



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Meeting Summary

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board
Conference Call
March 30, 2017

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Meeting Summary and Motions

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SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (MARCH 30, 2017)

Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board met to consider proposals on alternative summer flounder recreational management measures for 2017 from the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The Technical Committee found no technical issues with the data or methodology used to develop the alternative measures; the applied methodology was consistent with that used to develop measures approved in Addendum XXVIII. After considering the Technical Committee's review and discussing the merits of the proposed alternative management measures relative to those approved in Addendum XXVIII, motions made to approve the alternative management measures for both Massachusetts and Rhode Island failed. Reasons cited were the timing of when the proposals were received relative to the annual specification process; the need to implement and promulgate regulations for the 2017 recreational fishing season soon; and concerns that the proposed alternative measures may undermine measures prescribed in Addendum XXVIII (below) designed to constrain coastwide harvest to the 2017 recreational harvest limit. The Commission will send a letter to NOAA Fisheries soon outlining how Addendum XXVIII measures will meet the needed reduction for 2017.

2017 Regional Management Measures

STATE	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Season (# of days)
MASSACHUSETTS	17"	4 fish	125
RHODE ISLAND	19"	4 fish	245
CONNECTICUT NEW YORK	19"	3 fish	128
NEW JERSEY*	19"	3 fish	128
NEW JERSEY/ DELAWARE BAY COLREGS**	18"	3 fish	
DELAWARE MARYLAND VIRGINIA	17"	4 fish	365
NORTH CAROLINA	15"	4 fish	365

*New Jersey east of the COLREGS line at Cape May has management measures consistent with the northern region of Connecticut – New York.

**New Jersey west of the COLREGS line at Cape May, NJ inside Delaware Bay has a similar size limit to the southern region (Delaware – Virginia), and the same possession limit and season length as the northern region of Connecticut – New York.

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

Motions

Move that the Board approve the Massachusetts proposal for summer flounder recreational management measures for 2017 of 17” minimum size limit, 5 fish possession limit, and 125 day season (May 22-September 23).

Motion made by Dr. Pierce and seconded by Mr. Ballou. Motion fails (Roll Call Vote: In favor – MA, RI; Opposed – CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, PRFC, VA, NC; Abstentions – NMFS).

Move that the Board approve the Rhode Island conservational equivalency proposal for summer flounder recreational management measures for 2017 of 19” minimum size limit, 6 fish possession limit, and 227 day season (May 19-September 31).

Motion made by Mr. Ballou and seconded by Dr. Pierce. Motion fails (Roll Call Vote: In favor – MA, RI, CT; Opposed – NY, NJ, MD, PRFC, VA, NC; Abstentions – NMFS; Null – DE).