



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2016

To: Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board
From: Law Enforcement Committee
RE: Comments on Draft Addendum XXVII Regional Management Options

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met via conference call on January 7, 2016 to review and provide comments on regional management options for summer flounder and black sea bass included in Draft Addendum XXVII. The following members were in attendance:

LEC: Capt. Steve Anthony (NC); Deputy Chief Kurt Blanchard (RI); Deputy Chief Jon Cornish (ME); Deputy Director Chisolm Frampton (SC); Asst. Director Larry Furlong (PA); Special Agent-in-Charge Honora Gordon (USFWS); Capt. Jamie Green (VA); Asst. Chief Wayne Hettenbach (USDOJ); Capt. Rob Kersey (MD); Capt. Bob Lynn (GA); Capt. Doug Messeck (DE); Maj. Pat Moran (MA); Director Kyle Overturf (CT); Lt. Colby Schlaht (USCG); Lt. Jason Snellbaker (NJ); Capt. Rama Shuster (FL)

LEC ALTERNATES: Jeff Ray (NOAA OLE); Tom Gadomski (NY)

OTHER ATTENDEES: Col. Jim Kelley (NC); Maj. Dean Nelson (NC); Chief Dean Hoxsie (RI); Todd Mathes (NCDEQ); Jason Rock (NCDEQ)

STAFF: Mark Robson; Mike Waine; Megan Ware

Summer flounder, scup and black sea bass Addendum XXVII is being considered for the 2016 fishing year. The addendum would implement recreational fishing regulations that focus on regional management scenarios. The LEC reviewed proposed changes to regulations affecting summer flounder and black sea bass.

For both species the LEC recommends that timeframes for measures be extended as long as possible. Maintaining regulations for longer timeframes than has occurred in the past is preferred and would lend stability to enforcement efforts. The LEC refers to the general enforcement precepts for "Stability" outlined in the ASMFC *Guidelines for Resource Managers on the Enforceability of Fishery Management Measures (2015)* in support of this recommendation.

Summer Flounder

A new option is proposed that would create two sets of regulations in the State of New Jersey. This proposal is intended to provide more consistent recreational size, bag and season limits in

Delaware Bay and surrounding states. However it would continue to result in two sets of regulations in New Jersey from south to north, and would create significant enforcement confusion in the Cape May region. The proposal would implement a different size limit in Delaware Bay from that of the rest of the state (Table 4, Draft Addendum XXVII). LEC members discussed the trade-offs in consistency that would result, and although there was not a consensus viewpoint on the specific proposal, the LEC continues to stress that broader consistency in regulations is fundamental for effective enforcement. These points were made previously in our memorandum to the management board, dated February 2, 2015. We refer back to that memorandum, and also to the general enforcement precepts outlined in the *ASMFC Guidelines for Resource Managers on the Enforceability of Fishery Management Measures (2015)*.

Black Sea Bass

The LEC supports continuation of the ad hoc regional measures for black sea bass adopted in previous years, with the strong recommendation to continue efforts to maximize regional consistency in regulations, especially among contiguous states and jurisdictional waters.

The LEC appreciates the opportunity to review and provide enforcement advice regarding this draft Addendum.