



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Conference Call
March 13, 2014

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Press Release & Motions

SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (MARCH 13, 2014)

Press Release

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board Approves State & Regional Management Proposals for 2014 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Fisheries

Arlington, VA – The Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved a combination of state and regional proposals for the 2014 summer flounder recreational fishery (see Table 1) and state proposals for the 2014 black sea bass recreational fishery in accordance with Addendum XXV to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan.

Table 1. Proposed 2014 Summer Flounder State Recreational Measures*

STATE	MINIMUM SIZE (INCHES)	POSSESSION LIMIT (NO. OF FISH)	SEASON LENGTH (DAYS)	SEASON
MASSACHUSETTS	16	5	132	May 22 – September 30
RHODE ISLAND	18	8	245	May 1 – December 31
CONNECTICUT	18	5	128	May 17 – September 21
CT Designated Shore Sites	16	5	128	May 17 – September 21
NEW YORK	18	5	128	To be determined
NEW JERSEY	18	5	128	To be determined
DELAWARE	16	4	365	January 1 – December 31
MARYLAND	16	4	365	January 1 – December 31
VIRGINIA	16	4	365	January 1 – December 31
NORTH CAROLINA	15	6	365	January 1 – December 31

*States are undergoing their administrative processes to adopt regulations. Once regulations are finalized, they will be available on state and Commission websites.

For the summer flounder fishery, the Board approved regional management measures for two regions (1) Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, including the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and (2) Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. Adopted regulations for the first region (DE-VA) include a 16-inch minimum size limit, 4 fish bag limit, and a year-round season, while the second region's (CT-NJ) regulations include an 18-inch minimum size, 5 fish bag limit, and 128 day open season with not more than 45 days open from May 1 – June 30. Further, states have the option to develop a program that allows

for a 16-inch minimum size limit at state designated sites offering only shore-based fishing access. For North Carolina, the Board approved the state's maintenance of 2013 regulations for the 2014 fishery. The overall intent of the regional management measures for the summer flounder recreational fishery is to provide more equity in recreational harvest opportunities along the coast.

The Board also approved a request from Massachusetts and Rhode Island to split its region into individual state regions to account for the significantly different recreational fisheries of the two states. Both states will maintain their 2013 regulations for the 2014 fishery so that the effect of these measures, when combined with the other regions' measures, will constrain the coastwide harvest to the recreational harvest limit of 7.01 million pounds.

For black sea bass, the Board approved the methodologies used by the states of Massachusetts through New Jersey to establish their minimum size, bag limits, and season lengths to achieve a 7% reduction in the 2014 recreational harvest levels from the 2013 harvest level. The 7% reduction is in response to harvest overages that occurred in 2013. States will be finalizing their regulations over the next couple of weeks. The Board also agreed to a send letter to NOAA Fisheries requesting a review of the 2013 final Marine Recreational Information Program black sea bass harvest numbers when determining the final rule for 2014 measures.

For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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PR14-09

Motions

Move to adopt status quo measures for North Carolina mandating a 15" minimum size, 6 fish bag limit and 365 day open season.

Motion made by Mr. Batsavage and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion passes unanimously (Roll Call: In favor – MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, PRFC, NC; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS).

Move to adopt option 1 for the region of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia region (including PRFC) mandating a 16" minimum size, 4 fish bag limit, and 365 day open season.

Motion made by Mr. O'Reilly and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion passes unanimously (Roll Call: In favor – MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, PRFC, NC; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS)

Main Motion

Move to adopt option 1 for the New Jersey through Connecticut region mandating an 18" minimum size, 4 fish bag limit and 128 day open season with not more than 45 days open in wave 3 except that a 16 inch minimum size may be adopted at designated sites offering shore based fishing access only.

Motion made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion amended.

Motion to Amend

Motion to amend the original motion from 4 fish bag limit to 5 fish bag limit.

Motion made by Mr. Baum and seconded by Mr. O'Reilly. Motion carries 6 in favor, 4 against, and 2 abstain. (Roll Call: In favor – CT, NJ, DE, MD, VA, PRFC; Opposed – MA, RI, NY, NC; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS)

Main Motion as Amended

Move to adopt option 1 for the New Jersey through Connecticut region mandating an 18" minimum size, 5 fish bag limit, and 128 day open season with not more than 45 days open in wave 3 except that a 16" minimum size may be adopted at designated sites offering shore based fishing access only.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend the motion to have 45 days open in wave 3 to 39 days open in wave 3.

Motion made by Mr. Luisi and seconded by Mr. Ballou. Motion fails (Roll Call: Opposed – MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, PRFC, NC; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS)

Main Motion as Amended

Move to adopt option 1 for the New Jersey through Connecticut region mandating an 18" minimum size, 5 fish bag limit, and 128 day open season with not more than 45 days open in wave 3 except that a 16" minimum size may be adopted at designated sites offering shore based fishing access only.

Motion carries (Roll Call: In favor – MA, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, PRFC, NC; Opposed – RI; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS)

Move to amend Section 3.1 of Addendum XXV to the Summer Flounder FMP by replacing the Rhode Island/Massachusetts Region with individual state regions for Massachusetts and Rhode Island. These two states will maintain their 2013 regulations for the 2014 fishery. In so doing, the management measures implemented by the two states, when combined with the other region's measures, will constrain the coastwide harvest to the recreational harvest limit.

Motion made by Mr. Ballou and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries unanimously (12 in favor).

Main Motion

Move to have a 3.2 % reduction in the 2014 black sea bass recreational fishery harvest from the 2013 harvest.

Motion made by Mr. Fote and seconded by Dr. Pierce. Motion substituted.

Motion to Substitute

Motion to substitute motion for a 7% reduction in the 2014 black sea bass recreational fishery harvest from the 2013 harvest.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion passes (7 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute motion for 5% reduction in the 2014 black sea bass recreational fishery harvest from the 2013 harvest.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce and seconded by Mr. Baum. Motion fails (Roll Call: In favor – MA, NJ; Opposed – RI, CT, NY, DE, MD, VA, PRFC, NC; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS).

Main Motion as Substituted

Move to have a 7% reduction in the 2014 black sea bass recreational fishery harvest from the 2013 harvest.

Motion passes (Roll Call: In favor – MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, MD, VA, PRFC, NC; Opposed – NJ; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS).

Move to approve all the modes for Massachusetts 2014 regulations for the private and for-hire have measures of 14”, 8 fish bag limit, and a season of May 17 to September 15.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries unanimously (Roll Call: In favor – MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, PRFC, NC; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS).

Move to approve the Massachusetts LOA program in the for-hire fishery with a season of May 17- May 31 at 8 fish bag limit, and season of September 1- September 30 at 20 fish bag limit.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce and seconded by Mr. Bellavance. Motion carries (Roll Call: In favor – MA, CT, DE, MD, PRFC, NC; Opposed – NY, NJ, VA; Null – RI; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS).

Move to approve the Connecticut LOA program for the for-hire fishery for the 2014 season.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Adler. (Roll Call: In favor – MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, PRFC, NC; Abstain – NOAA Fisheries, USFWS).

Move that consistent with Technical Committee recommendations that MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ methodology for the proposals are approved.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carries without objection with 1 abstention (NOAA Fisheries).