

Declared Interest



ISFMP Policy Board
February 1, 2021

Changes to Declared Interest



Withdraws:

- USFWS: black sea bass, summer flounder, scup, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, tautog, weakfish, Winter flounder, cobia, black drum, red drum, spot, spotted sea trout, Atlantic croaker
- Massachusetts: weakfish

Changes to Declared Interest

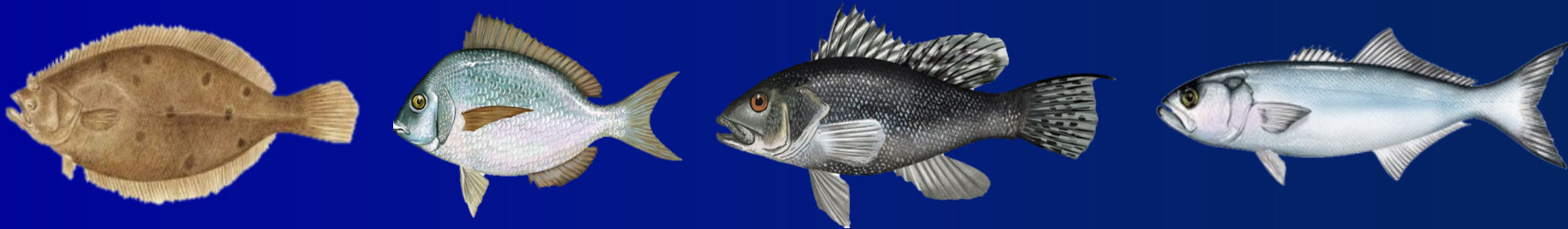


Additions

- Delaware: spotted seatrout
- New York: Spanish mackerel
- Rhode Island: Spanish mackerel and cobia
- New Hampshire: black sea bass
- New Jersey: spotted seatrout



Recreational Reform Initiative



Joint Council and ASMFC Policy Board Meeting
February 1, 2021

Presentation Outline

- Progress to date
- Goal of the Recreational Reform Initiative
- Prioritized topics
- Next steps
- Discussion

Progress to Date

- **Spring 2018:** SFSBSB Board chair and vice chair Strategic Plan for Reforming Recreational Black Sea Bass Management
- **Spring 2019 - summer 2020:** Joint Steering Committee focusing on all 4 species
- **Fall 2020:** Council and Policy Board initiated a joint FW/addendum and amendment

Initiative Goal

- **Stability** in rec. mgmt. measures (bag/size/season)
- **Flexibility** in the mgmt. process
- **Accessibility** aligned with availability/stock status*



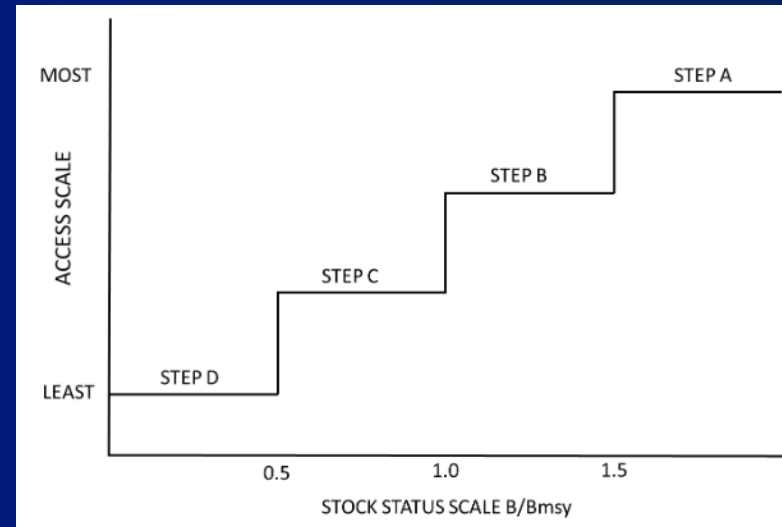
Technical Guidance Document	Framework/Addendum	Amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for identifying and smoothing outlier MRIP estimates • Use of preliminary current year MRIP data • Guidelines for maintaining status quo measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest Control Rule proposal put forward by 6 recreational organizations • Envelope of uncertainty approach for determining if changes to rec. management measures are needed • Multi-year recreational management measures • Changes to the timing of recommending federal waters measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. sector separation • Rec. catch accounting

Harvest Control Rule

- Proposed by 6 recreational organizations.

- Conceptual idea:

- Range of pre-defined mgmt. measures.
- Step used in any given year based on biomass.
- Upper and lower bounds informed by stakeholder input.



- Step A: most liberal set of measures preferred by anglers when biomass is high.
- Step D: most restrictive set of measures that could be tolerated without major loss of businesses.

Next Steps

- Example timeline in briefing materials, but highly dependent on prioritization
- Suggested immediate next step:
 - Council, Commission, and GARFO staff to work with additional NMFS staff with MSA expertise on feasibility of HCR under MSA requirements.

Discussion

- Next steps
- Recommendation:
 - Council, Commission, and GARFO staff to work with additional NMFS staff with MSA expertise on feasibility of HCR under MSA requirements.



ASMFC Risk and Uncertainty Policy Update

ISFMP Policy Board
February 4, 2020

Risk & Uncertainty Policy

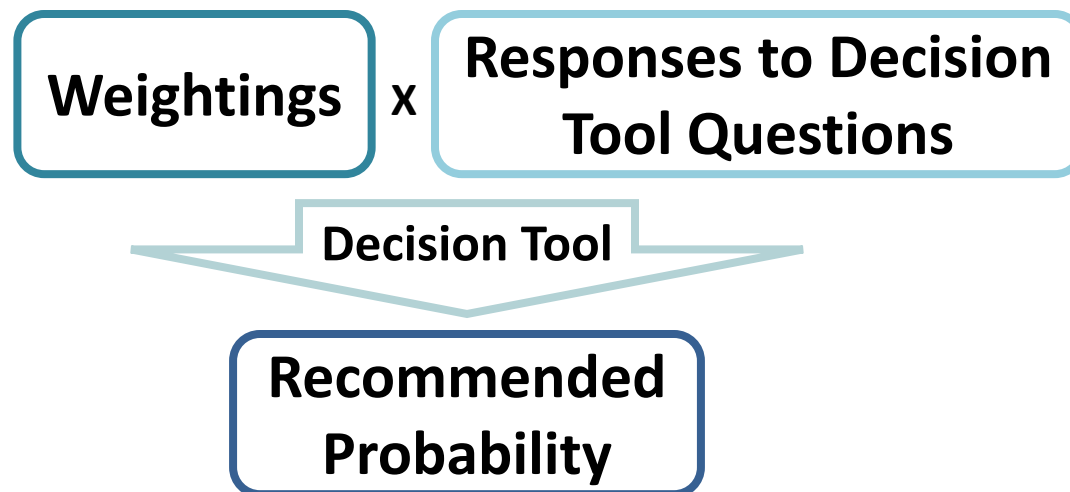


- The goal of the policy is to provide a consistent yet flexible mechanism to account for risk and uncertainty in the Commission's decision-making process, including
 - Protecting all Commission-managed stocks from the risk of overfishing
 - Minimizing any adverse social, economic, or ecosystem effects

R&U Decision Tool



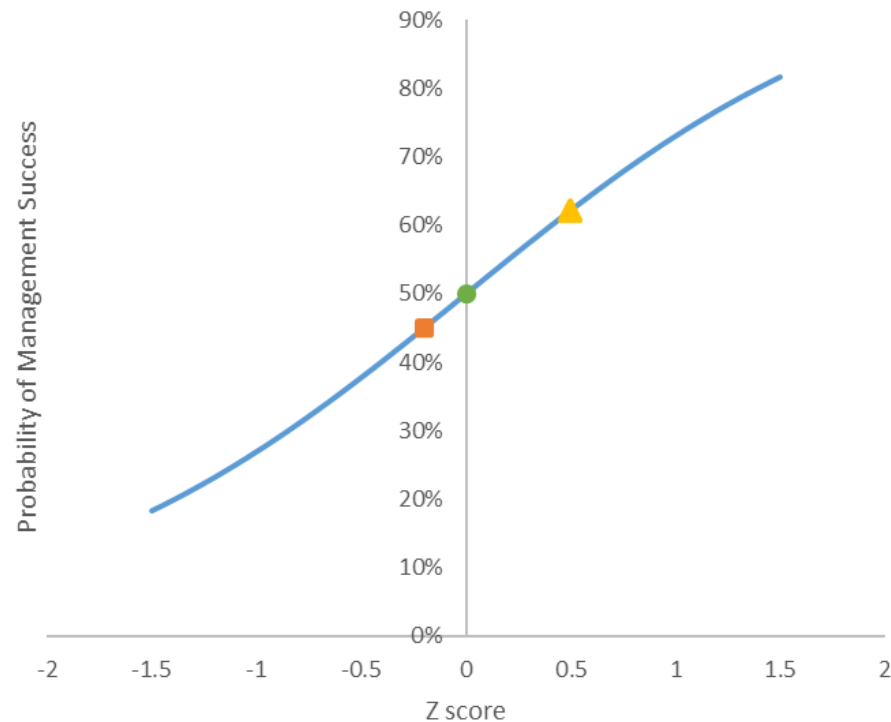
- The decision tool consists of a series of questions related to risk & uncertainty
- Responses are weighted based on relative importance
- The weighted responses are combined to produce a recommended probability of achieving management objectives (e.g., the probability that $F < F$ threshold)



Risk & Uncertainty Decision Tool



- The decision tool questions are split into four components:
 1. Stock Status
 2. Additional Uncertainty
 - Model, management, environmental
 3. Additional Risk
 - Ecosystem importance
 4. Socioeconomic Considerations
- Components 1-3 only add to the probability, while the socioeconomic component can add or subtract from the probability



R&U Criteria

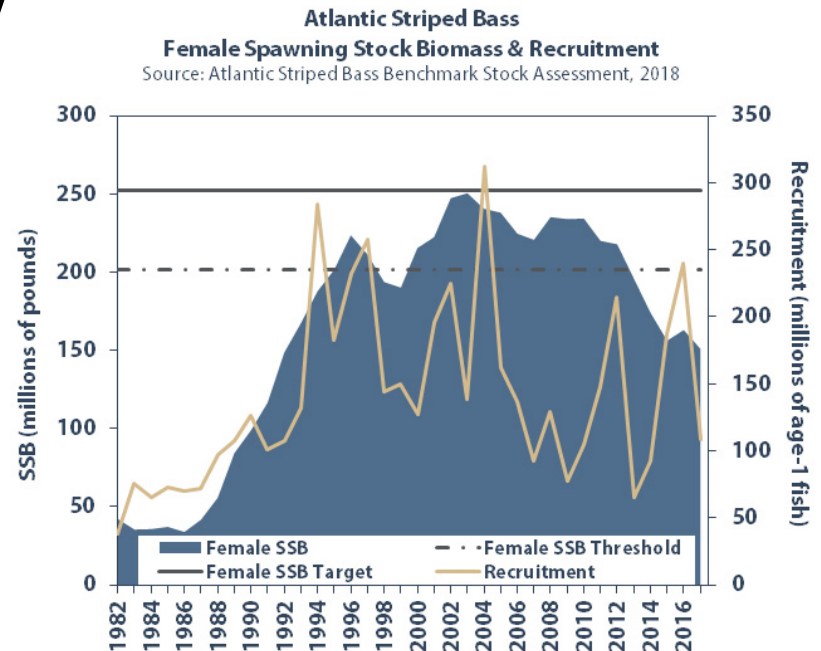
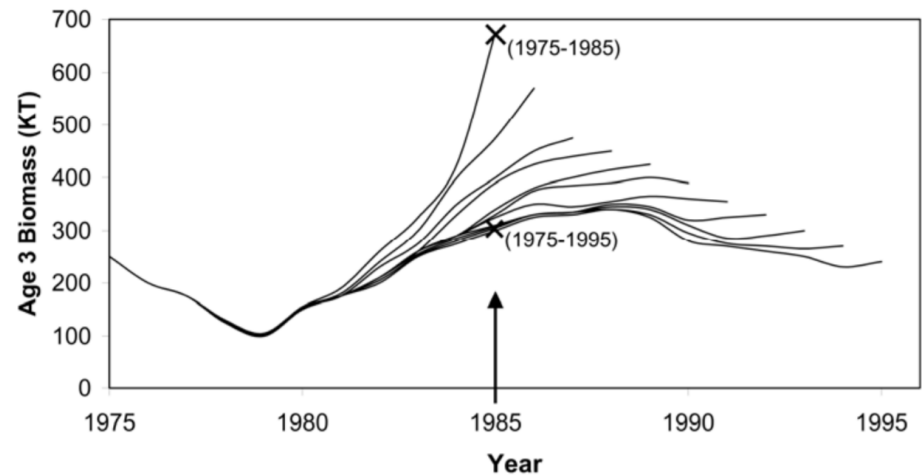


- The R&U WG was tasked with refining the criteria for the decision tool inputs (responses)
- A group of R&U WG and ASC members provided input on model/management/environmental uncertainty and ecosystem importance criteria
- **Recommendation:** criteria for these components should be broad, allowing TCs to adapt scoring to factors that are most relevant for their species
 - TCs may develop specific scoring rubrics for their species

R&U Criteria



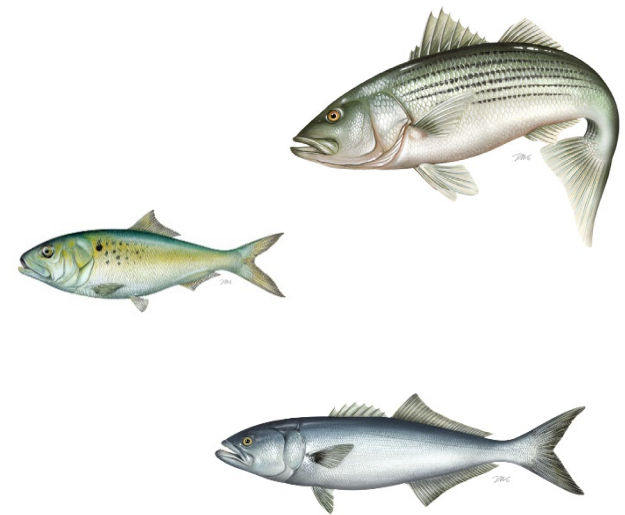
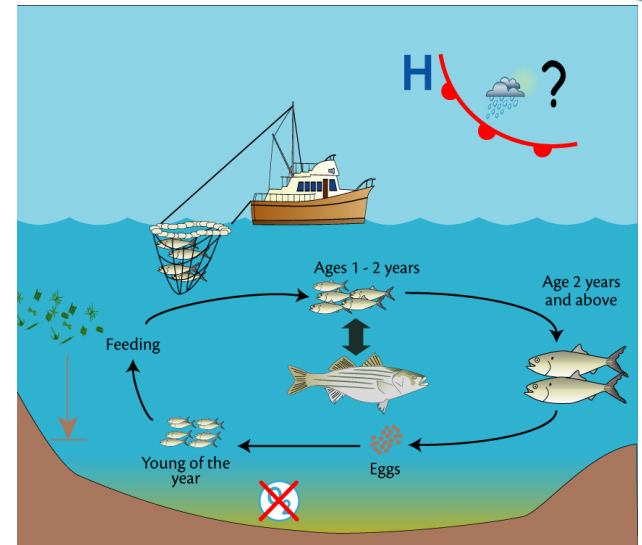
- **Model Uncertainty**
 - Retrospective patterns
 - Sensitivity runs
 - Model fits
- **Management Uncertainty**
 - Management performance
 - Initiation of relevant management actions
 - IUU fishing activities



R&U Criteria



- **Environmental Uncertainty**
 - Environmental drivers of recruitment
 - Vulnerability to climate change
 - Natural mortality
- **Ecosystem/Trophic Importance**
 - Importance to other key species (other fished species, threatened or endangered species)
 - Ecosystem services



Socioeconomic Criteria

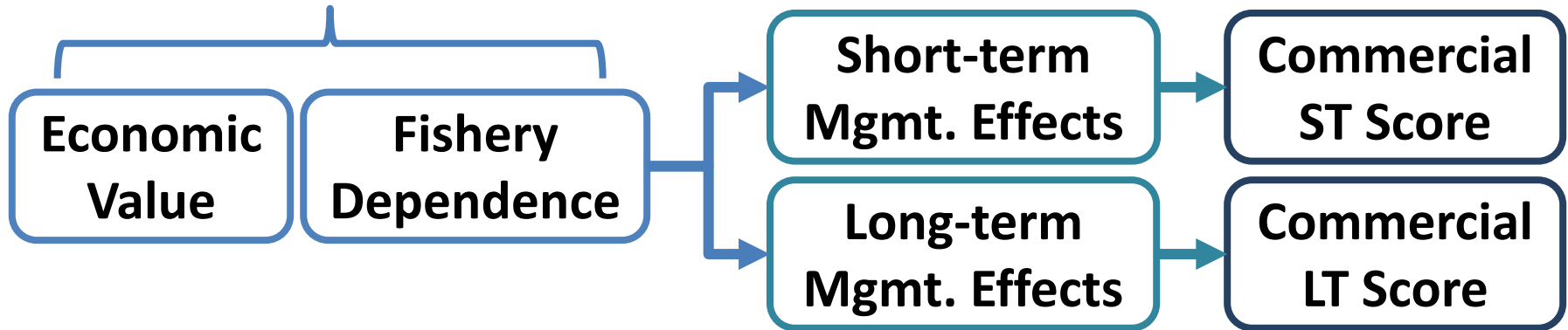


- The CESS developed specific criteria for scoring the socioeconomic component, which is comprised of four questions:
 - What is the **short-term** socioeconomic effect of the proposed management on the **commercial** fishery?
 - What is the **long-term** socioeconomic effect of the proposed management on the **commercial** fishery?
 - What is the **short-term** socioeconomic effect of the proposed management on the **recreational** fishery?
 - What is the **long-term** socioeconomic effect of the proposed management on the **recreational** fishery?

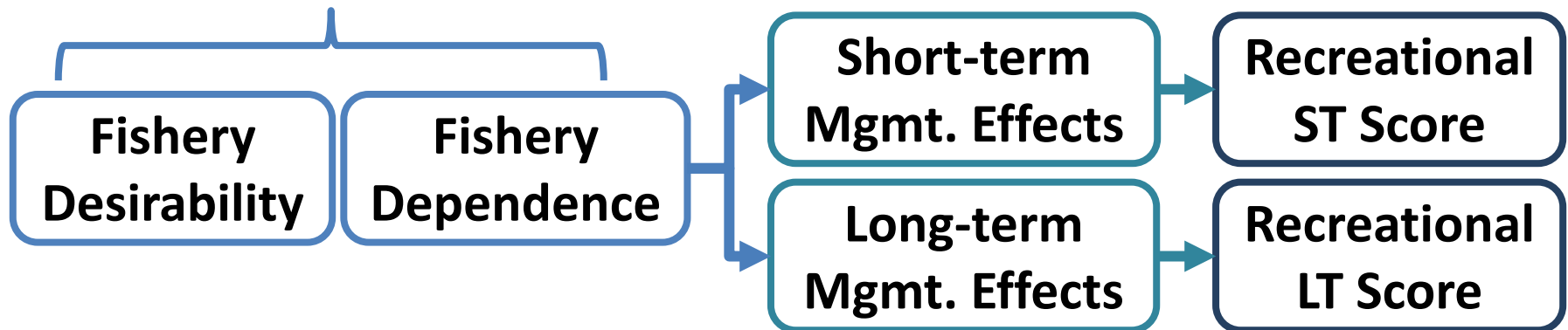
Socioeconomic Criteria



Commercial Fishery Importance



Recreational Fishery Importance



Socioeconomic Criteria



The following indicators are used for scoring the socioeconomic criteria:

- **Commercial Economic Value** – total ex-vessel value, coastwide
- **Commercial Community Dependence** – ex-vessel value as % of ex-vessel value for all species, top 10 communities
- **Rec. Fishery Desirability** – targeted trips as % of total trips, coastwide
- **Rec. Community Dependence** – targeted trips as % of total trips, top 10 communities
- **Short-term Mgmt. Effect** – scale of proposed mgmt. change (% change), direction of ST effect
- **Long-term Mgmt. Effect** – scale & direction of LT effect

Weightings



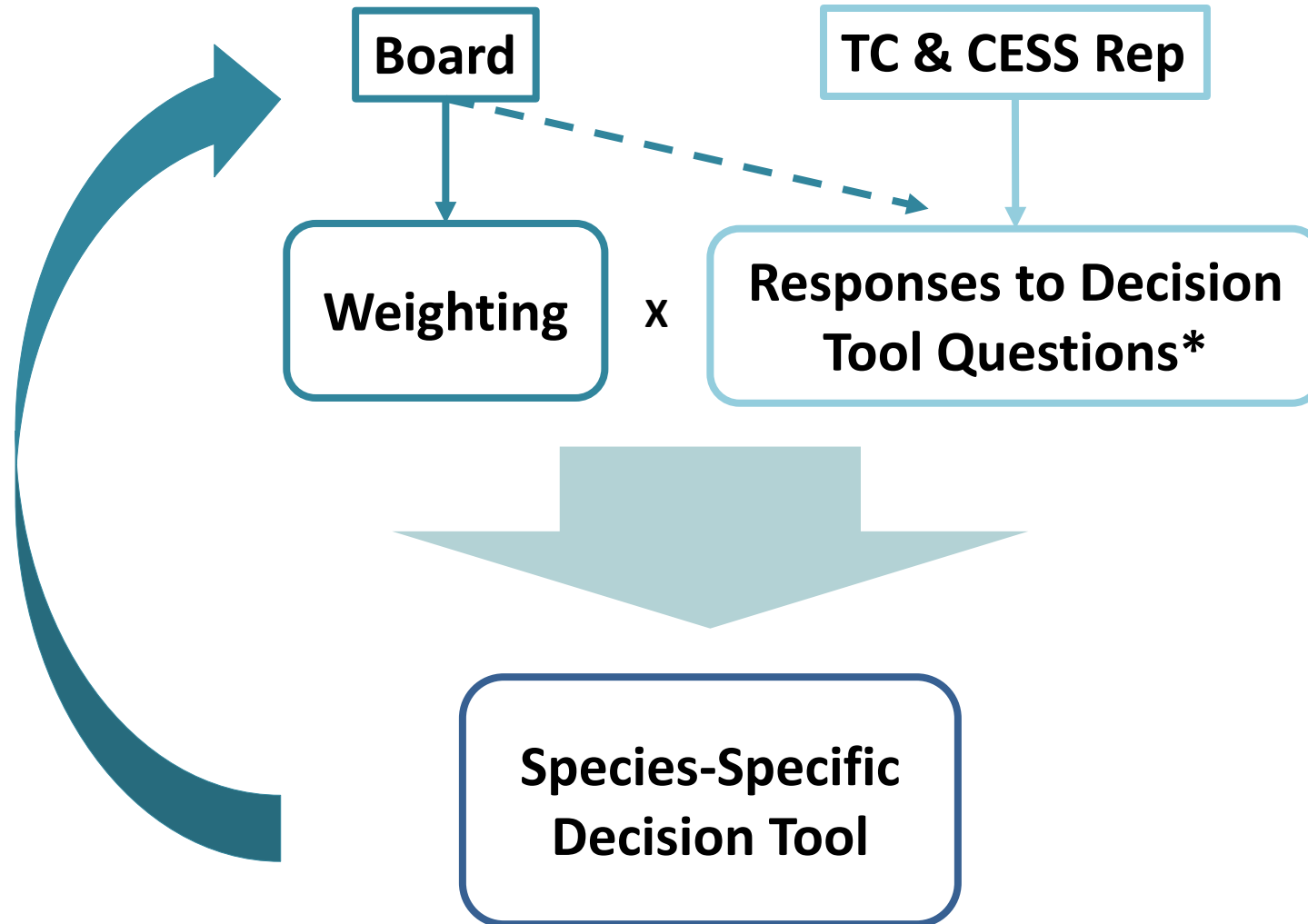
- The weightings are multipliers that impact how much each decision tool question impacts the final probability
- Changing the weightings can adjust:
 - The amount that each question changes the probability (e.g., whether overfished status is +2%, +5%, +10%)
 - The relative importance of components (e.g. stock status equal to other components, 2x as important...)
- A survey can be used to determine the Board's preferences (see example)

R&U Process

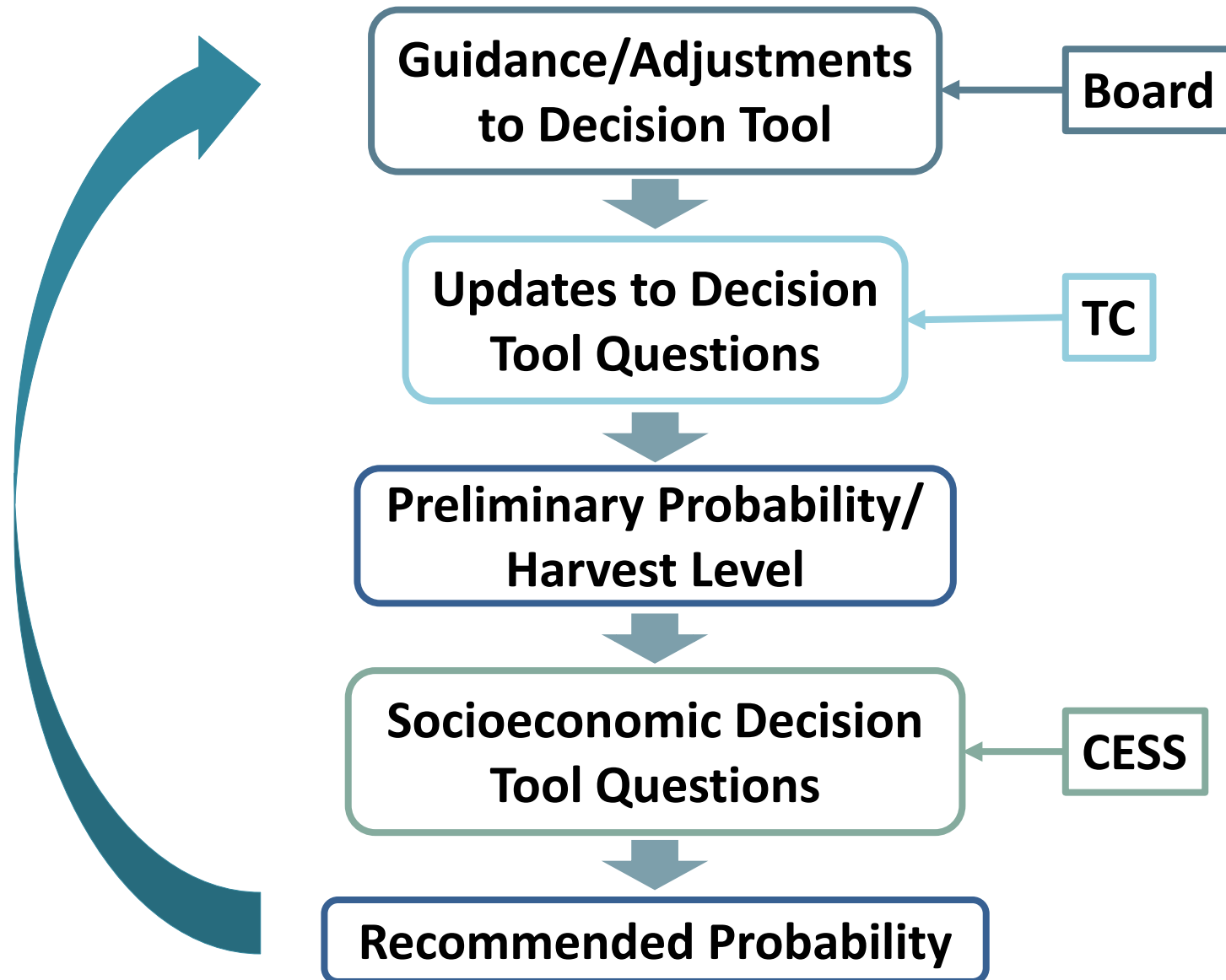


- Some adjustments were made to the R&U process in order to:
 - Avoid bottlenecks in the management process
 - Most of the work of creating & updating the decision tools is separate from management actions
 - Allow the socioeconomic component to assess the effect of the specific proposed management action
 - Socioeconomic component is now separated from other components
 - Also provides more transparency

Developing a Decision Tool



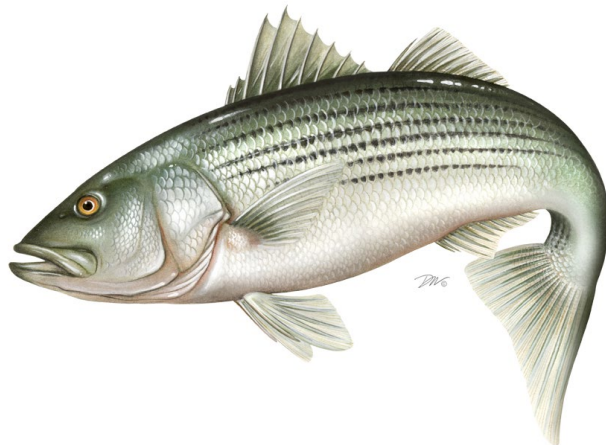
Using a Decision Tool



Striped Bass Example



- Striped Bass example produced to illustrate decision tool use
 - Did not follow full process (e.g., no Board input on weightings)



Decision Tool Question (Scale)	Weight	Score
P(SSB < SSB threshold) (0 to 1)	0.1	100%
P(SSB < SSB target) (0 to 1)	0.1	100%
P(F > F threshold) (0 to 1)	0.1	95%
P(F > F target) (0 to 1)	0.1	100%
Model uncertainty (0 to 5)	0.1	0.5
Mgmt. uncertainty (0 to 5)	0.1	1.5
Envir. uncertainty (0 to 5)	0.1	2
Ecosystem Importance (0 to 5)	0.1	1
ST comm socioecon (-5 to 5)	0.1	-2
LT comm socioecon (-5 to 5)	0.1	2
ST rec socioecon (-5 to 5)	0.1	-4
LT rec socioecon (-5 to 5)	0.1	4
Recommended Probability		62%

Proposed Next Steps



- Proposed next step: use tautog as a pilot case for the Risk and Uncertainty Policy
- Unlike the striped bass example, the tautog pilot would be a full implementation of the process, though it would still allow flexibility to make any necessary changes to the process





Any questions?



Survey of 2020 ASMFC Progress

Interstate Fisheries Management Program
Policy Board

February 4, 2021

Presentation Overview



About the Survey (slide 3)

Whole Time Series Trends (slides 4-6)

Lowest & Highest Scores, 2020 (slides 7-8)

Declines & Increases, 2019 to 2020 (slides 9-10)

Summary of Comments (slides 11-15)

About the Survey



Initiated in 2009 to evaluate Commission progress

2020 data collected January 7-24, 2021

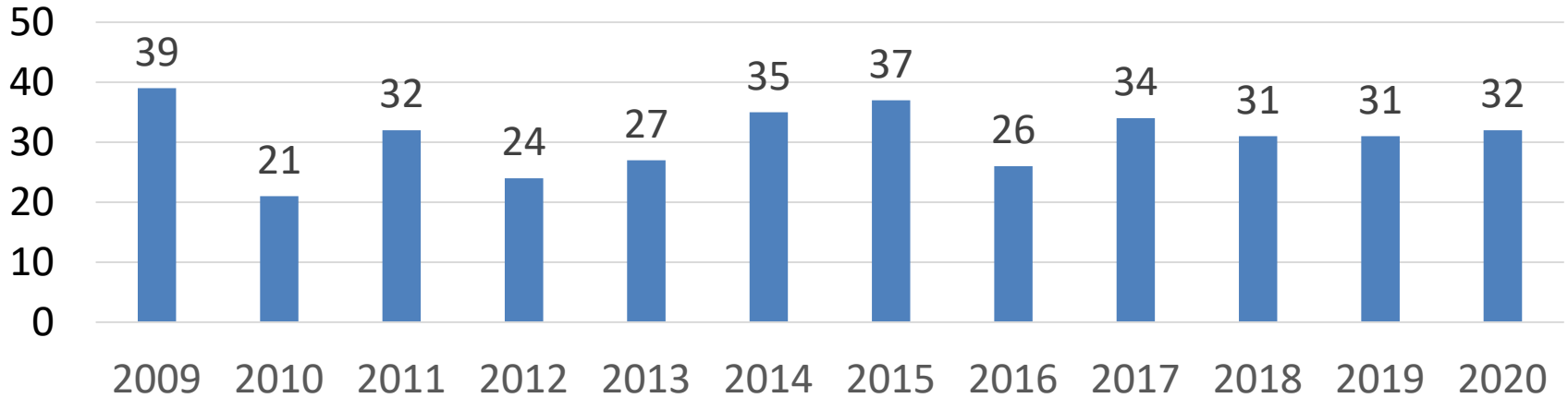
Comprised of 16 'rating' questions and five 'comment' questions

New question added to 2020 Survey for ACCSP

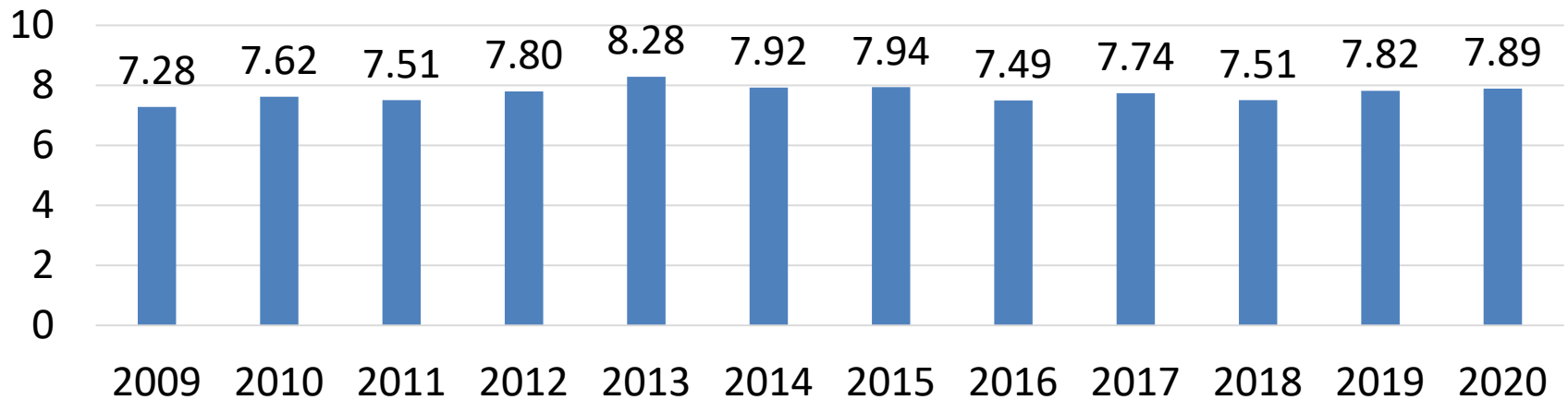
Overview of Results



Survey Responses by Year



Average Score



Linear Trend Line Slope

Q8 *Progress to end overfishing*, **-.10**

Q7 *Overfishing as a metric of progress*, **-.07**

Q9 *Managing rebuilt stocks*, **-.07**

Q12 *Reacting/adapting to new information*, **-.03**

Q3 *Commissioner cooperation*, **-.03**

Q2 *Progress toward Vision*, **-.02**

Q1 *Clear & achievable plan to reach Vision*, **-.01**

Whole Time-Series Trends, Positive



Linear Trend Line Slope

Q6 Securing resources for management & science, **+0.15**

Q4 Cooperation with federal partners, **+0.10**

Q10 Engaging state/federal legislators, **+0.09**

Q15 Science Department products, +0.08

Q14 ISFMP products, +0.04

Annual Average, **+0.02**

Q11 Fiscal & human resource utilization, **+0.02**

Q5 Relationship with constituent partners, **+0.01**

Lowest Scores (<7), 2020



Q8 How satisfied are you with the Commission's progress to end overfishing? (6.88, **-.31**)

Q9 Are you satisfied with the Commission's ability to manage rebuilt stocks? (6.71, **+.10**)

Highest Scores (>8), 2020



Q11 Fiscal & human resource utilization (9.31, **+.66**)

Q14 ISFMP Products (8.72, **+.22**)

Q15 Science Department Products (8.65, **+.20**)

Q13 Resource utilization on issues ASMFC can control
(8.63, **+.05**)

Q6 Securing resources for management & science (8.58,
+.19)

Q10 Engaging state/federal legislators (8.19, **-.04**)

Q16 ACCSP Products (8.13)

Declines, 2019 to 2020



Q4 cooperation with federal partners (7.28, **-.43**)

Q8 progress to end overfishing (6.88, **-.31**)

Q5 relationship with our constituent partners (7.1, **-.25**)

Q3 Commissioner cooperation (7.13, **-.06**)

Q10 engaging state/federal legislators (8.19 **-.04**)

Biggest Gains ($\geq .1$), 2019 to 2020



Q11 Fiscal & human resource utilization (9.31, **+.66**)

Q14 ISFMP products (8.72, **+.22**)

Q15 Science Department products (8.65, **+.20**)

Q6 Securing resources for management & science (8.58, **+.19**)

Q1 Clear & achievable plan to reach Vision (7.91, **+.17**)

Q2 Progress toward Vision (8.00, **+.16**)

Q12 Reacting/adapting to new information (7.72, **+.11**)

Q9 Managing rebuilt stocks (6.71, **+.10**)

Q17 Obstacles to Rebuilding Stocks



- Climate change/environmental conditions (10)
- Politics/cooperation/outside interests (8)
- Data/MRIP (4)
- Timeliness of management decisions (4)
- (Re)allocation (2)
- Depleted stocks
- Not being subject to MSA rebuilding requirements
- Federal resources & funding support
- Balancing between the resource and economics
- Other stocks

Q18 Most Useful ASMFC Products



- Science Products: Stock Assessments/Status of the Stocks/TC Memos (9)
- Meeting Materials/Meeting Summaries (8)
- Outreach Products: asmfc.org/Annual Report/Fisheries Focus/Commissioner Handbook/Atlantic Coast Fisheries News (7)
- ASMFC staff (6)
- ISFMP Products (5)
- Habitat Committee Products
- Legislative Committee, Executive Committee & Quarterly Meetings
- Audio recordings of board meetings,
- Speaking to other Commissioners "out in the hall"

Q19 Requests for Additional Products



- Quota monitoring webpage (3)
- Stock Assessment Summaries
- Separate files for Board Meetings Agenda Items
- Parliamentary Process Training
- Increased time for debate
- Annual actions/activities timelines for each Board
- State regulation histories
- Cooperative data collection with industry
- Public outreach resources/summaries of proposed management actions
- Fishery performance reports like those used by the SAFMC
- Transparency in the TC discussions

Q20 Issues Needing More Attention



- Climate change/environment (8)
- Public outreach (3)
- Politics/cooperation/outside interests
- Data/MRIP improvement (2)
- Timing of meeting materials (2)
- Reallocation (2)
- More timely decisions
- Depleted/overfished stocks
- Socioeconomics
- Regional consistency/equal access for all user groups
- Conservation equivalency
- Meeting lengths/frequency of joint meetings
- Socio economic issues
- Conservation equivalency
- Updating the progress of the stocks
- Accountability measures
- Congress/federal resources

Q21 Additional Comments



- ASMFC staff complements (7)
- Joint management/allocation compromises (2)
- Frequency of joint meetings
- Invest less effort in depleted stocks that management changes can't affect
- Start hybrid in-person and virtual meetings
- Increase transparency for Technical Committee meetings



Questions



Recreational Discard Data Collection

ISFMP Policy Board
February 2021

Recreational Discard Data Collection



- Bluefish Technical Committee raised the issue for improved recreational release info in the bluefish rec fishery
- The TC discussed possible options for electronic reporting
- The TC recommended the Bluefish Board advance the importance of broadly collecting reliable recreational release length frequency data
- The Bluefish Board had some concerns about the lack of specificity in the recommended task.

Recreational Discard Data Collection



- Electronic reporting apps can provide recreational release data
 - Scamp Release
 - My Fish Count
 - iSnapper
- ACCSP is developing SciFish
 - V1.0 release April 2021 (15 species)
 - Version 2.0 Planning for 2022: Gathering information by questionnaire in Feb and Town Hall meetings in March

Recreational Discard Data Collection



Recommendation

- Commission staff and ASC engage with ACCSP as they develop SciFish
- Provide comment/recommendations relative to information that will be useful for assessments and management activities



Report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

ISFMP Policy Board

February 4th, 2021

Steering Committee Meeting



- Met virtually November 9-10th, 2020
 - Discussed National Fish Habitat Conservation through Partnerships Act
 - Update on current on-the-ground projects
 - USFWS
 - NOAA Recreational Fishing & GARFO
 - FishAmerica Foundation
 - Finalized Conservation Mapping Project

FY2021 NFHAP-USFWS On the Ground Conservation Funding



- Received 14 applications
- Recommended 11 for funding
- 7 states in the North, Mid-, and South Atlantic subregions
- Improve tidal vegetation, riverine bottom, and shellfish bed priority habitats
- Benefit species such as shad and river herring, Atlantic sturgeon, striped bass, American eel, horseshoe crab, and more
- Usually announced late spring



Project Endorsement



Evaluating Approach to Long-Term SAV Monitoring in NC

- Led by Albemarle-Pamlico NEP
- North Carolina
- In support of an RFP for NERRs Science Collaborative
- Evaluate the effectiveness of recommended protocols for a NC coast polyhaline seagrass monitoring and assessment program
- ACFHP serves on Advisory Panel for project





**ACFHP would like to
thank ASMFC for your
continued operational
support**



Habitat Committee Report

Presented to ASMFC Policy Board

February 4th, 2021

Habitat Committee Meeting



- Met virtually November 12-13th, 2020
- Updates on documents in progress: Acoustic Impacts, Habitat Hotline
- Continued working on Fish Habitats of Concern
- Discussion on dredge windows elimination proposal in USACE Wilmington District

Dredge Windows Comment Letter



- Included in supplemental materials
- In August, USACE proposed to eliminate existing hopper dredging window in portions of Wilmington Harbor and Morehead City Harbor so that maintenance dredging and bed leveling can occur year-round with offshore or nearshore placement of dredge material
- In December, USACE Addendum limits the proposal to a 3-year period ending 12/31/23 and commits to studies yet to be specified

Dredge Windows Comment Letter



- Purpose: maximize flexibility to obtain contract dredges for maintenance dredging
- Current window: Dec 1 – April 15 has been in place for over 20 years to minimize impacts to fishery resources migrating between ocean and vital nursery habitats
- Habitat Committee concerned with decision – immediate impacts on ASMFC-managed species in NC and precedent it sets for the rest of the coast

Dredge Windows Comment Letter



- Comment letter includes references to other agencies/organizations that have commented, and elaborates on specific ASMFC-managed species this could impact
- Presented to Executive Committee in early January, updated to include information from Addendum
- Action needed to approve letter.

Updates to HC Membership



- New members: Robert LaFrance (CT), Claire Enterline (ME), Walter 'Tripp' Boltin (USFWS-SE)
- New chair: Jimmy Johnson (NC)
- New vice chair: Russ Babb (NJ)



Artificial Reef Committee Report

Presented to ASMFC Policy Board

February 4th, 2021

Artificial Reef Committee



- Usually meets around now but will meet later in the year in the hopes of meeting in person

AR Profiles of State Programs



- Drafted an update to the *ASMFC Profiles of State Artificial Reef Programs and Projects* (1988): highlights some of the accomplishments over the last 30(+) years
- Summarizes number of permitted sites, mitigation reefs, and avg. annual budget along coast
- Has introduction and information for each state with an artificial reef program

AR Profiles of State Programs



- Each state:
 - Summary table and contact information
 - Map of reefs pre-1988 and post-1988
 - Summary of program since 1988
 - Highlights over the past 30 years (specific reefs, monitoring, collaborations, etc.)
 - Will include photos

AR Profiles of State Programs



- Seeking approval of document text to go ahead with formatting and publication



As always, we welcome suggestions for action items you would like the Habitat and Artificial Reef committees to work on.

Questions?