



Summer Flounder Draft Public Information Document for Amendment 21

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass
Management Board
August 6, 2014

Background



In December 2013, the Council approved a motion to develop a draft amendment to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP. Council staff developed a draft scoping document with the following objectives

- 1. Perform a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP related to summer flounder**
- 2. Update the FMP goals and objectives for summer flounder management**
- 3. Modify management strategies and measures as necessary to achieve those goals and objectives**

Timeline



August 2014

Draft PID developed; Board reviews & considers draft PID for public comment

Fall 2014

PID/Scoping public comment period

Winter 2015

Board/Council identify priority issues for inclusion in the amendment; issue specific working groups established; Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) and working group meetings

**Spring/
Summer 2015**

FMAT continues development of options (with working group input); meetings of the FMAT, working groups, Board/Council, Advisory Panel

**Fall 2015/
Winter 2016**

Board/Council reviews FMAT and working group recommendations for options

**Spring/
Summer 2016**

Range of options refined and approved

Fall 2016

Board/Council, selects preferred options; public hearings

**Winter 2016 /
Spring 2017**

Board/Council considers public comments; final action

Issue 1: FMP Goals and Objectives



Amendment 2 (1993) contains the shared objectives of the FMP between the Commission and Council. The six goals of the FMP are the following;

- Reduce fishing mortality in the summer flounder fishery to assure that overfishing does not occur.
- Reduce fishing mortality on immature summer flounder to increase spawning stock biomass.
- Improve the yield from the fishery.

Issue 1: FMP Goals and Objective



Cont'd.

- Promote compatible management regulations between State and Federal jurisdictions.
- Promote uniform and effective enforcement of regulations.
- Minimize regulations to achieve the management objectives stated above.

Issue 1: FMP Goals and Objectives



Statement of Problem

Management changes over the last 20 years **BUT** management objectives have remained the same.

Given:

1. Stock status has changed (rebuilt)
2. Attributes of the fisheries have changed

Do the management objectives still capture the needs and goals of the FMP?

Issue 2: Quota Allocation Between the Commercial and Recreational Fisheries



Statement of the Problem

- 60/40 split was determined based on the historical landings
- The characteristics & participation in both the commercial and recreational fisheries has changed in the last 20 years

Is the existing allocation between the comm and rec sectors based on the TAL appropriate for managing the summer flounder fishery?

If not, how should the allocations be revised?

Issue 3: Commercial Management



Measures and Strategies

- Commercial fishing gear requirements and restrictions, including, but not limited to: mesh requirements, net dimensions, bycatch reduction devices, head and footrope lengths
- Minimum fish size requirements
- Possession limit and trigger requirements
- Time/area closures and exemption programs
- Licensing
- Commercial quota allocation strategies
- Landings flexibility (regional, coastwide, other)

Issue 4: Recreational Management Measures and Strategies



Statement of the Problem

- State-by-state conservation equivalency based on '98 estimated state harvests is viewed as an inadequate long-term solution
- '98-based allocation formula does not reflect changes in socio-economic patterns over the past 15 years, particularly with regard to the number and distribution of anglers along the coast.

Issue 5: Discards in the Commercial and Recreational Fisheries



Statement of the Problem

- Address concerns over the discard rates as raised by managers and stakeholders
 - Recreational: released alive fish (MRIP B2) have increased from 30% of total rec catch in 1981 to 84% in 2013.
 - Commercial: discards have constituted 8% of the total catch since 1982
 - Discards in otter trawl & scallop dredge accounted for 14% of total commercial catch

Other Issues



- **Ecosystem, habitat, bycatch, and protected species issues**
 - Are the current considerations adequate? If not, how should they be updated?

- **Data collection requirements and protocols**
 - Are the current requirements and protocols effective? If not how should they be revised?



Questions?



Review of Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panels

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Background



- In 2007, the Board worked to coordinate AP membership with the MAFMC membership
- Since then, coordination hasn't been maintained, with participation among ASMFC AP members dwindling

Background (cont'd)



- The ASMFC AP consists of three groups; the Council is one AP for all three species
- New Hampshire and Maine recently declared an interest in Black Sea Bass Fishery
 - Opportunity to have AP representation

Recommendation



Staff recommends the Board consider consolidating the AP into one group, similar to the MAFMC AP

- Commission AP would supplement MAFMC AP membership
- Recommend the removal of AP members with poor attendance
- Recommend that replacement AP members have expertise with all 3 species



Questions?



2014 Black Sea Bass Recreational Season for Southern States

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Background



- **In March 2014, the Board approved Black Sea Bass management measures for DE-NC that equated to 7% reduction in 2014 harvest (relative to 2013)**
 - **7% reduction was based on accounting for 2012 & 2013 overage and preliminary 2013 data**
- **Once 2013 data was finalized, the Board sent a letter to NMFS requesting consideration of updated data**

Background (cont'd)



- NMFS recently published final rule. Specifications for federal Black Sea Bass management measures resulted in approximately 5% reduction in harvest (relative to 2013 harvest)
 - Difference between 7%-5% reduction results in additional 3 days in September (open to September 21st)

Action



The Board should consider adjustment to 2014 Black Sea Bass Recreational Season for the states of Delaware to North Carolina (north of Cape Hatteras)



Questions?