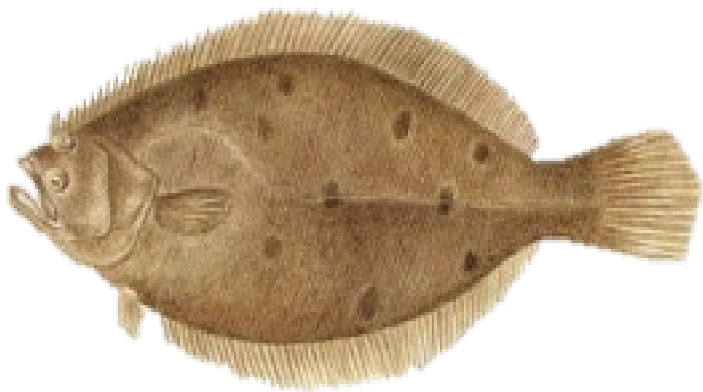




Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Proposals for 2021 Fishing Season

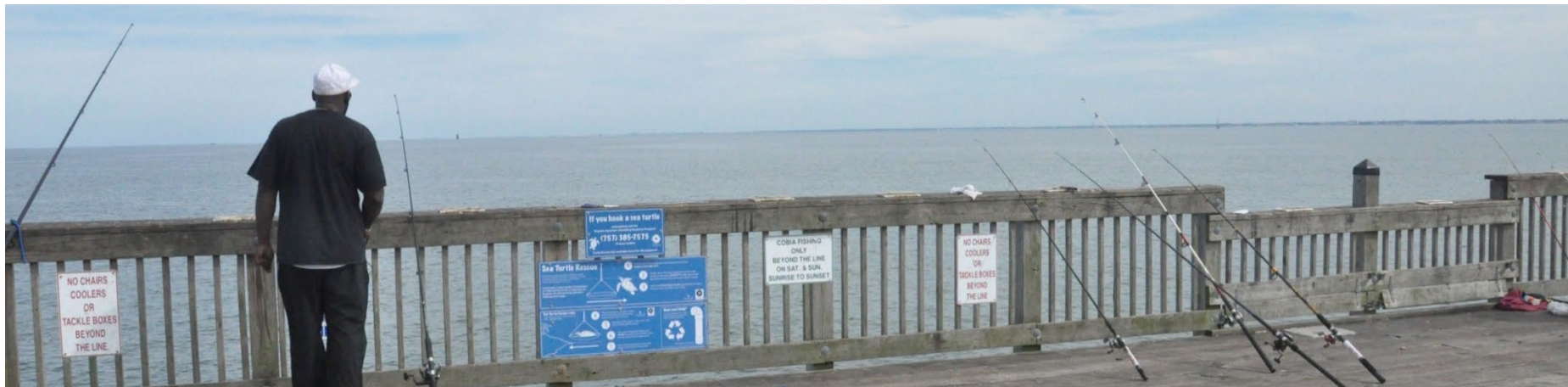


Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass
Management Board
February 1, 2021

Outline & Objectives



- Background
- Proposals to Modify Recreational Fisheries
- Technical Committee Recommendations
- Board Action: Consider Approval of Proposals



Background



- December 2020: Council and Board voted to maintain status quo summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass recreational measures for 2021
- Board allowed states to submit proposals for small adjustments to season for recreational fisheries through the conservation equivalency process

Proposals



The TC received and reviewed three proposals:

1. New Jersey – Summer Flounder
2. Massachusetts – Black Sea Bass
3. Virginia – February Fishery for Black Sea Bass

New Jersey: Recreational Summer Flounder Fishery



- Proposal to adjust season to May 28 – Sept 28, to allow for a Friday Memorial Day weekend opening
 - 6 day delay from the original status quo opening date
 - Adds 9 days onto the end of the season to account for the delay
- Estimated the effect of seasonal adjustments by calculating average daily harvest rates per wave from 2018-2019 MRIP data
 - Divided the total landings per wave (in numbers of fish) by the number of open days in each wave, each year, and then used the mean daily harvest rate across both years
 - Daily harvest rate in wave 5 < wave 3
 - All other regulations will be kept consistent

Massachusetts: Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery



- Considering the following options to allow for a Saturday opening:
 - Status Quo: Tuesday, May 18 – September 8 (114 days)
 - Option A: Saturday, May 15 – September 3 (112 days)
 - Option B: Saturday, May 22 – September 14 (116 days)
- Closure dates for each option were calculated using the daily harvest rates by wave (mean over 2018 and 2019)
 - Due to different harvest rates between Wave 3 and Wave 5
 - Both options are expected to produce harvest that is similar to or less than previous harvest
- All other regulations will be kept consistent

Virginia: Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery

February Opening



- Intends to open the recreational black sea bass fishery from February 1-28
- VMRC will calculate landings in February from mandatory angler reporting and make season adjustments
 - 2021 harvest will be compared to daily harvest rates, by wave, from 2018-2019 MRIP landings (pounds) and the number of open days in each wave by year
- All other regulations will be kept consistent
- VMRC will submit a proposal for season adjustments for the remainder of 2021 to account for February harvest

Technical Committee Recommendations



- The Technical Committee (TC) met via webinar on January 19, 2021
- The TC had no concerns with the three proposals and found the methods to be technically sound.
 - TC was supportive of streamlining this process in the future when only small adjustments to season are being considered.

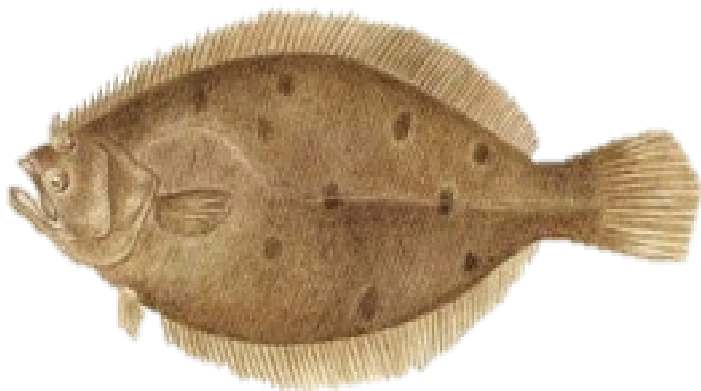
The TC recommends approval of all three proposals for adjusting measures.

Board Action



1. Consider approval of 2021 summer flounder recreational fishery proposal from New Jersey
2. Consider approval of 2021 black sea bass recreational fishery proposal from Massachusetts
3. Consider approval of 2021 black sea bass February recreational fishery proposal from Virginia

Questions?



Draft Addendum XXXIII and Council Amendment For Board and Council Review

Commercial Black Sea Bass Management



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission & Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
February 2021

Presentation Outline



- 1. Background**
- 2. 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
- 3. Board/Council Action for Consideration**
- 4. Next Steps**

Background



- Draft Addendum XXXIII and the Council Amendment consider:
 - adjusting the current commercial black sea bass allocations
 - whether the state allocations should be managed under the Commission's FMP or both the Commission and Council FMPs
- In December 2020 the Board and Council reviewed the Draft Addendum and Council Amendment
 - Selected federal management options, and postponed final action until February 2021

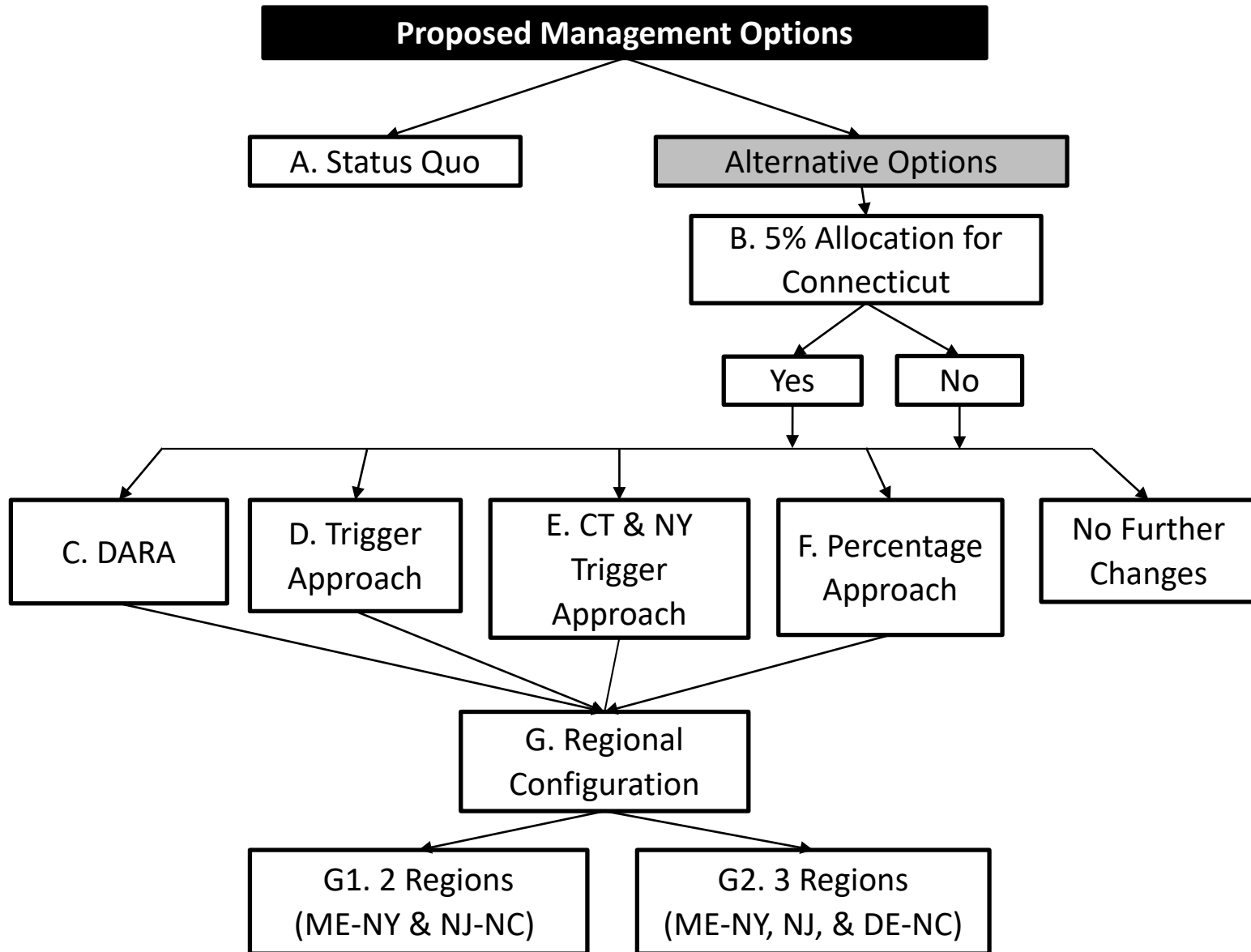
Background



Federal Management Options Selected

Issue	Options		
Commission/Council FMP	A. Status quo	B. Add to Council FMP	
Overage Paybacks	B1. Only when coastwide quota exceeded (status quo)		B2. Always pay back overages
Federal In-season closures	A. Status quo (Quota exceeded)	B. Quota + 5% exceeded	C. ACL exceeded

Management Options for State Allocations



A. Status Quo



- State allocations of coastwide commercial quota originally implemented in 2003 (Amendment 13)
 - Loosely based on historical landings from 1980-2001

State	Allocation
ME	0.5 %
NH	0.5 %
MA	13 %
RI	11 %
CT	1 %
NY	7 %
NJ	20 %
DE	5 %
MD	11 %
VA	20 %
NC	11 %

B. Increase CT Quota to 5%



- Addresses disparity between CT's low quota and BSB availability
 1. DE and NY held constant
 2. Move 0.25% from ME and NH to CT
 3. Move quota from remaining states, proportional to current allocations, to total 5%
- Option can stand alone, or be combined with other options

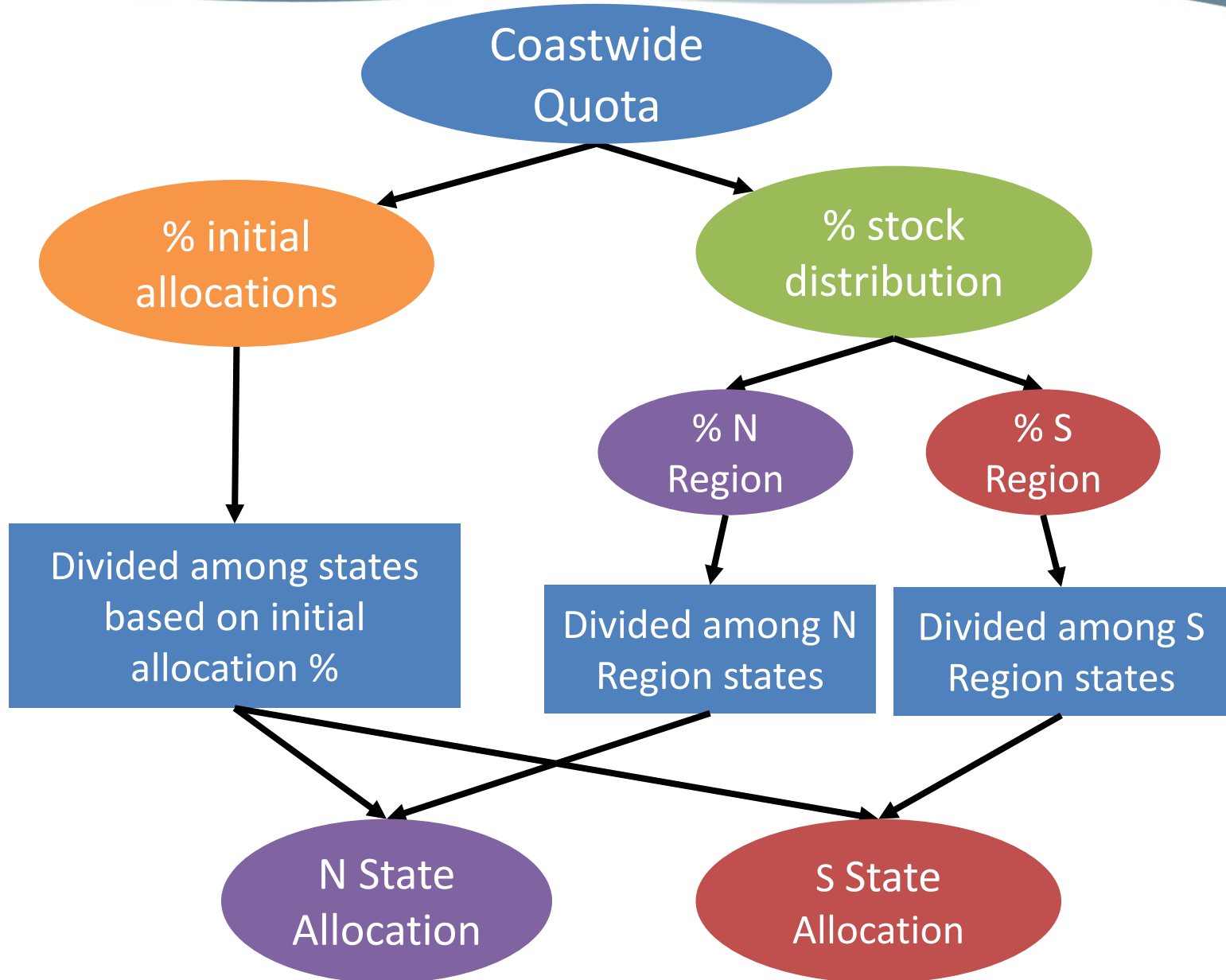
Proposed changes in state allocations			
State	Current % Allocation	Change in % Allocation	New % Allocation
ME	0.5%	-0.25%	0.25%
NH	0.5%	-0.25%	0.25%
MA	13%	-0.53%	12.47%
RI	11%	-0.45%	10.55%
CT	1%	4.00%	5.00%
NY	7%	0.00%	7.00%
NJ	20%	-0.81%	19.19%
DE	5%	0.00%	5.00%
MD	11%	-0.45%	10.55%
VA	20%	-0.81%	19.19%
NC	11%	-0.45%	10.55%

C. Dynamic Adjustments to Regional Allocations



- **DARA** approach balances fishery stability and response to changing stock distribution
- Phase 1: Gradual transition from initial quotas to quotas partially influenced by stock distribution
- Phase 2: Allocations updated routinely when new stock distribution information available
- Sub-options determine scale and pace of allocation changes
- Sub-options are designed to represent a range of choices

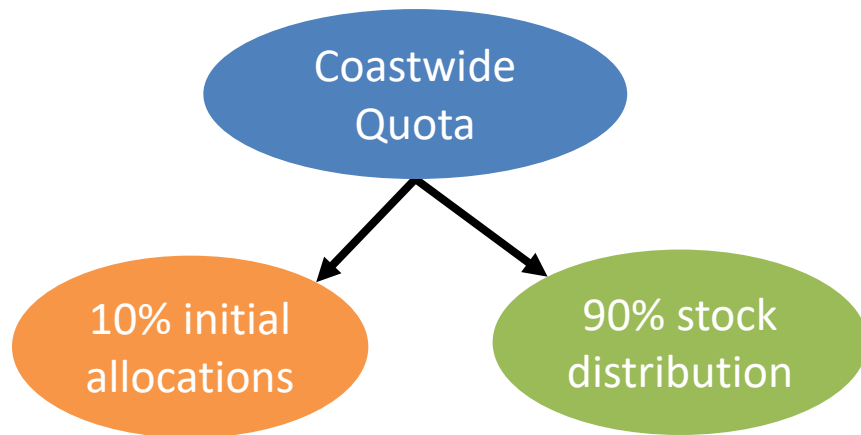
C. DARA – Formula Visualization



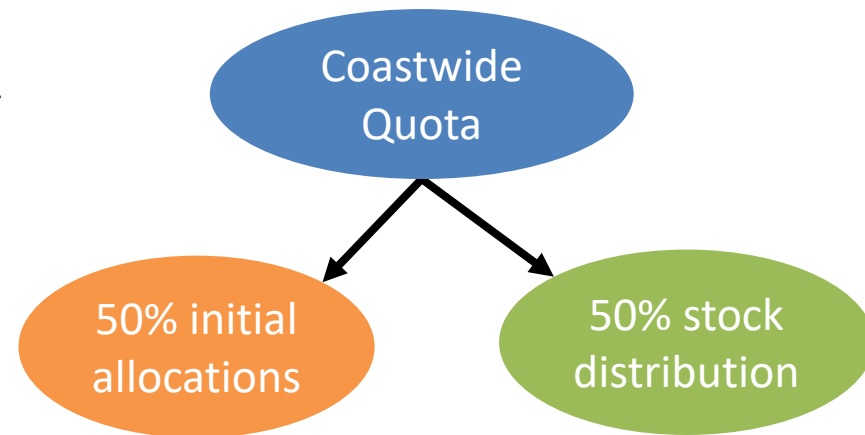
C. DARA - Sub-option set 1



1. Final relative importance of initial allocations versus resource distribution at the **end** of the transition phase
 - **Sub-option C1-A:** allocations based 90% on stock distribution, 10% on initial allocations
 - **Sub-option C1-B:** allocations based 50% on stock distribution, 50% on initial allocations



OR

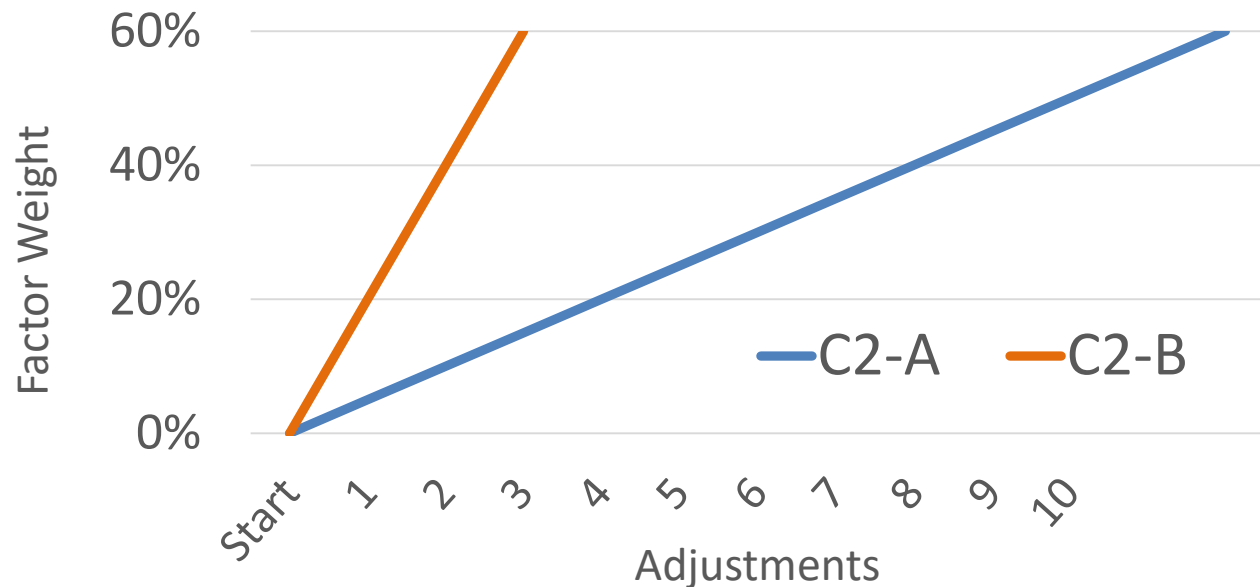


C. DARA - Sub-option set 2



2. Change in relative weights of each factor (initial allocations and stock distribution) per adjustment

- **Sub-option C2-A:** relative weights change by 5% per adjustment
- **Sub-option C2-B:** relative weights change by 20% per adjustment

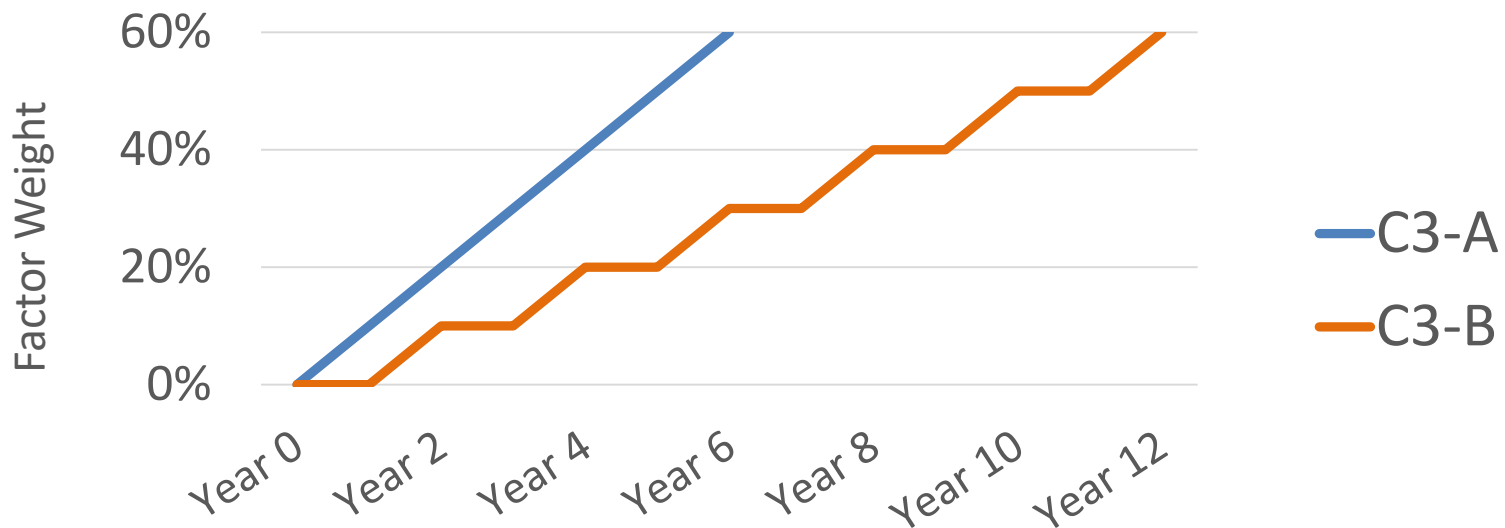


C. DARA - Sub-option set 3



3. Frequency of weight adjustments during transition

- **Sub-option C3-A:** Adjustments every year
- **Sub-option C3-B:** Adjustments every other year



C. DARA - Sub-option set 4



4. Regional allocation adjustment cap
 - **Sub-option C4-A:** Max of 3% change per adjustment
 - **Sub-option C4-B:** Max of 10% change per adjustment
 - **Sub-option C4-C:** No cap
- Smaller cap = less change in regional allocations during a single adjustment

D. Trigger Approach



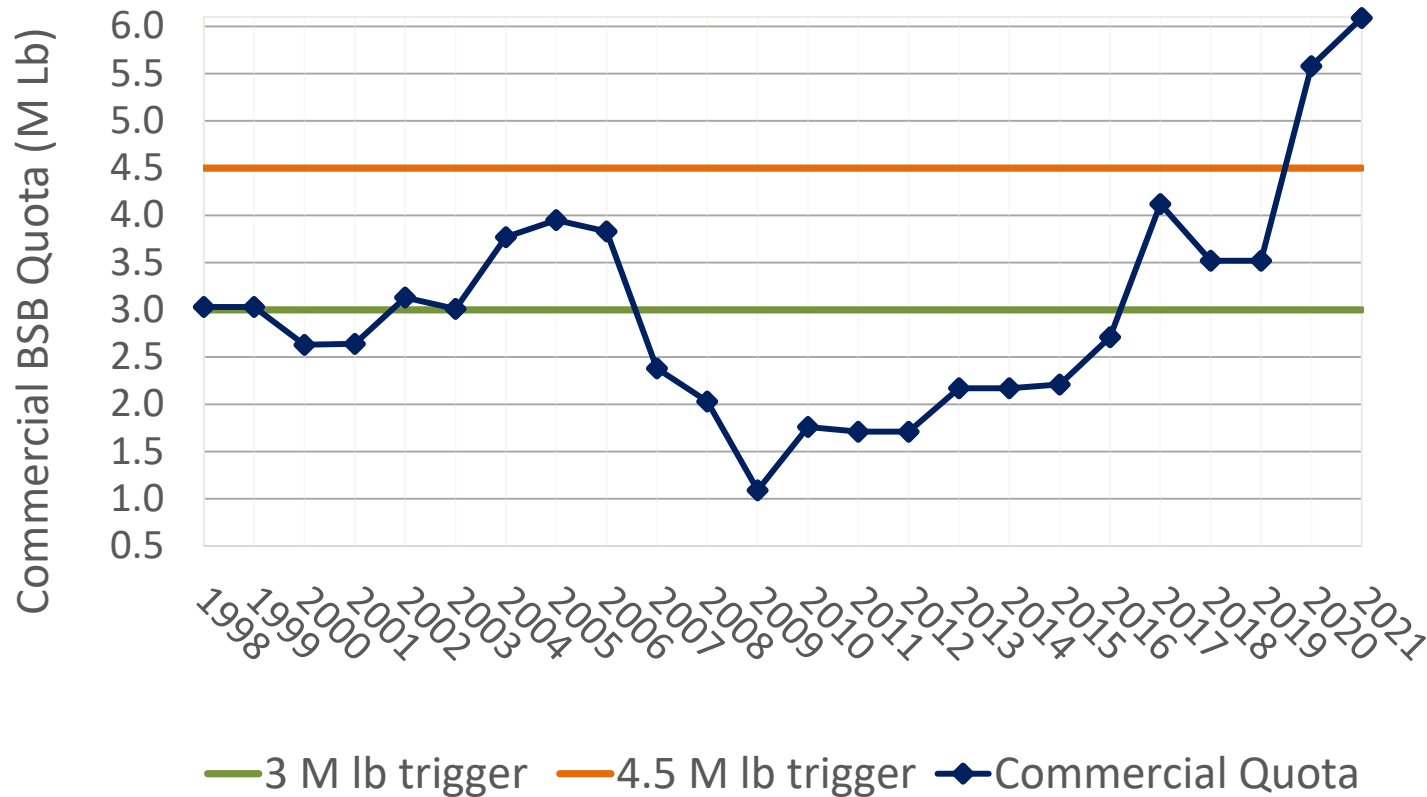
- Coastwide quota up to and including established trigger amount is distributed according to “base allocations”
 - Trigger determined by sub-option set D1
- Amount of quota above established trigger amount (surplus quota) is distributed using a different allocation scheme
 - Determined by sub-option sets D2 and D3

D. Trigger Approach- Sub-option set 1



1. Trigger Value Sub-options

- **Sub-option D1-A:** Trigger value of 3 million pounds
- **Sub-option D1-B:** Trigger value of 4.5 million pounds



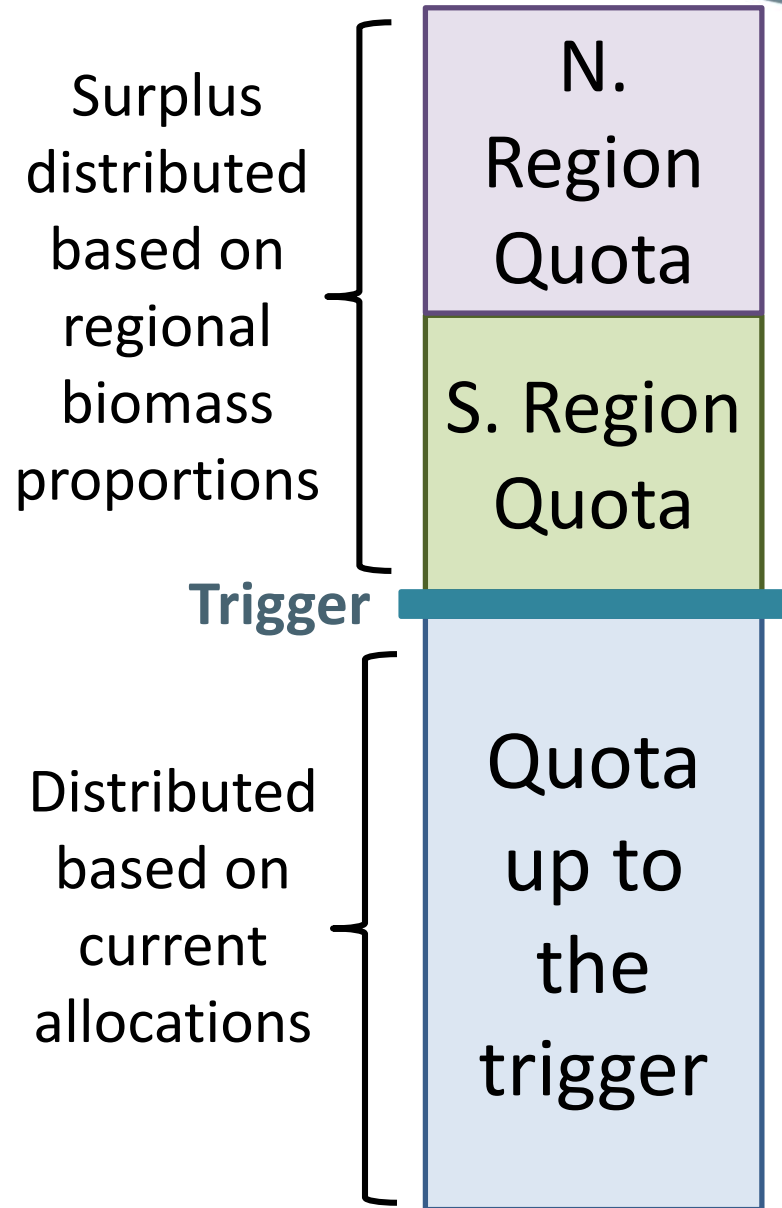
D. Trigger Approach- Sub-option set 2



2. Distribution of surplus quota

- **Sub-option D2-A:** Even distribution of surplus quota*
- **Sub-option D2-B:** Distribution of surplus quota based on regional biomass from stock assessment

*ME and NH each receive 1% of surplus quota



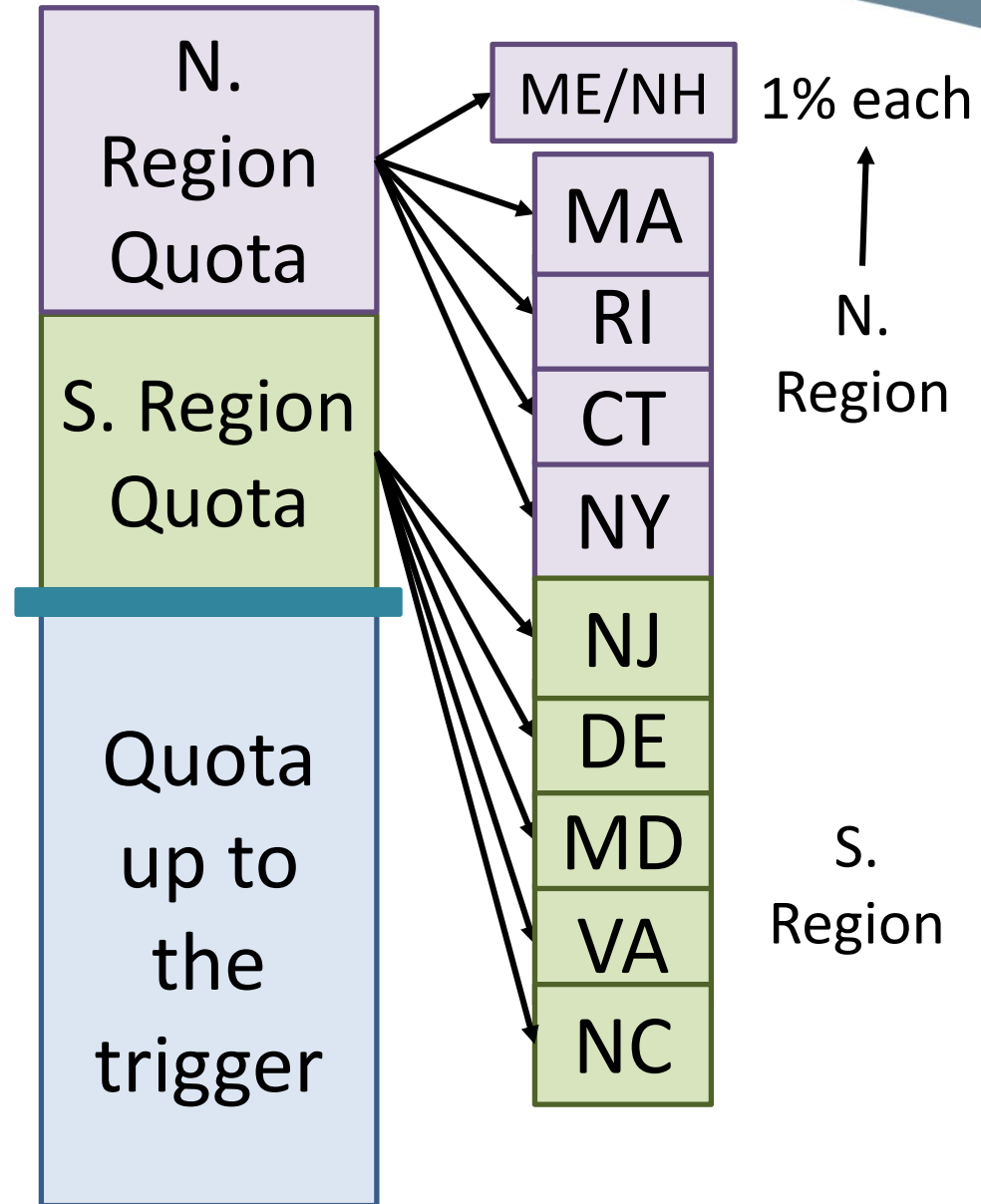
D. Trigger Approach- Sub-option set 3



3. Distribution of regional surplus quota (*only with D2-B*)

- **Sub-option D3-A:** Even distribution of regional surplus quota*
- **Sub-option D3-B:** Regional surplus quota distributed to the states within each region in proportion to their initial allocations*

*ME and NH would each receive 1% of N. surplus under both options



D. Trigger Approach- Sub-option set 4



- 4. Allowing “base” allocations to change over time
 - **Sub-option D4-A:** Static base allocations
 - **Sub-option D4-B:** Dynamic base allocations
- Only applicable under Sub-option D2-B (regional surplus allocation)

E. Trigger w/ increase to CT & NY first



- 3 million pound trigger (no sub-options)
- Coastwide quota up to and including 3 million pounds distributed based on initial allocations
- Surplus quota distributed as follows:
 1. Increase CT's allocation to 5% of the overall quota
 2. Increase NY's allocation to 9% of the overall quota
 3. Remaining surplus quota split N/S according to proportion of biomass in each region, then allocated to states within each region in proportion to initial intra-regional allocations

F. Percentage Approach



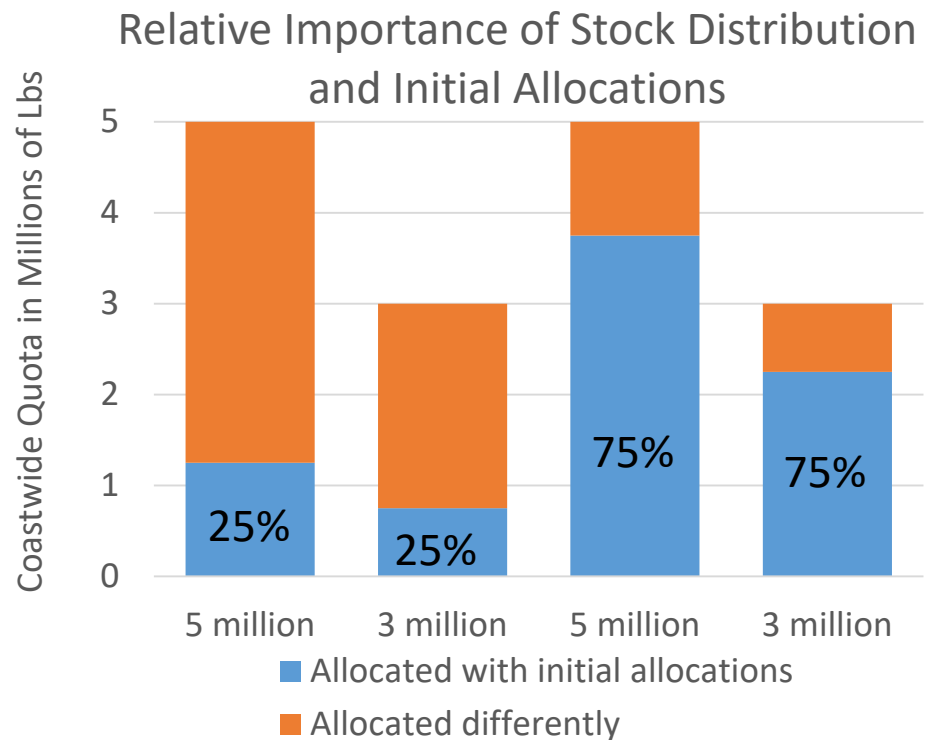
- Allocate a fixed % of the annual coastwide quota using the initial allocations regardless of coastwide quota amount
- Allocate remaining quota to states differently (evenly or regionally, as determined by sub-options)
- Allows a portion of the quota to be allocated using a distribution other than the initial allocations even under lower coastwide quotas

F. Percentage Approach – Sub-option set 1



1. Percentage of annual coastwide quota to be allocated using initial allocations

- **Sub-option F1-A: 25%**
- **Sub-option F1-B: 75%**





2. Distribution of remaining quota

- **Sub-option F2-A:** Even distribution of remaining quota to all states*
- **Sub-option F2-B:** Distribution of remaining quota based on regional biomass from stock assessment

*ME and NH each receive 1% of remaining quota

F. Percentage Approach – Sub-option set 3



3. Distribution of regional quota to states within a region (*only with F2-B*)

- **Sub-option F3-A:** Even distribution of regional quota to states within each region*
- **Sub-option F3-B:** Remaining quota distributed to the states within each region in proportion to their initial allocations*

*ME and NH would each receive 1% of northern region quota

G. Regional Configuration



Options C through F consider incorporating regional distribution information from the stock assessment and require a regional configuration.

- **Sub-option G1:** Two regions: 1) ME-NY, and 2) NJ-NC.
- **Sub-option G2:** Three regions: 1) ME-NY; 2) NJ; and 3) DE-NC.
 - NJ treated as if half of the initial allocation comes from N and half from S of Hudson Canyon

Allocation Options	Sub-options			
A. Status Quo				
B. CT to 5%				
C. DARA Approach	<u>Final Weights</u> C1-A (90%/10%) C1-B (50%/50%)	<u>% Change per Adjustment</u> C2-A (5%) C2-B (20%)	<u>Adjustment Frequency</u> C3-A (every year) C3-B (every 2 years)	<u>Cap</u> C4-A (3%) C4-B (10%) C4-C (None)
D. Trigger Approach	<u>Trigger</u> D1-A (3 million) D1-B (4.5 million)	<u>Surplus Distribution</u> D2-A (even) D2-B (regions)	<u>Distribution to States in Region</u> D3-A (even) D3-B (proportional)	<u>Base Allocations</u> D4-A (static) D4-B (dynamic)
E. Trigger w/ increase to CT & NY first				
F. Percentage Approach	<u>% Initial</u> F1-A (25%) F1-B (75%)	<u>Remaining % Distribution</u> D2-A (even) D2-B (regions)	<u>Distribution to States in Region</u> D3-A (even) D3-B (proportional)	
G. Regions	G1: 2 regions		G2: 3 regions	

Board and Council Action



- Select options for commercial state allocations
- Consider final approval of Addendum XXXIII/ recommend final approval of Council Amendment

Next Steps for Implementation



If approved today...

- Addendum XXXIII
 - can be implemented by Commission on date specified by the Board (e.g. January 1, 2022)
- Council Amendment
 - Council staff writes draft EA and submits to NMFS (1-2 months)
 - Additional edits based on NMFS feedback (~2 months)
 - NMFS rulemaking, including proposed rule, comment period, and final rule (~6-12 months)

Council Staff Recommendation

- **B:** Increase CT from 1% to 5%
- **F:** Percentage approach
 - **F1-B:** Allocate **75%** of the coastwide quota based on the initial allocations.
 - **F2-B:** Allocate the remaining **25%** based on the most recent regional biomass distribution information from the stock assessment.
 - **F3-B:** Further divide the regional allocation among states within a region in proportion to the initial state allocations (ME, NH each receive 1% of N region quota).
- **G2:** Three regions: 1) ME-NY, 2) NJ, and 3) DE-NC.

Council Staff Recommendation

State	Current allocations	"Initial allocations" (CT to 5% first)	Revised allocations under 2018 biomass distribution	Difference between current and revised allocations
ME	0.50%	0.25%	0.40%	-0.10%
NH	0.50%	0.25%	0.40%	-0.10%
MA	13.00%	12.47%	15.10%	+2.10%
RI	11.00%	10.55%	12.78%	+1.78%
CT	1.00%	5.00%	6.06%	+5.06%
NY	7.00%	7.00%	8.48%	+1.48%
NJ	20.00%	19.19%	19.52%	-0.48%
DE	5.00%	5.00%	4.11%	-0.89%
MD	11.00%	10.55%	8.68%	-2.32%
VA	20.00%	19.19%	15.79%	-4.21%
NC	11.00%	10.55%	8.68%	-2.32%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Total percentage moved from NJ-NC to ME-NY under 2018 biomass distribution.				10.21%

Questions?

