



Summer Flounder Amendment Update & FMAT Recommendations



Annapolis, MD
December 9, 2015

Amendment Purpose

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

Progress to Date

December
2013

- Amendment initiated

April 2014

- Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) formed

Sept./Oct.
2014

- Scoping hearings and comment period

December
2014

- Joint review of scoping comments
- ID issues to be addressed

April 2015

- Initial FMAT call

Fall 2015

- Goals and objectives project (Fisheries Forum)
- FMAT meeting 2 (webinar)

FMAT Call 11/16/15

- With Fisheries Forum: goals and objectives feedback and recommendations for workshop
- Recommendations for amendment next steps
 - Addressing recreational issues given changing MRIP effort estimation methodology
 - Formation of issue-specific working groups
- Described in memo in Tab 12

FMAT Recs.: Recreational Issues

- Changes to MRIP effort methodology will result in revised recreational time series
- Pilot study indicates new estimates may be several times higher than current estimates
- Major implications for addressing recreational issues in amendment

FMAT Recs.: Recreational Issues

- MRIP transition plan: side-by-side surveys 2015-2017
- Full use of new estimates no earlier than 2018
- Revised time series expected mid-2017
- Will also undergo National Research Council review

FMAT Recs.: Recreational Issues

- FMAT recommends splitting recreational issues into a separate action
- Pursue recreational strategies and recreational/commercial allocation issues on a later timeline
- Leaves: commercial issues and strategies, goals and objectives

FMAT Recs.: Working Groups

- “Issue-specific working groups” envisioned to spread out workload of alternatives development, document writing, analysis
- Splitting recreational issues would simplify working group formation
 - Working groups could include one or more specific to commercial issues

FMAT Recs.: Working Groups

- FMAT recommends working groups consist of technical experts actively participating in document development and analysis
- Specifically: members of the FMAT and Technical Committee, potentially additional agency or academic representatives
- Essentially sub-FMATs

FMAT Recs.: Working Groups

- Council and Board involvement through Committee and Board meetings
 - Could add webinar meetings for more frequent updates and guidance
- Advisory Panel input through regular AP meetings throughout process
 - Encourage FMAT and working group participation and dialogue

Next Steps

- Feedback on FMAT recommendations?
- Revisions to timeline and purpose, if range of issues modified
- Formation of working groups
- Begin development of draft alternatives

Current Planned Timeline

Fall 2015

- Fisheries Forum project and FMAT meeting on goals and objectives

December
2015

- Joint goals and objectives workshop

Winter/
Spring 2016

- Identify working groups
- FMAT/working groups begin development of range of alternatives with input from Council/Board, APs

Late 2016/
Early 2017

- Range of options refined and approved; analysis and DEIS development begins

Winter/
Spring 2017

- Selection of preferred alternatives; public hearings

Fall 2017

- Consideration of public comments; final action