add more members

Organization	Representative
MAFMC	Kiley Dancy
ASMFC	Toni Kerns
NMFS GARFO	Moira Kelly
NEFMC	Deirdre Boelke
NMFS NEFSC	Sean Lucey
SAFMC	Roger Pugliese

FACILITATION

- NRCC + core team support hiring experienced facilitator (currently in progress).
- Core team noted that further planning, development of objectives, etc. should be informed by discussions with facilitator.

OBJECTIVES AND FOCAL QUESTION

- **General topic:** management & governance issues related to climate-driven changes in the fisheries, particularly changing stock distribution.
- Specific objectives and questions to be developed/refined by core team, facilitator, and NRCC.
- Core team will develop strawman for NRCC consideration.
  - Recommend leaving as draft through public scoping process.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Core team, facilitator, and NRCC will further clarify expected outcomes.
- Likely possibilities:
  - Near-term and long-term broad management priorities that are robust to future conditions; avoid actions that reduce flexibility to adapt.
  - Understand limitations of current systems for responding to change.
  - Policy recommendations for governance improvements.
  - Data gaps, research needs, monitoring needs.

STRUCTURE & PARTICIPATION

- NRCC + South Atlantic as decision making body.
- Input from Councils & Commission
  - Possible involvement of advisory bodies (e.g., SSCs, APs) especially during scoping, but need to balance with large scale & complexity.
- Stakeholder input and involvement
  - Variable throughout process: broader at outset, likely needs to be limited for workshops given scale of initiative.

PROPOSED PROCESS – NOT YET APPROVED BY NRCC

- Core Team developed a strawman process for NRCC review. Based on NRCC working group recommendations; following NPS handbook.
- Starts with a public "scoping" process, followed by two workshop model:
  - Scenario building workshop
  - Implications/applications workshop

PROPOSED PROCESS – NOT YET APPROVED BY NRCC

Phase	Summary	Approximate time frame
Phase 1: Orientation	Establish objectives, process, structure. Form core team; secure facilitator.	Late 2020-Early Summer 2021
Phase 2: Scoping	Structured outreach process for stakeholder perspectives on uncertainties in east coast fisheries & project objectives	Summer 2021
Phase 3: Exploration	Identify and analyze key uncertainties driving change in east coast fisheries; prep for first workshop	Fall 2021
Phase 4: Synthesis	Workshop to develop scenarios	Late 2021
Phase 5: Application	Evaluate implications and management responses; develop recommendations	Spring 2022
Phase 6: Monitoring	Identify key indicators to monitor change	Summer 2022

4. NEXT STEPS

- Similar update planned for SAFMC (June). MAFMC and NEFMC were updated in April.
- Finalize contract with facilitator; involve in further developing plan with core team.
- May NRCC: review/approve draft plan and timeline; draft objectives.
- Develop plan for scoping.

Plan Review Team Recommendations in Annual Fishery Management Plan Reviews

May 2021

Annual FMP Reviews

- Annual FMP Reviews contain Plan Review Team recommendations
  - Vary by species some include recommendations focused on management/policy while others also include research/science focused recommendations
- The recommendations are often not specifically addressed by the Board
  - Approving FMP Review does not directly address the recommendations

Board Consideration

- PRT Recommendations should be limited to policy/management issues
  - Research recommendations should be a separate section as identified by the assessment and the TC
- Recommendations should be prioritized and limited to a reasonable number that could be addressed by the Board
- Board should consider the PRT recommendations prior to approving the FMP review
  - task, defer, or reject

Southeast Area Monitoring & Assessment Program (SEAMAP) – South Atlantic

Report to the ISFMP Policy Board

May 6, 2021

Background

SEAMAP is a cooperative program facilitating the collection, management, and dissemination of fishery-independent data in the southeastern US

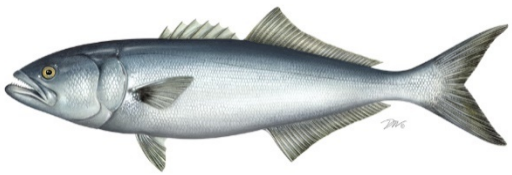
- **3 Components:** South Atlantic (SA), Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean
- **SEAMAP-SA Partners:** NC DEQ, SC DNR, GA DNR, FFWCC, SEFSC, FWS, SAFMC, ASMFC
  - Collaboration with NEAMAP

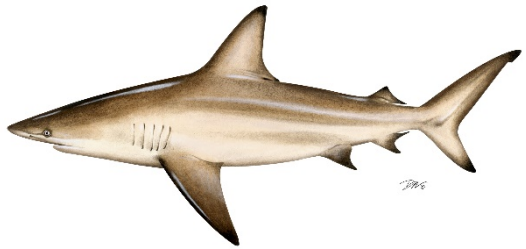
SEAMAP-SA Surveys

- Coastal Trawl Survey
  - Cape Hatteras, NC to Cape Canaveral, FL
- Pamlico Sound Survey
- Coastal Longline Surveys
  - Red drum & coastal sharks
  - NC, SC & GA surveys
- Reef Fish Surveys
  - chevron traps, short bottom longline, and rod and reel

Data Uses

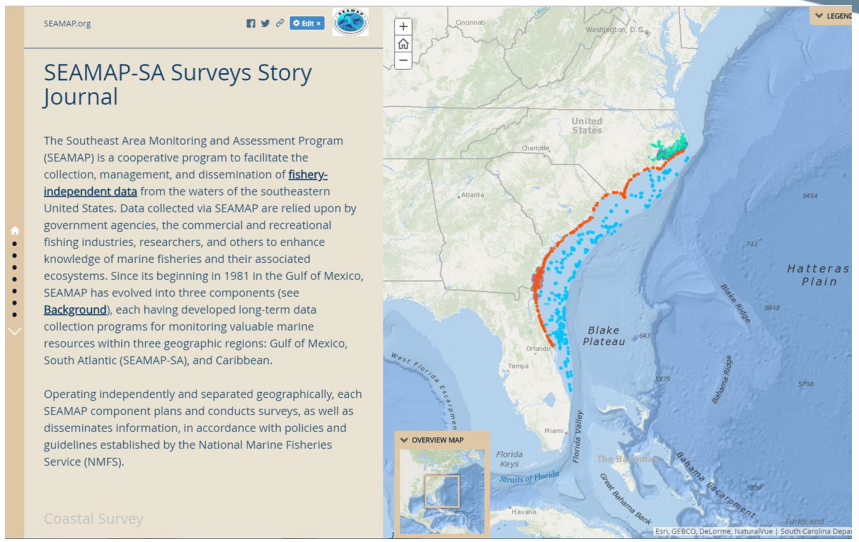
- SEAMAP-SA data are used for a number of stock assessments, including:
  - Atlantic menhaden
  - Bluefish
  - Atlantic croaker
  - Spot
  - Horseshoe crab
  - Southern flounder
  - Weakfish
  - Red drum
  - Coastal Sharks
  - Snapper/Groupers
- Data are also used for management documents, research, and ecosystem modeling
  - e.g., diet data use for South Atlantic ecosystem model



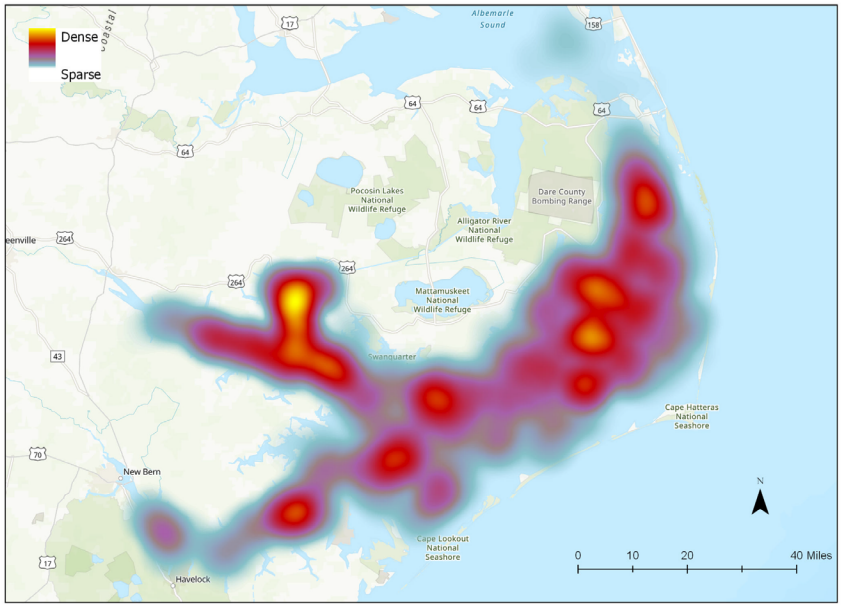


SEAMAP-SA Mapping

- FWRI creates GIS products for the SEAMAP-SA database, including
  - Maps of survey data housed in the SEAMAP-SA Fisheries web app
  - Story maps explaining the programs & surveys
  - Spatial analysis tools such as hot spot analysis

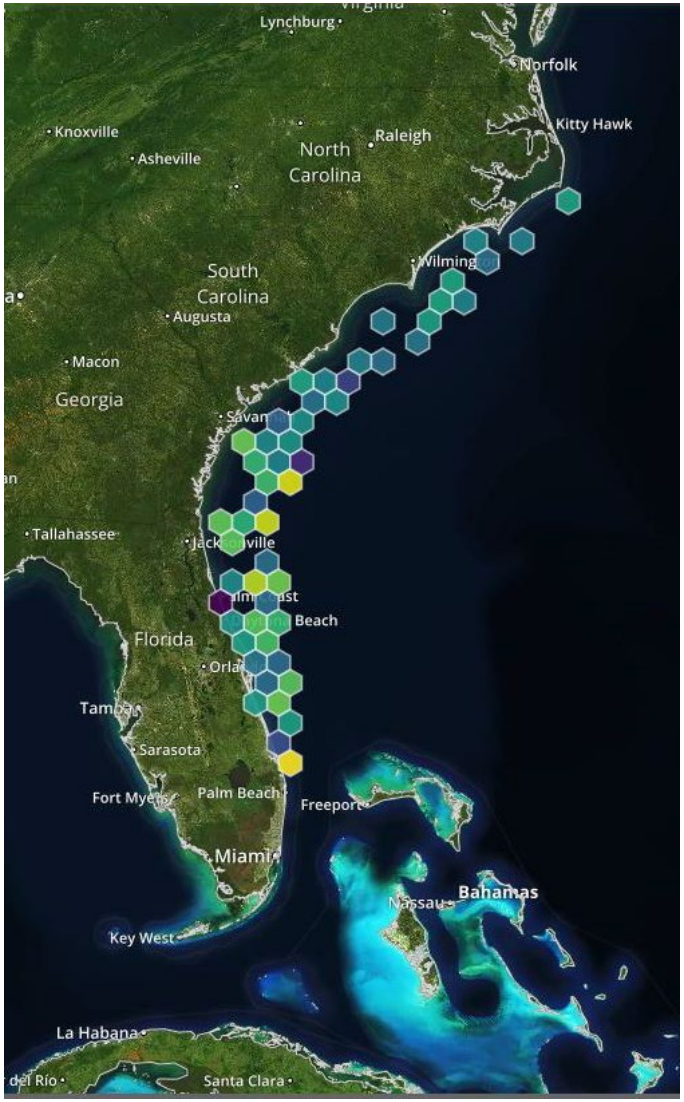


Atlantic Croaker Density for Summer Months



Data Management

- SEAMAP-SA is collaborating with the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) & Axiom Data Science to migrate data to the SECOORA portal
  - More advanced end-user tools for exploring & summarizing data
  - Ability to link SEAMAP-SA data to oceanographic & meteorological data
- SC DNR Staff & the Data Management Work Group will continue managing SEAMAP-SA data



2021-2025 SEAMAP Plans

- SEAMAP 5-Year Plans are created as a joint effort between the SA, Gulf, and Caribbean
- The 2021-2025 Plan was split into 2 plans:
- **The 2021-2025 SEAMAP Management Plan**
  - Current goals, management policies & procedures
  - SEAMAP history & accomplishments
- **The 2021-2025 SEAMAP Strategic Plan**
  - Prioritized list of future project activities to maintain & expand current activities

SA Strategic Plan Highlights

1. Operate existing programs at full utilization
   - Additional funding needed to maintain baseline/bring programs to full utilization
   - Funding needed for sea days, personnel, other costs across SEAMAP-SA surveys
   - Stagnant or reduced funding will likely lead to reduced sampling efforts, sample processing etc.



SA Strategic Plan Highlights

2. Expand current projects to collect additional data on existing platforms
   - **Coastal Trawl Survey:** life history of key species
   - **Reef Fish Survey:** resume diet studies; oceanographic data; bottom habitat characterization
   - **Bottom Mapping:** Expand on previous efforts using side-scan or multi-beam sonar systems; AUVs deployed with existing operations
   - **Pamlico Sound Survey:** additional leg of cruise
   - **Coastal Longline:** increase shark biological samples
   - **Data Management:** expand to account for new data

SA Strategic Plan Highlights

3. Develop new FI data collection programs
   - Pelagic Survey
   - Cobia Survey
   - Ichthyoplankton Surveys
   - Nearshore Live Bottom Surveys
   - Stock Structure Studies
   - Cooperation of SE Regional Estuarine Trawl Surveys
   - Crustacean Assessments

QUESTIONS