



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Meeting Summary

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Joint ASMFC Bluefish and Interstate Fisheries Management
Program Policy Boards and MAFMC
October 7, 2020

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Press Releases, Meeting Summary and Motions

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JOINT ASMFC BLUEFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD & MAFMC (October 7, 2020)

Meeting Summary

Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment

The Commission's Bluefish Management Board (Board) met jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) to finalize the range of alternatives for the Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment. The Board and Council reviewed recommendations from the Plan Development Team/Fishery Management Action Team (PDT/FMAT) and approved a range of alternatives for inclusion in a draft public hearing document.

Consistent with PDT/FMAT recommendations, the Board and Council reduced the range of alternatives for further consideration in this amendment. The state commercial allocation alternatives were condensed to better represent recent state-by-state landings trends in the bluefish fishery. The Board and Council also voted to remove the alternatives related to regional commercial allocations from further consideration in this action. Board and Council members were concerned that this management approach would result in a loss of autonomy and flexibility necessary for state fishery managers to effectively manage to the needs of their state's commercial fisheries. The Board and Council also removed the two rebuilding plan alternatives that were projected to rebuild the stock to its biomass target within 10 years. The Magnuson Stevens Act mandate to rebuild an overfished stock in as short a time as possible while taking into consideration biological and socioeconomic impacts was an important factor in this decision. Board and Council members reasoned that the three remaining rebuilding plan alternatives span a reasonable time period of 4 to 7 years. Lastly, the Board and Council refined the range of alternatives pertaining to the sector transfer process, whereby landings are transferred between the recreational and commercial sectors, and the *de minimis* provision, which would relieve a state from adopting certain fishery regulatory measures when its harvest has minimal contribution to the coastwide harvest of bluefish.

Approaches retained for further consideration include the fishery management plan goals and objectives, commercial/recreational sector allocations, commercial allocations to the states, the rebuilding plan, the recreational/commercial sector transfer process, sector specific management uncertainty, and the *de minimis* provision.

The Board and Council expect to approve the draft amendment for public comment at the joint February meeting. Additional information, including an updated list of issues addressed in this action, can be found at <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/bluefish-allocation-amendment>.

For more information, please contact Dustin Colson Leaning, ASMFC FMP Coordinator, at dleaning@asmfc.org.

Motions

Main Motion

Move to accept all FMAT recommendations on issue 3 (keeping 3.1.5) in the range of alternatives for the public hearing document. Motion amended.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Cimino and seconded by Mr. Clark

Council: Cimino/Hughes

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to accept all FMAT recommendations on issue 3 (keeping 3.1.5, 3.3.1, 3.4.2) in the range of alternatives for the public hearing document.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Hasbrouck and seconded by Ms. Meserve (14 in favor, 2 opposed)

Council: Farnham/Davidson (18 in favor, 2 opposed)

Motion carries

Main Motion as Amended

Move to accept all FMAT recommendations on issue 3 (keeping 3.1.5, 3.3.1, 3.4.2) in the range of alternatives for the public hearing document.

Board: (16 in favor)

Council: (20 in favor)

Motion carries

Move to accept the FMAT recommendation to remove Issue 4 from the public hearing document.

Board: Motion made by Ms. Patterson and seconded by Ms. Meserve (14 in favor, 2 opposed)

Council: Hemilright/Lenox (20 in favor)

Motion carries

Main Motion

Move to accept the FMAT recommendation to remove Alternatives 5.1.2 and 5.1.4 from the public hearing document.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Pentony and seconded by Mr. Clark (13 in favor, 3 opposed)

Council: Pentony/DiLernia (19 in favor, 1 opposed)

Motion carries

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to remove only 5.1.4 from the public hearing document.

Council: Nowalsky/Cimino (9 in favor, 11 opposed)

Board: Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Ms. Hart

Motion fails due to lack of Council majority

Move to accept the FMAT recommendation to remove Alternatives 6.1.1 and 6.1.3 from the public hearing document.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Pentony and seconded by Ms. Patterson (16 in favor)

Council: Pentony/Cimino (Carries by consent)

Motion carries

Move to modify by adding subsection 8.1.2 that states that declare *de minimis* would be required to implement default plan provisions for current recreational daily harvest limits.

Board: Motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Dr. McNamee (13 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention)

Council: Cimino/Nowalsky (19 in favor, 1 abstention)

Motion carries

Move to approve the range of alternatives for the draft public hearing document as modified today.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Hasbrouck and seconded by Ms. Patterson

Council: DiLernia/Wilke

Motion carries by consent by both bodies

JOINT ASMFC INTERSTATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM POLICY BOARD & MAFMC (October 7, 2020)

Meeting Summary

Recreational Management Reform Initiative

The Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (Board) and the Council reviewed progress on the Recreational Management Reform Initiative and discussed next steps. After reviewing nine topics that were either recommended by the Recreational Management Reform Initiative Steering Committee or by stakeholders through scoping for two separate ongoing amendments, the Board and Council agreed to initiate a joint framework/addendum and a joint amendment to address several recreational issues.

The framework/addendum will further develop and consider the following topics and management issues:

- Better incorporating MRIP uncertainty into the management process
- Guidelines for maintaining status quo recreational management measures (i.e., bag, size, and season limits) from one year to the next
- A process for setting multi-year recreational management measures
- Changes to the timing of the recommendation for federal waters recreational management measures
- A proposal put forward by six recreational organizations called a harvest control rule

The amendment would consider options for managing for-hire recreational fisheries separately from other recreational fishing modes (referred to as sector separation) and would also consider options related to recreational catch accounting such as private angler reporting and enhanced vessel trip report requirements for for-hire vessels.

The Board and Council Board may consider an initial draft range of alternatives for the framework/addendum, as well as a draft scoping document for the amendment, in early 2021.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at tkerns@asmfc.org.

Motions

Main Motion

Move to initiate a joint framework/addendum to address the following topics for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish, as discussed today:

- **Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into management**
- **Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo measures**
- **Develop a process for setting multi-year measures**
- **Consider changes to the timing of federal waters measures recommendations**

Board: Motion made by Mr. Fote and seconded by Mr. Clark

Council: DiLernia/Davidson

Motion amended.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend the main motion to include the harvest control rule option in the joint framework/addendum and to also initiate an amendment to address recreational sector separation and recreational catch accounting such that scoping for the amendment would be conducted during the development of the framework/addendum.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Pentony and seconded by Mr. Cimino (12 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstention)

Council: Pentony/DiLernia (18 in favor, 2 opposed)

Motion carries

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute to initiate management actions through the appropriate mechanisms (technical guidance document, framework/addendum, or amendment) for topics 1-9 presented today.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Reid and seconded by Mr. Nowalsky (4 in favor, 12 opposed)

Council: Nowalsky/Townsend

Motion fails for lack of Board majority

Main Motion as Amended

Move to initiate a joint framework/addendum to address the following topics for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish, as discussed today:

- Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into management
- Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo measures
- Develop a process for setting multi-year measures
- Consider changes to the timing of federal waters measures recommendations
- Harvest control rule

and to also initiate an amendment to address recreational sector separation and recreational catch accounting such that scoping for the amendment would be conducted during the development of the framework/addendum.

Board: (15 in favor, 2 opposed)

Council: (18 in favor)

Motion carries