

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

January 25, 2022

2:45 – 4:15 p.m.

Webinar

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Davis*) 2:45 p.m.
2. Board Consent 2:45 p.m.
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2021
3. Public Comment 2:50 p.m.
4. Review information for 2022 Recreational Specifications 3:00 p.m.
 - Reconsider the 2022 Recreational Specifications **Possible Final Action**
 - Consider Methodology for Adjusting 2022 Recreational Measures **Possible Action**
5. Other Business/Adjourn 4:15 p.m.

MEETING OVERVIEW

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board Webinar
January 25, 2022
2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Chair: Justin Davis (CT) Assumed Chairmanship: 12/21	Technical Committee Chair: Alexa Galvan (VA)	Law Enforcement Committee Representative: Snellbaker (MD)
Vice Chair: Vacant	Advisory Panel Chair: Vacant	Previous Board Meeting: December 14, 2021
Voting Members: NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, PRFC, VA, NC, NMFS, USFWS (13 votes)		

2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from August 2021

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Review Information for 2022 Recreational Specifications (3:00-4:10 p.m.) Possible Final Action

Background

- In December 2021, the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) jointly approved a 28% reduction in coastwide black sea bass harvest. At the same meeting, the Board and the Council jointly approved a 16.5% liberalization in coastwide harvest for summer flounder. The Board and Council opted to proceed with the regional conservation equivalency processes as outlined in Addendum XXXII for both species as opposed to implementing coastwide measures.
- The Board and Council also approved a one-inch increase in the scup recreational minimum size for 2022.
- The Technical Committee (TC) met twice in January 2022 to recommend a methodology to assist regions with developing recreational measure proposals (**Supplemental Materials**). After reviewing the recreational data, the Technical Committee has been considering alternative calculations and methods for regional targets to meet the 2022 RHL for black sea bass.

Presentations

- Staff will present an overview of the TC's recommended methodology for regional proposals as well as alternative calculations and methods for regional targets for 2022 recreational specifications.

Board Actions for Consideration

- Reconsider the 2022 Recreational Specifications for black sea bass.
- Approve methodology for adjusting 2022 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures.

5. Other Business/Adjourn



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board

FROM: Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee

DATE: January 18, 2022

SUBJECT: Summer Flounder & Black Sea Bass Methodology for Adjusting 2022 Recreational Measures

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee (TC) met via conference call on January 5 and January 10, 2022 to recommend a methodology for states to use when developing regional proposals for summer flounder and black sea bass recreational measures for the 2022 fishing year.

The TC recommends that both liberalizations and restrictions to recreational regulations for summer flounder and black sea bass be applied equally across regions so that no one region's change in measures is expected to have an outsized impact on expected harvest. The TC recommends that regional measures be adjusted unidirectionally along the coast to maintain an equitable opportunity to harvest fish for all stakeholders.

Recommended Methodology for Summer Flounder

For summer flounder, the TC has recommended criteria for states and regions to use when developing their respective regional proposals. A template for summer flounder proposals is on page 4 of this memo.

1. States within a region should collaborate and submit one regional proposal. Summer Flounder has 6 regions: (MA, RI, CT-NY, NJ, DE-VA, NC)
2. Recreational measures for all states within a region will consist of the same minimum size limit, possession limit, and season length.
3. Proposals may consider adjustments to possession limits, minimum and/or maximum size limits, season, and gear modifications.
4. All liberalizations should be calculated in terms of pounds of fish. This calculation can be made using numbers of fish, using regional or state length-weight information.
5. Analysis should use recreational data from 2018-2021 (2021 data should be included if available)

- The analysis should be based on MRIP data. States may adjust the MRIP data as appropriate to address outliers, low sample sizes, high PSEs, or other data concerns (e.g., through use of averages or smoothing). The MRIP data may be supplemented with additional data sets as appropriate. The proposal must give a full description of each data set used.
6. When calculating the liberalization: pool data from the four years (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021). It may also be appropriate to calculate the liberalization for each individual year then take the average of those 4 liberalizations to determine if pooling has overly weighted the year with the largest level of harvest.
 7. Proposals may split measures by mode. The proposal analysis should show how these splits would produce the predicted total harvest for the state.
 8. Non-compliant harvest should be kept as part of the data in the analysis. I.e., all previous non-compliant harvest is assumed to still occur under the new regulations.
 9. If liberalizations associated with changes to bag/size/season are calculated independently, these interactions should be accounted for using the equation in the bullet below. Please note, X represents the percent increase in expected harvest associated with a change in the first measure and Y represents the percent increase in expected harvest associated with a change in the second measure. If an interaction term is not calculated, there should be sufficient justification with an explanation provided.
 - *Total Liberalization = X% + Y% + (X% * Y%)*
 - For example, if a lower minimum size limit is expected to increase harvest by 20% and a higher bag limit is expected to increase harvest by 15%, then the final expected increase in harvest is 26.3%

Recommended Methodology for Black Sea Bass

In an effort to standardize the methodology used to craft black sea bass recreational management measures, the technical committee developed state-specific reference tables to be used within a standardized analytical framework when exploring changes in minimum size, length of season, and possession limit. By standardizing the approach, states are able to easily quantify how changes in measures impact expected harvest within each region. States within a region should collaborate and submit one regional proposal. Black Sea Bass has 3 regions: (MA-NY, NJ, DE-NC).

The standardized reduction tables apply the following criteria:

1. All reductions are calculated in terms of pounds of fish.
2. The analysis uses recreational data from 2018-2021.

3. Non-compliant harvest is assumed to still occur under the new regulations.
4. Reductions across measures are considered cumulatively and their interactive effects are accounted for in the methodology, which precludes the need to apply an interaction term.

Summer Flounder Proposal Template

CE Proposals are due February 21, 2022

Please use the following template when submitting proposals. Please be as concise as possible and use bullets to ensure inclusion of all important information. This template references data standards established by the Technical Committee.

Summary of Proposed Measures

Recreational Fishery

Region	Size Limits	Bag Limits	Open Season	Other

Please provide a proposal that achieves the 16.5% liberalization in pounds for your region from 2018-2021 levels following the criteria established by the TC (see TC memo).

Please address the following questions,

- What recreational measures is your region proposing?
- Does your proposal meet the data standards established by the TC?
- What data sources are used in the analysis (include mode or season specific if applicable)?
- Sample size summary by mode, season, or state and/or data source as applicable.
- Describe in a few sentences how you did the analysis
- Provide a table of results with your analysis.
- Clearly identify how your region’s liberalization is achieved.

Note: Please indicate the open and close dates of a season. Also specify if regulations are different by geographical area if applicable (e.g., ocean, bay, river) and the specific season dates of those areas.

Timeline for Implementation

Briefly describe the timeline for implementation of management measures as well as the start of your states’ fisheries relative to your proposed implementation date.

From: [Michael Shepherd](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [External] 2022wintermeeting
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 12:45:33 PM

From:

Michael Shepherd
Mays Landing, N.J.

Comments concerning summer flounder regulations.

Summer flounder regulations require harvest of female breeders in New Jersey. The legal minimum size for summer flounder should be reduced to permit harvest of smaller males to ease the pressure on virtually females-only regulations.

Add this comment to what I hope is a strong opposition to the current restrictive and destructive regulations.

In addition, the bluefish regulations here in New Jersey of three fish daily allowance per person (five apiece on for hire-boats) are also restrictive and should be eased.

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Sent from my iPhone