

Black Sea Bass



2016 Recreational Measures

December 9, 2015

Annapolis, MD

Rec. Measures Process

August 12

Council/Board meeting (RHL)

October

Revised RHL

Oct. 27-28

Rec Data Workshop (Monitoring Committee)

November 9-10

Monitoring Committee meeting

November 17

Advisory Panel webinar

December 9

Council/Board

Today's Objective



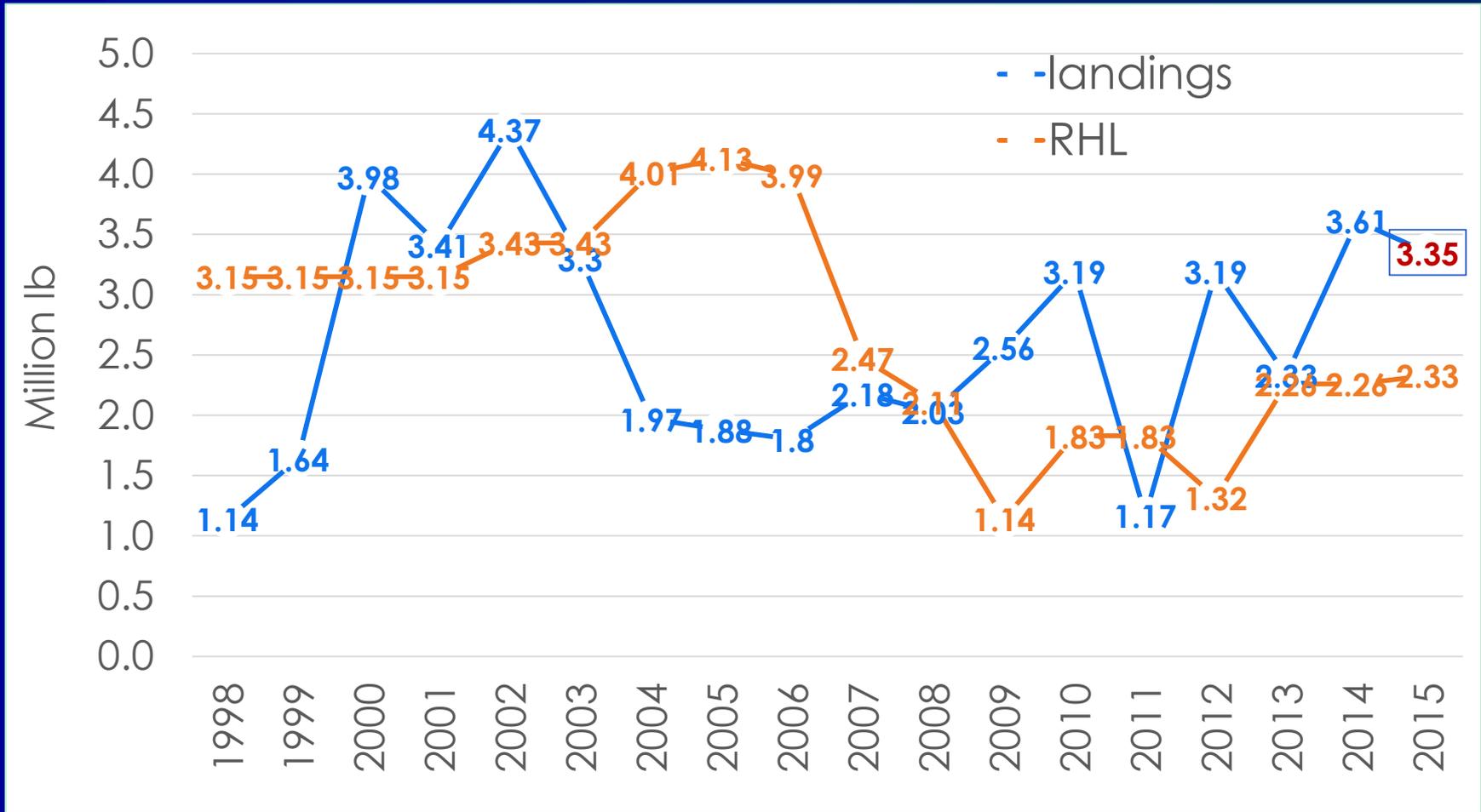
- Recommend 2016 recreational measures that will constrain landings to 2.82 million lb RHL
- Board action:
 - approve black sea bass portions of Addendum XXVII
- Joint action:
 - Federal/southern states measures (if ad hoc regional management in state waters)
 - “Backup” measures if recommending reduction be taken through state measures

2014 Fishery Performance



2014 RHL	2.26 mil lb
2014 Landings	3.61 mil lb
% Over/Under	+60%

Harvest Limits and Landings



(2015 landings are projected)

2015 Federal Measures



- 12.5-inch TL minimum size
- 15 fish possession limit
- May 15-September 21* and October 22-December 31

***Note:** Staff memo incorrectly lists end of 1st season as Sept. 18 (error in 6/19 FR notice)

2015 State Measures



- Since 2011: Commission has developed addenda to allow state-specific measures in state waters (ad hoc regional management)

2015 State Measures (N)



State	Min. Size (in.)	Poss. Limit	Open Season
ME	13	10 fish	May 19 - September 18
NH	13	10 fish	January 1 - December 31
MA	14	8 fish	May 23 - August 27
RI	14	1 fish	July 2 - August 31
		7 fish	September 1 - December 31
CT	14	3 fish	June 1 - August 31
		5 fish	September 1 - December 31
CT authorized party/charter	14	8 fish	June 21 - December 31
NY	14	8 fish	July 15 - October 31
		10 fish	November 1 - December 31
NJ	12.5	2 fish	July 1 - July 31
		15 fish	May 27 - June 30; October 22 - December 31

2015 State Measures (S)



State	Min. Size (in.)	Poss. Limit	Open Season
DE	12.5	15 fish	May 15 - September 21 and October 22 - December 31
MD	12.5	15 fish	May 15 - September 21 and October 22 - December 31
PRFC	12.5	15 fish	May 15 - September 21 and October 22 - December 31
VA	12.5	15 fish	May 15 - September 21 and October 22 - December 31
NC (north of Cape Hatteras)	12.5	15 fish	May 15 - September 21 and October 22 - December 31

2015 Projections



2015 RHL	2.33 mil lb
2015 Landings through wave 4	2.49 mil lb
2015 Proj. Landings*	3.35 mil lb*
2016 RHL	2.82 mil lb
2016 Coastwide reduction	15.8%

*Projected using % landings by wave in 2014; adjustments for MA, CT, NJ, and VA. Projections and reduction revised 11/9/15 based on Monitoring Ctte. Recs.

Accountability Measures



- Per Council's AMs, must account for BSB rec. overages

	2012	2013	2014	3-year average
Rec ACL (mil lb)	2.52	2.90	2.90	2.77
Total rec. catch (mil lb)	4.04	3.13	4.30	3.82
<i>Landings</i>	3.18	2.45	3.60	3.08
<i>Discards</i>	0.85	0.68	0.69	0.74
Overage %	60.2%	8.1%	48.3%	37.9%
Overage (mil lb)	1.52	0.23	1.40	1.05

Accountability Measures



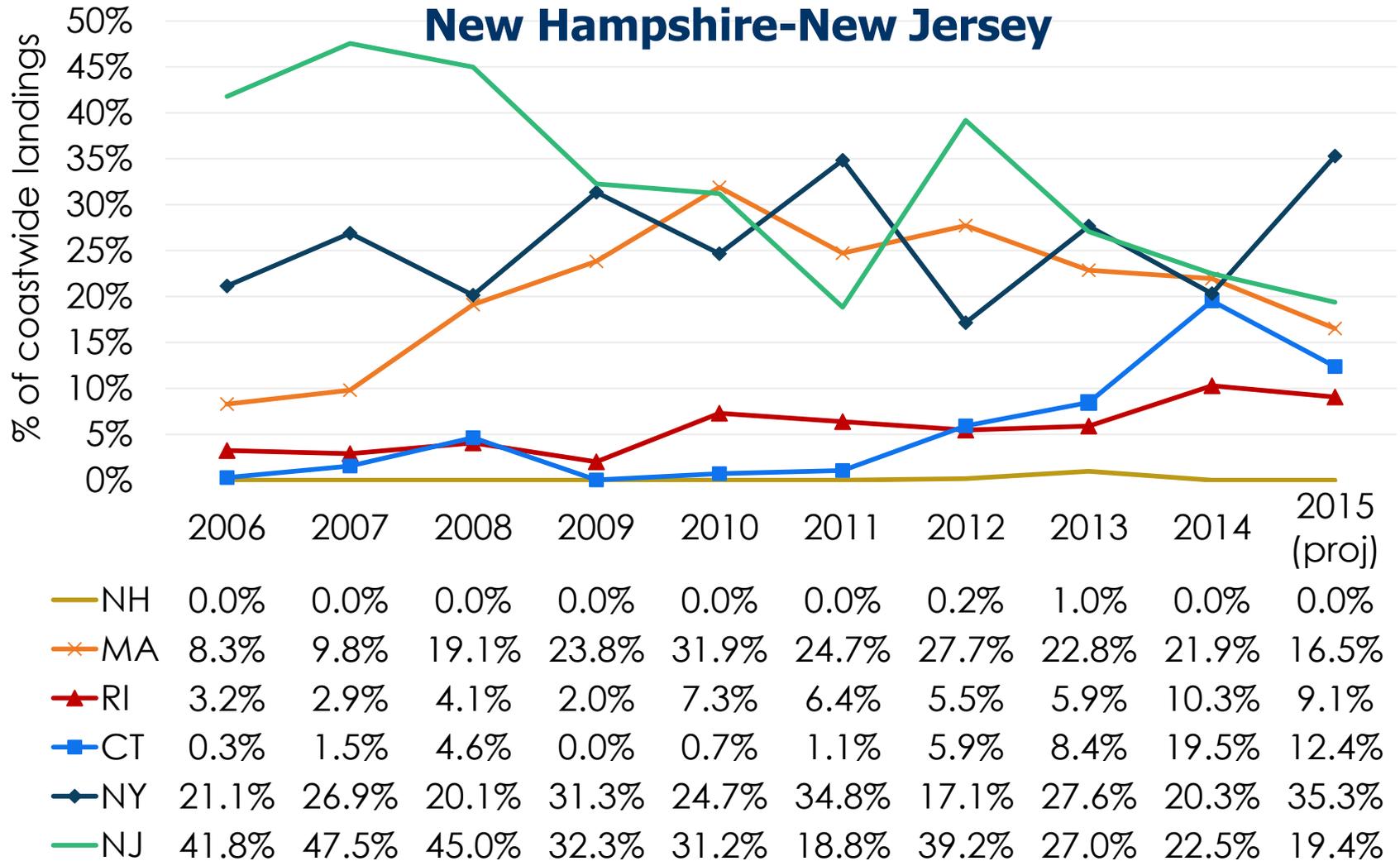
- Because biomass is above target → adjustments to bag, size, and season as AM
- Take into account performance of past measures and conditions that precipitated the overage
- Monitoring/Technical Committees updating some data & methodology used to calculate adjustments

Staff Recommendation (Nov. 6 memo)

- At time of memo writing, coastwide reduction calculated was 19% (revised after Monitoring Committee meeting)
- Recommend reduction taken mostly in northern states where majority of harvest occurs (NJ-MA)
- Slight adjustment to federal/southern states measures

Staff Recommendation (Nov. 6 memo)

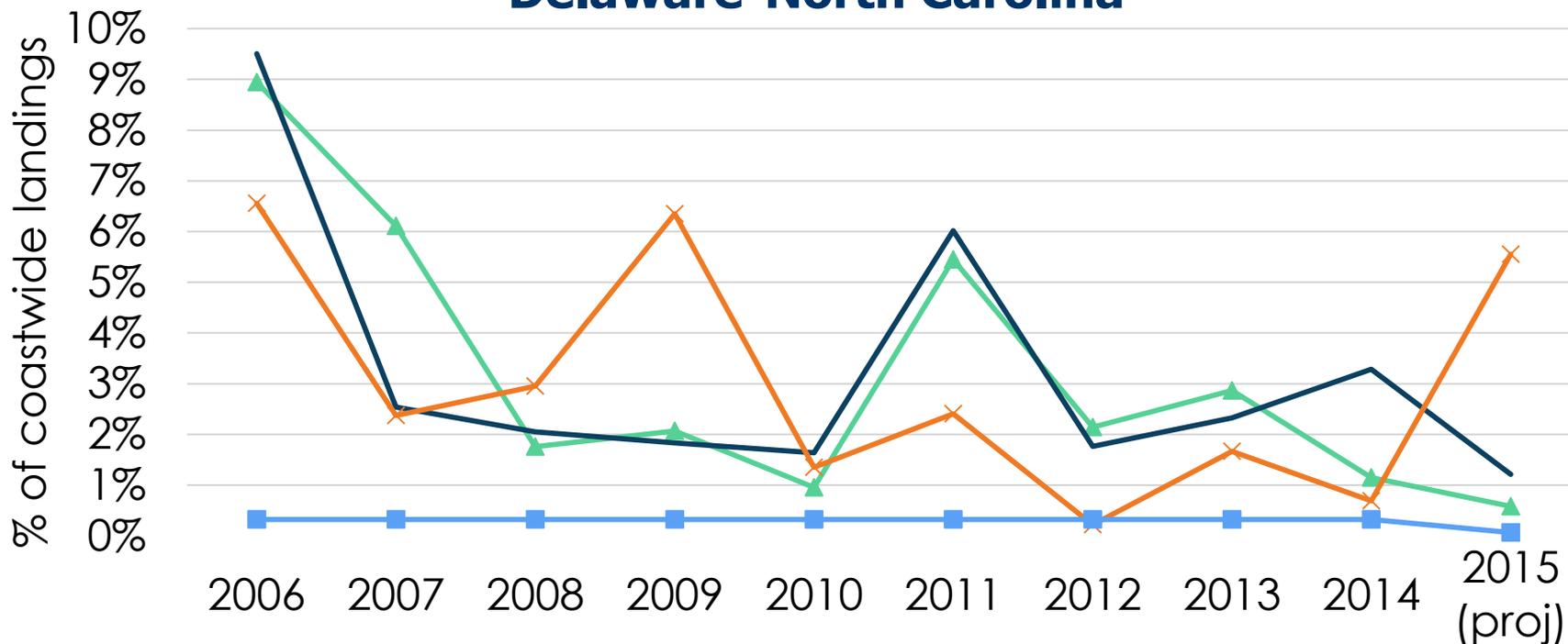
Landings by State



Staff Recommendation (Nov. 6 memo) Landings by State



Delaware-North Carolina



▲ DE	8.9%	6.1%	1.8%	2.1%	1.0%	5.5%	2.1%	2.9%	1.1%	0.6%
— MD	9.5%	2.5%	2.1%	1.8%	1.6%	6.0%	1.8%	2.3%	3.3%	1.2%
✕ VA	6.6%	2.4%	3.0%	6.3%	1.3%	2.4%	0.2%	1.7%	0.7%	5.6%
■ NC	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%

Note: reflects VA projected landings from 11/6 staff memo, prior to MC adjustment.

Staff Recommendation (Nov. 6 memo)

Landings by State



State	Avg. % of Coastwide Landings (in lb) 2013-2014	2015 projected landings (lb)	Proj. % of coastwide landings in 2015
NH	0.4%	0	0.0%
MA	28.5%	757,433	21.8%
RI	8.1%	359,350	10.3%
CT	13.6%	369,116	10.6%
NY	25.7%	1,079,436	31.0%
NY	19.2%	631,881	18.2%
DE	1.3%	13,870	0.4%
MD	2.0%	35,022	1.0%
VA	0.9%	231,961	6.7%
NC	0.2%	2,789	0.1%
Total	100.0%	3,480,857	100.0%

92% (bracketed group: MA, RI, CT, NY, NY)

8% (bracketed group: DE, MD, VA, NC)

Note: reflects VA projected landings from 11/6 staff memo, prior to MC adjustment.

Staff Recommendation (Nov. 6 memo)

- Northern states: 17.5% reduction
- Federal & southern states: 1.5% reduction
 - Use updated seasonal reduction table for southern states
 - Close 2 days in wave 5

Staff Recommendation (Nov. 6 memo)

- Federal & southern states measures
 - May 15-Sept. 17* and Oct. 23-Dec. 31
 - 12.5-inches TL
 - 15 fish

*Reflects error in staff memo stating season ended Sept. 18 (vs. Sept. 21). Intended recommendation was 1 day reduction in September and 1 day in October.

Monitoring Committee Recs.



- Landings projection for Virginia is unrealistically high if using only 2014 proportions by wave
 - Revised Virginia projections using average of 2010-2014 proportions by wave
 - Resulting 2015 coastwide projected landings = **3.35 mil lb** (from 3.48 mil lb)
 - Coastwide reduction revised from 19% to **15.8%**

Monitoring Committee Recs.



- Very high availability in northern states is resulting in overages despite very restrictive measures
 - 2011 year class contributing significantly
- For several years, catch limits have not reflected abundance
- SSC's new catch limit methodology is a positive step

Monitoring Committee Recs.



- Recommends continuing with “ad-hoc regional” approach
- Encourages development of more consistent regulations between states
- Disagrees with staff recommendation to split reduction between northern states and federal waters/southern states
 - In addition, calculated incorrectly: any split reduction would need to be recalculated

Monitoring Committee Recs.



- Reduction in southern states would have minimal impact
- Harvest from southern states remains low; overages being driven by high landings in northern states
- Recommends reduction be taken in northern states (NJ through MA)
 - 16.6% reduction in northern states to reach 15.8% coastwide reduction

Monitoring Committee Recs.



- Recommends *status quo* federal and southern states measures
- Recommends re-evaluating reduction once wave 5 data is available
- If W5 landings from south are much higher than projected, reconsider *status quo* measures in southern states

Monitoring Committee Recs.



- Because reductions would be taken through Commission/state process...
 - A “backup” set of measures is needed to ensure reduction is taken somewhere
 - These measures would NOT be implemented, unless the Commission process does not address necessary reduction
 - 14-inch min size, 3 fish, July 15-Sept. 15 coastwide

Monitoring Committee Recs.



- Federal guidelines state that system of ACLs and AMs should be re-evaluated if ACL is regularly exceeded
- Monitoring Committee recommends pursuing an amendment for recreational management, to simplify and clarify process and reconcile inconsistencies in Council/Commission plans

Advisory Panel Comments



- Advisors agreed that harvest limits are too low relative to apparent biomass
- Many comments that MRIP estimates are very inaccurate
 - Examples given of specific estimates by wave, state, and mode
 - Sector separation suggested by some

Advisory Panel Comments



- Advisors from New Jersey noted that their fishery is very different from other northern states
 - Do not feel that NJ should be grouped with the “northern states”
- Advisors from several states frustrated that the fishery is closed during height of their season

Advisory Panel Comments



- General agreement that measures should remain *status quo* until the new assessment is completed

Decision Points



- Board action:

- Approve black sea bass portions of Addendum XXVII

- Joint action:

- Federal/southern states measures
- Backup measures if reduction is to be taken through Commission process

Black Sea Bass Amendment?



- October Council Executive Committee meeting: prioritize black sea bass amendment in 2016
- Further discussion needed to initiate and identify potential issues for inclusion
- See Nov. 25 memo in Tab 14

Black Sea Bass Amendment?



- Reconcile Council/Commission plan inconsistencies or areas of conflict
- Potential issues:
 - Commercial quota management (state-by-state vs. coastwide, impact of AMs and overages)
 - Recreational regional management