

Draft Addendum VI Overview and Management Options



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board October 30, 2019

Overview



- Review Draft Addendum VI and Public Comment Summary (M. Appelman)
- AP Report (M. Appelman)
- LEC Report (K. Blanchard)
- Final Action on Addendum VI



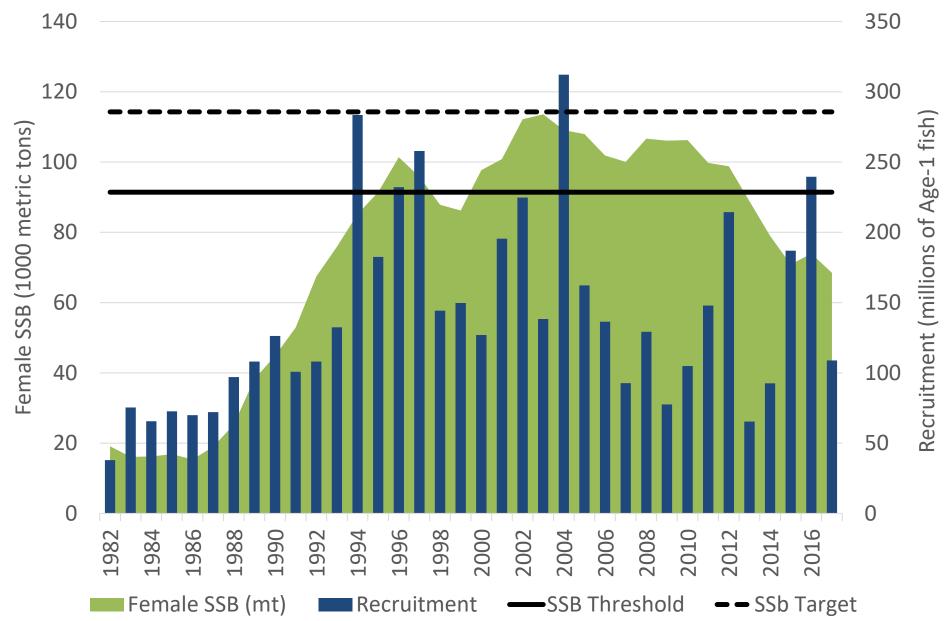
Draft Addendum VI



- 2018 Benchmark found striped bass to be overfished and experiencing overfishing
- Initiated to address overfishing and to reduce fishing mortality to the target in 2020
- 18% reduction in removals from 2017 levels
 - Proposes reductions to commercial quotas and changes in recreational bag/size limits
 - Proposes mandatory use of circle hooks when fishing with bait to address discard mortality in the recreational sector

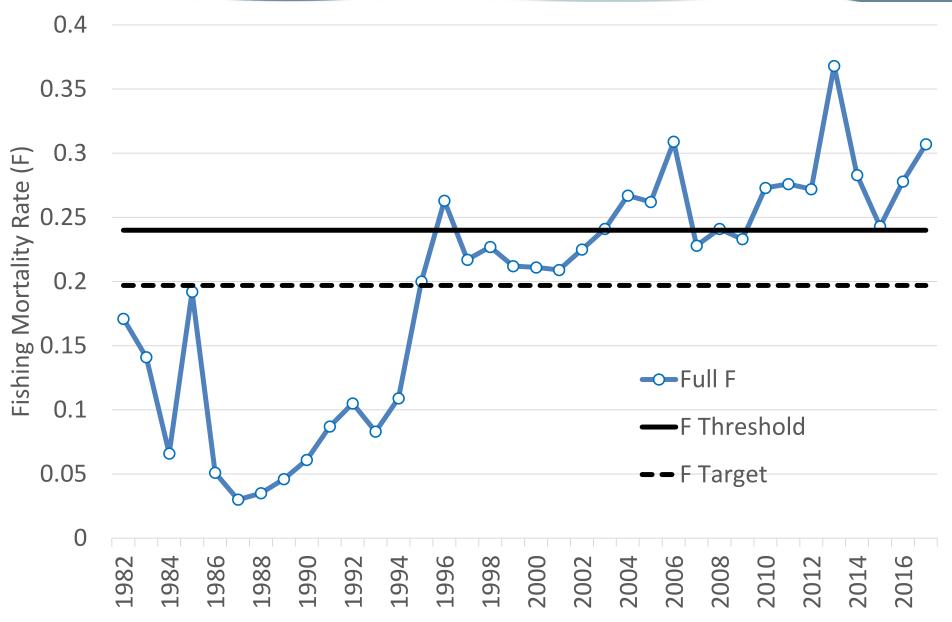
Status of the Stock





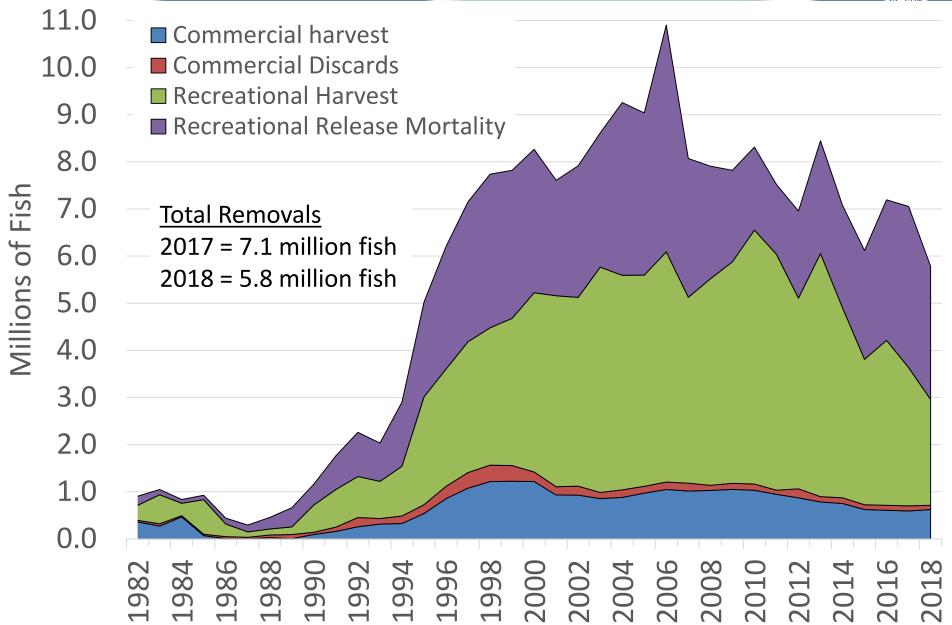
Status of the Stock





Total Removals by Sector, Disposition

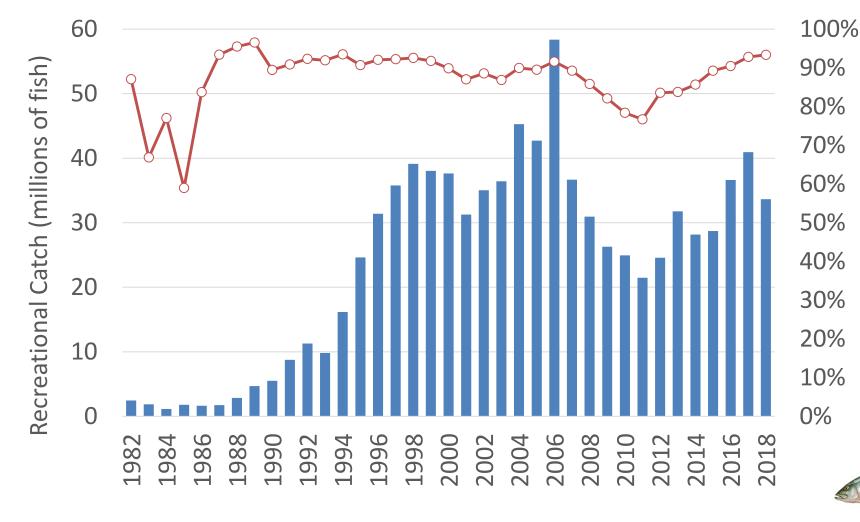




Recreational Catch and Release



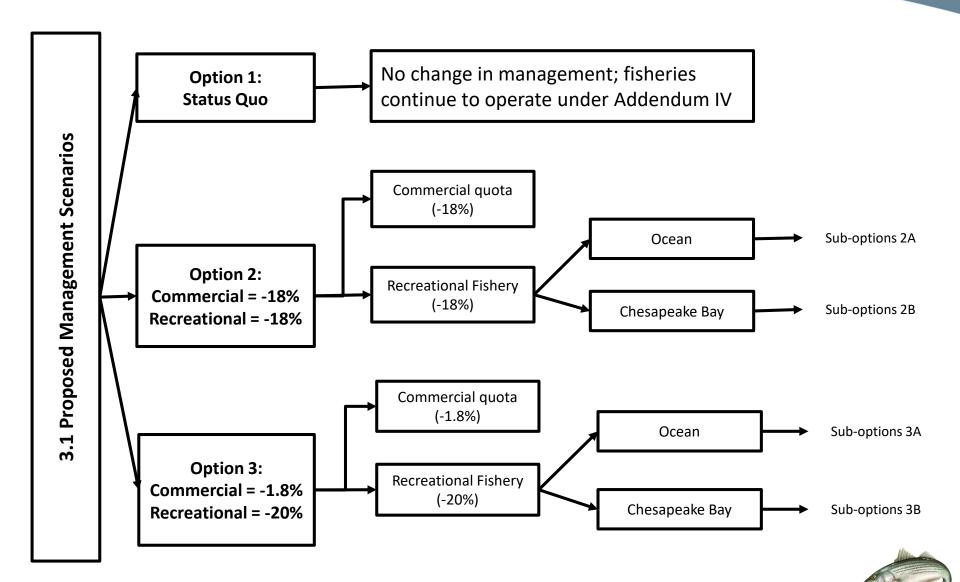
 Recreational release mortality makes up a large portion of total mortality because most of the catch is released



Proportion of Catch Released Aliv







Option 2 (equal % reduction)



- Commercial: quotas reduced by 18%
- Recreational: total removals reduced by 18%
 - Ocean Fishery Sub-options:

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2-A1 1 fish @ 35" min -18%
2-A2 1 fish @ 28"-35" slot -19%
2-A3 1 fish @ 30"-38" slot* -18%
2-A4 1 fish @ 32"-40" slot* -21%
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– Chesapeake Bay Fishery Sub-options:

2-B1	1 fish @ 18" min	-20%
2-B2	2 fish @ 22" min	-18%
2-B3	2 fish @ 18"-23" slot*	-19%
2-B4	2 fish @ 20"-24" slot*	-19%



Option 3 (different % reductions)

- Commercial: quotas reduced by 1.8%
- Recreational: total removals reduced by 20%
 - Ocean Fishery Sub-options:

3-A1	1 fish @ 36" min	-20%
3-A2	1 fish @ 28"-34" slot	-22%
3-A3	1 fish @ 30"-37" slot*	-21%
3-A4	1 fish @ 32"-40" slot*	-21%

– Chesapeake Bay Fishery Sub-options:

3-B1	1 fish @ current min	-29%
3-B2	1 fish @ 18" min	-20%
3-B3	2 fish @ 23" min*	-20%
3-B4	2 fish @ 18"-22" slot*	-21%
3-B5	2 fish @ 20"-23" slot*	-20%
3-B6	2 fish @ 22"-40" slot*	-21%



Recreational Sub-Options



- High uncertainty with bag/size limit analysis
 - Changes in effort
 - Changes in availability; size and age structure of the population and the distribution of fish
- Designed to limit harvest and total removals
 - Release mortality is projected to increase
 - Reduce the number of trips encountering striped bass to reduce both harvest and release mortality

Conservation Equivalency (CE)



- Addendum VI maintains flexibility to develop alternative measures to address specific state or regional differences while still achieving the same level of conservation for the resource
 - TC developed criteria for CE with Addendum VI
 - Some sub-options achieve more than the target percent reduction
 - Board Decision: what percentage will states be held to for CE proposals?





- Option A: status quo, no change to current provision; states are recommended to promote the use of circle hooks to anglers
- Option B: required to implement regulations
 requiring the use of circle hooks when fishing with
 bait.
 - Standard definition, but flexibility to develop language
 - Includes education component
- Option C: required to promote the use of circle hooks when fishing with bait

4.0 Compliance Schedule



Board to set a date for when Addendum VI measures become effective

- If approved, states must implement Addendum
 VI according to the following schedule to be in compliance with the Atlantic Striped Bass ISFMP
 - -Nov 30, 2019: implementation plans due
 - -Feb 2020: Board review and approval
 - XXXX: States implement regulations



Action Items



- 1. Primary Options (1, 2, or 3)
 - Rec Sub-option for the ocean fishery
 - Rec Sub-option for Chesapeake Bay
- 2. Conservation Equivalency: what percentage will states be held to?
- 3. Circle hooks (A, B, or C)
 - Guidance to Plan Review Team
- 4. Implementation Date
 - Submit by Nov 30 to be considered at the Feb 2020 meeting



Draft Addendum VI Public Comment Summary



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board October 30, 2019

Public Comment Summary



Public Hearings

- 21 hearings in all 14 jurisdictions
- 888 individuals attended the hearings
 - 31% in New England
 - 48% in Mid Atlantic
 - 21% in Chesapeake Bay

Written Comment

- A total of 5,523 comments received
- 4,486 received through 7 different form letters
- 45 organizations submitted comment
- Remaining comment (992) came from individual stakeholders



- Option 1: least supported
 - The stock status is driven by environmental factors
 - Predation, forage, and poor habitat should be addressed
 - The issue is release mortality which can be addressed through education alone
 - All the options will increase release mortality
 - Harvest in 2018 already dropped by 18%
 - Distrust in the science

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	Primary Options					
	1	2	3			
Individual	26	516	27			
Organization	5	31	5			
Form Letter		4466				
Hearings						
ME	3	30				
NH		15				
MA	9	80	10			
RI		21				
СТ	2	35	3			
NY		20				
NJ	1	28				
PA	2	3	1			
DE	7	2	1			
MD	20	33*	50			
PRFC		3	8			
DC		2				
VA	9	2	17			
NC						
TOTAL	84	5254	122			



- Option 1: least supported
- Option 2: most supported
 - All sectors benefit from the resource, so all sectors should share the responsibility of ending overfishing and rebuilding the resource.
 - The most equitable way to implement reductions.
 - Option 3 is an unbalanced approach to reduce removals.

	Primary Options						
	1	2	3				
Individual	26	516	27				
Organization	5	31	5				
Form Letter		4466					
Hearings							
ME	3	30					
NH		15					
MA	9	80	10				
RI		21					
СТ	2	35	3				
NY		20					
NJ	1	28					
PA	2	3	1				
DE	7	2	1				
MD	20	33*	50				
PRFC		3	8				
DC	_	2	_				
VA	9	2	17				
NC							
TOTAL	84	5254	122				



- Option 1: least supported
- Option 2: most supported
- Option 3: 2nd most supported
 - There is already high accountability and monitoring for the commercial sector
 - An 18% reduction in quota will not help reduce total removals
 - The fishery and stock status is driven by recreational removals
 - To share the burden equally does not necessarily mean equal %.

	Primary Options					
	1	2	3			
Individual	26	516	27			
Organization	5	31	5			
Form Letter		4466				
Hearings						
ME	3	30				
NH		15				
MA	9	80	10			
RI		21				
СТ	2	35	3			
NY		20				
NJ	1	28				
PA	2	3	1			
DE	7	2	1			
MD	20	33*	50			
PRFC		3	8			
DC		2				
VA	9	2	17			
NC						
TOTAL	84	5254	122			



- Very few cases of consensus (if any) among sectors within a state, region, and at the coastwide level
- Higher minimum size limits (e.g., 35" min)
 - Worked to rebuild the fishery before; will likely reduce effort and do more to rebuild the stock
 - Slot limits put too much pressure on one year class and impacts on the future population is unclear
- Slot size limits (e.g., 28"-35" slot)
 - Protect large females; small fish have chance to spawn
 - A higher minimum size would put for-hire party/charter boats out of business



	Primary Ontions			Primary Options Sub-options for Option 2							
		or y Opti	0113		Oc	ean			Chesapo	eake Bay	
				2-A1	2-A2	2-A3	2-A4	2-B1	2-B2	2-B3	2-B4
	1	2	3	1 fish @	1 fish @	1 fish @	1 fish @	1 fish @	2 fish @	2 fish @	2 fish @
				35" min	28"-35"	30"-38"	32"-40"	18" min	22" min	18"-23"	20"-24"
Individual	26	516	27	234	47	5	26	150		15	15
Organization	5	31	5	14	9	3	2	8	4		1
Form Letter		4466		48				48			
Hearings											
ME	3	30		18	4	4	1	9			
NH		15		13	2			11	2		
MA	9	80	10	57	24		1	1			
RI		21		4			17	21			
СТ	2	35	3	22	9	1	3	4			
NY		20		17	2			8			
NJ	1	28		14	8		1	4			
PA	2	3	1	1		2					
DE	7	2	1	1							
MD	20	33*	50								
PRFC		3	8		1			2			
DC		2		2				2			
VA	9	2	17		1				1		
NC											
TOTAL	84	5254	122	445	107	15	51	268	7	15	16



	Drim	nary Opti	ons					Sub-ptions	for Cotion 3		土		
	'''	———	10113		Oce	ean				Chesape	eake By		
				3-A1	3-A2	3-A3	3-A4	3-B1	3-B2	3-B3	3-B4	3-B5	3-B6
	1	2	3	1 fish @	1 fish @	2 fish @	2 fish @	2 fish @	2 fish @				
				36" min	28"-34"	30"-37"	32"-40"	current min	18" min	23" min	18"-22"	20"-23"	22"-40"
Individual	26	516	27	5	10		2	4	1		2	2	1
Organization	5	31	5	1				1	<u> </u>				
Form Letter		4466											
Hearings													
ME	3	30											
NH		15							 				
MA	9	80	10						1				
RI		21											
СТ	2	35	3	2	1								
NY		20											
NJ	1	28											
PA	2	3	1		1			1					
DE	7	2	1	1					1				
MD	20	33*	50										
PRFC		3	8						1		1		
DC		2											
VA	9	2	17		1				 		1		
NC													
TOTAL	84	5254	122	9	13	0	2	6	4	0	4	2	1



- Option A: status quo
 - Least supported
 - Circle hooks were selected arbitrarily among other gears
 - The benefits of circle hooks is not quantifiable
 - Mandating the use of circle hooks is an overreach of authority and is not enforceable.

Issue 2: Circle Hook Provision									
ISS									
	Option A	Option B	Option C						
Individual	8	336	10						
Organization	2	21	8						
Form Letter		4466							
Hearings									
ME		15							
NH	1	16	2						
MA	6	45	5						
RI		4	17						
CT		17							
NY	4	14	6						
NJ	2	6							
PA		4	1						
DE	1	2							
MD	Suppor	t Use of Circle	e Hooks						
PRFC		2							
DC		2							
VA		20							
NC									
TOTAL	24	4970	49						





- Option B: mandatory use when fishing with bait
 - Most supported
 - Little doubt that circle hooks save fish and that's what is needed now
 - Law abiding anglers will make the switch if they are required.
 - Some states already require the use of circle hooks
 - The requirement should be phased in to allow tackle shops time to go through inventory.

Issue 2: Circle Hook Provision							
	Option A	Option B	Option C				
Individual	8	336	10				
Organization	2	21	8				
Form Letter		4466					
Hearings							
ME		15					
NH	1	16	2				
MA	6	45	5				
RI		4	17				
СТ		17					
NY	4	14	6				
NJ	2	6					
PA		4	1				
DE	1	2					
MD	Suppor	t Use of Circle	e Hooks				
PRFC		2					
DC		2					
VA		20					
NC							
TOTAL	24	4970	49				





- Option C: education and outreach required
 - Challenges with enforceability that have to be considered.
 - Recognize the benefits of circle hooks, but efforts should focus on education rather than enforcement
 - Angler education may be the first step towards stricter compliance requirements down the road

Issue 2: Circle Hook Provision							
	Option A	Option B	Option C				
Individual	8	336	10				
Organization	2	21	8				
Form Letter		4466					
Hearings							
ME		15					
NH	1	16	2				
MA	6	45	5				
RI		4	17				
СТ		17					
NY	4	14	6				
NJ	2	6					
PA		4	1				
DE	1	2					
MD	Suppor	t Use of Circle	e Hooks				
PRFC		2					
DC		2					
VA		20					
NC							
TOTAL	24	4970	49				



Additional Comments



- Commenters support conservation equivalency when used appropriately, however, a lot of negative comment also
- Poor Data; little confidence in MRIP and the 2018 benchmark stock assessment results
- Strong support for **angler education** on size limits, the use of circle hooks, and how to properly release fish
- Restrictions to Protect 'Trophy Fish'
- Law Enforcement; concerns of poaching, weak penalties for violations, and the need for more law enforcement officers
- Gear Restrictions; other restrictions on hook types and fishing methods to address release mortality, like eliminating treble hooks, gaffing, and trolling, or exploring the use of barbless hooks.



Advisory Panel Report Draft Addendum VI



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board October 30, 2019



- The AP met on October 16 near Baltimore, MD
- Attendees:
 - Louis Bassano (Chair, NJ recreational)
 - Dave Pecci (ME recreational)
 - Kyle Douton (CT recreational)
 - Arnold Leo (NY commercial)
 - Al Ristori (NJ recreational)
 - John Pedrick (PA recreational)
 - Leonard Voss JR. (DE commercial)
 - David Sikorski (MD recreational)
 - Bill Hall (VA recreational)
 - Kelly Place (VA commercial)





3.1 Proposed Management Scenarios

- No comment in support of Option 1 (status quo)
- The AP did not reach consensus in support of either Option 2 or Option 3
- the AP doesn't support one recreational suboption strongly over the others because there is little agreement among anglers within states





- In favor of Option 3 (different % reductions)
 - Commercial representatives
 - Strict quota monitoring, enforcement, and accountability (pound for pound payback)
 - An 18% reduction in commercial quota will cause significant hardship to individual fishermen
 - When the commercial sector takes a cut in quota, harvest comes down to that level until managers adjust the quota. When the recreational sector takes reductions, harvest still bounces back to prior levels without management action
 - The recreational sector wouldn't be expected to take cuts for overages from the commercial sector.



- In favor of Option 2 (equal % reduction)
 - Charter and recreational representatives
 - FMP doesn't distinguish commercial versus recreational F
 - 18% reduction from the rec fishery is much bigger volume of fish and is an equitable approach
 - Different percent reductions is a question of allocation
 - the AP doesn't support one recreational suboption strongly over the others because there is little agreement among anglers within states



- Some support for Option 2-A1 (1 fish @ 35");
 Others favored 2-A3 (1 fish @ 30"-38" slot)
- CBay reps did not comment on the suboptions; support the states direction to purse CE for the Bay
 - AP supports the use of conservation equivalency when used appropriately.
 - Representatives support regional consistency, especially from a forhire/multispecies context.





3.2 Circle Hook Provision

- AP supports Option B
 - recognizes the benefits of circle hooks to reduce hooking mortality
 - Many anglers already use circle hooks and many more will switch over if it becomes law.

Recommendations:

- States should collaborate when drafting language.
- States should focus on the education component and enforcement if circle hooks are required

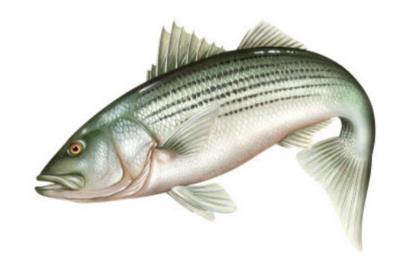


General Comments

- The Board should focus on the overall goal to reduce F by reducing total removals
- Need to have better accounting for commercial discards
- Need more discussion on season closures to achieve the reductions
- Board should consider other hook types to address discard mortality, not just circle hooks
- Constant reductions are difficult for business planning.
- Virginia took steps this year to reduce mortality in its striped bass fisheries



Law Enforcement Committee Report Draft Addendum VI



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board October 30, 2019



Technical Committee Criteria for Conservation Equivalency with Addendum VI



Striped Bass Management Board October 30, 2019

Management Program Equivalency



- Conservation equivalency (CE) allows states to develop alternative measures to address specific state or regional differences while still achieving the same level of conservation for the resource
 - Several states currently implement CE programs
 - Draft Addendum VI maintains this flexibility
 - All CE proposals are subject to technical review and Board approval





- When does a state need to submit a CE proposal?
 - —If deviating from the Board selected sub-option, states must submit a state-specific analysis using state-specific data demonstrating the proposal meets the required reduction relative to 2017 levels





 <u>Data source</u>: Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)

Data years:

- -2016-2017 for all size-related analyses
- 2015-2018 data for seasonal and modebased analyses
- Alternative data sources and years may be used, however, the state must justify its use and its applicability to the analysis conducted



Analyses:

- Follow the standard procedures for size and bag limit analyses
- All other analyses to be reviewed on a caseby-case basis
- Confidence intervals (Cl's) may be considered by the TC





- Non-compliance: Assume the same level of non-compliance that occurred in 'data years' will occur in 2020
- Post release mortality: Use 9% as the default, states may use alternative estimates if supported by the scientific literature
- Closed Seasons: Using closed seasons to achieve the required reductions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis



CE – Commercial Measures



 Draft Add. VI accounts for previously implemented commercial CE proposals, therefore states do not need to re-submit if maintaining current comm. size limits



Conservation Equivalency



 States may allocate the total required reduction differently between regions (e.g., ocean and inshore waters) and sectors (commercial and recreational) as long as the total, state-wide reduction is at least equal to the total required reduction

