



2018 Regional Proposals for Recreational Black Sea Bass Management for Board Review

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Presentation Outline



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Background



- Board approved Addendum XXX in February 2018
- Established regional allocation of the coastwide Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL)
- Regions required to implement regulatory standard measures with conservation equivalency allowed
 - State measures may differ by 1” in size and 3 fish in possession limit, with no restriction on season length

Background



- Allocation based on exploitable biomass and historical harvest, with Board modification

REGION	% OF RHL	2018 ALLOCATION (LBS)
Northern Region (MA-NY)	61.35%	2,246,562
New Jersey	30.24%	1,107,352
Southern Region (DE-NC)	8.41%	307,964



**Regional Proposals for 2018
Recreational Black Sea Bass
&
Technical Committee Report**

Southern Region Proposal



- DE-NC propose to follow the federal waters measures for 2018: **15 fish possession limit, 12.5" minimum size, and season from May 15 until December 31**
- The regional allocation is 307,964 pounds
- Proposed regulations produce an estimated harvest of 282,802 pounds.
- Proposed regulations result in 11.9 % liberalization from 2017 harvest

Southern Region Proposal



- February 2018 harvest estimate for VA and NC is less than the region's forgone harvest (5,558 lbs). NC and VA propose no further reduction needed to account for February harvest.

Technical Committee Review:

- The TC had no concerns with the technical merits of the Southern region proposal and recommended Board approval.

New Jersey Proposal



- Several options are proposed that satisfy the requirements of Addendum XXX and achieve NJ's harvest allocation of 1,107,352 pounds, or 738,323 fish.
- 2017 harvest estimate of 503,176 fish, with smoothed wave 3 estimate of 164,043 fish.
- 46% liberalization from smoothed 2017 harvest to 2018 allocation

New Jersey Proposal



		Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	
1	Bag	10	2	15	15	Results
	Size	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	732,915 fish
	Days	22	62	31	61	% 2018 Target 99.3%
2	Bag	10	2	10	10	Results
	Size	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	735,750 fish
	Days	27	62	31	61	2018 Target 99.7%
3	Bag	8	2	8	8	Results
	Size	13	13	13	13	737,440 fish
	Days	35	62	45	61	% 2018 Target 99.9%

New Jersey Proposal



Technical Committee Review:

- The TC requested revisions to the proposal on the smoothed wave 3 estimate and the bag limit analysis.
- NJ revised the proposal, and the TC found no issues with the revisions and recommended Board approval

Northern Region Proposal



- Proposal aims to achieve the regional allocation of 2,245,410 pounds, or 989,134 fish.
- Regional allocation ~12% reduction in harvest for the region from 2017
- Regulatory standard: **4 fish possession limit, 15” minimum size limit, season including 16 days in wave 3, 62 days in wave 2, 41 days in wave 5**
- Measures projected to achieve a regional harvest of 985,857 fish (99.7% of allocation)

Northern Region Proposal



- Alternative state measures and harvest targets to redistribute *de facto* state shares

WAVE		3	4	5	6	TOTAL DAYS	2017 HARVEST (# FISH)	PROJECTED HARVEST (# FISH)	REDUCTION
MA	Days	43	62	8	0	113	222,079	232,311	4.6%
	Creel	4	4	4	4				
RI	Days	0	60	61	61	182	182,392	178,614	-2.1%
CT		0	60	61	61	182	374,434	267,724	-28.5%
NY		0	60	61	61	182	341,469	321,728	-5.8%
	Creel	3	3	5	5			1,000,377	101.1%

Northern Region Proposal



Technical Committee Review:

- The TC had no concerns with the technical merits of this proposal and recommended Board approval. The TC agreed the slight overage of the Northern Region's allocation is not a concern due to the available unused portion of the Southern Region's allocation.

Conservation Equivalency Proposals



- Connecticut proposed two additional options using conservation equivalency from the Northern Region's proposal.
- The TC had no concerns with the technical analysis and calculations, but could not come to consensus on whether to recommend a size limit increase.

OPTION	MINIMUM SIZE	SEASON 1	BAG 1	SEASON 2*	BAG 2	PROJECTED HARVEST
OPTION 1	15"	5/19 – 7/17	3	8/7 – 12/31	5	266,055
OPTION 2	15.5"	5/19 – 7/14	3	8/1 – 12/31	5	267,296

Conservation Equivalency Proposals



- New York may explore conservationally equivalent measures (including modified season days and possession limits) to better suit its fishery
- New York will follow the methodology provided to the Technical Committee in the northern region's spreadsheet
- No Board action is needed on CE proposals



2018 Management Summary

- Regional proposals result in a total coastwide harvest of 3,665,376 lbs, 100.1% of 2018 RHL

	Projected 2018 Harvest (lbs)	% Regional Allocation	% RHL
MA	527,346	23.5%	14.4%
RI	405,454	18.0%	11.1%
CT	607,733	27.1%	16.6%
NY	730,323	32.5%	19.9%
NJ	1,106,160	99.9%	30.2%
DE-NC	282,802	91.8%	7.7%
VA+NC February	5,558	1.8%	0.2%
Total	3,665,376		100.1%

Next Steps



- Consider Regional Proposals for Final Approval
 - Consider approval of proposed methodology and regulatory standards
 - States within a region may still use conservation equivalency to make adjustment to measures based on individual fishery interests
- States submit final CE proposals to ASMFC
- Staff submit final state recreational black sea bass measures to GARFO



Questions?