



Summer Flounder Amendment Update



Baltimore, MD

December 14, 2016

Discussion Objectives



- Progress update
- Consider updated timeline options and timing of priority issues to address
 - Timeline modified since last meeting- more realistic given scope of action

Summer Flounder Amendment Goals

- 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

Timeline to Date (Abbreviated)

Dec. 2013	Amendment initiated
Fall 2014	Scoping hearings and public comment period
Dec. 2014	Council and Commission identify priority issues
Fall 2015	Fisheries Forum project on FMP goals and objectives
Dec. 2015	Goals and Objectives Workshop (with Fisheries Forum)
Spring-Fall 2016	Issue-specific working groups established; FMAT meetings; issue-specific tasks lists developed
June 2016	Advisory Panel feedback sought on list of issues
Fall 2016	Staff/FMAT/Working groups begin document development and initial analyses

Amendment Issues



1. FMP Goals and Objectives
2. Commercial/Recreational Allocation
3. Recreational Measures and Strategies
 - e.g., conservation equivalency, recreational allocation, recreational sector separation, gear requirements, data collection
4. Commercial Measures and Strategies
 - e.g., commercial allocation, landings flexibility, permits & latent effort, bycatch/discards, data collection, impacts of NEFMC AMs

1. FMP Goals and Objectives



- December 2015 Goals and Objectives Workshop with Fisheries Forum
 - FMAT has considered this input and begun revising draft goals and objectives

- Next Steps
 - FMAT will revise draft goals and objectives for approval by Council/Board in public hearing document
 - Likely packaged with other range of alternative decisions

2. Commercial/ Recreational Allocation

- Consider revisions to 60% commercial/40% recreational landings allocation
- Major timing issues impacting development of alternatives:
 - MRIP effort methodology changes and anticipated revised recreational time series
 - Finalization and update of allocation model (as presented yesterday)

2. Commercial/ Recreational Allocation

- MRIP Changes:
 - Shift from Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) to mail-based Fishing Effort Survey (FES)
 - Running side-by-side 2015-2017; re-estimation of time series in mid/late 2017
 - Preliminary 2015 results: shore and private/rental estimates overall 4.7 times higher under FES
 - 6.2X higher for shore
 - 3.3X higher for private/rental

2. Commercial/ Recreational Allocation

- Allocation model:
 - Can incorporate revised MRIP time series once available (mid/late 2017?)
 - Additional work would be needed by model developers to incorporate new data and update model results

2. Commercial/ Recreational Allocation

- Due to these timing issues: FMAT plans to wait until new estimates are available before developing alternatives and analyses for this issue

3. Recreational Issues

Sub-Issues in Document:

- a) Rec. process, conservation equivalency framework, recreational allocations
- b) For-hire sector separation and/or shore mode strategies
- c) Alternative recreational measures
- d) Recreational gear restrictions or recommendations
- e) Recreational data collection

3. Recreational Issues

- FMAT has discussed uncertainty surrounding MRIP estimates and recommended to Council/Board delay of recreational analysis and alternatives

3. Recreational Issues

- Some recreational issues could be pursued sooner
 - But, if keeping all issues or all rec. issues together, overall timeline would still be several years

3. Recreational Issues

- Issues impacted by MRIP changes:
 - Recreational allocation
 - Sector separation and/or for-hire and shore mode strategies
- (Both fairly work-intensive issues)

3. Recreational Issues

- Issues that could possibly be addressed sooner:
 - Some process issues not tied to allocation
 - Alternative management strategies
 - Recreational gear restrictions
 - Recreational data collection (depending on direction)

4. Commercial Issues

Sub-Issues Listed in Document:

- a) Commercial allocation strategies
- b) Permit capacity/latent effort
- c) Landings flexibility and safe harbor provisions
- d) Discard/bycatch reduction strategies
- e) Commercial data collection
- f) Accountability Measures for NEFMC ACLs

4. Commercial Issues

- Staff/FMAT developed initial tasks list for commercial issues
- Council and Commission staff have begun document prep, background, and data compilation
- Plan to convene working group/FMAT in early 2017, develop draft alternatives

Timeline Options

- Previous timelines pushed due to other priorities
- Revisited timelines in light of recent Council staff discussions about timelines and necessary steps for major actions

Timeline Options

- Memo describes several options for “modular approach,” with potential timelines depending on which issues are bundled
 1. Goals and Objectives only
 2. G&O + Commercial Issues
 3. All Issues

1. Goals and Objectives ONLY

Assumes current joint meeting schedule (February, August, and December 2017)

January 2017	FMAT refines draft alternatives for goals and objectives
February 2017	Council and Board approve draft alternatives and public hearing document for Goals and Objectives action
March-July 2017	Public hearings and summarization of comments; preparation of documents for final action
August 2017	Final action on revisions to Goals and Objectives
September-October 2017	Staff finalizes and submits package/NEPA analysis
Late 2017/ Early 2018	Final rule effective

2. G/O + Commercial Issues

■ Assumes:

- All or most proposed issues are addressed
- EIS is needed for NEPA analysis
- Minimal or no work completed on recreational issues and commercial/recreational allocation
- Council/Board meetings, likely with additional webinar (or in person) meetings

2. G/O + Commercial Issues

Jan.-July 2017	Draft commercial/G&O range of alternatives and initial analyses/background developed; staff begins Draft EIS; interim Committee/Board/AP meetings where necessary
Aug. 2017	Council and Board approve range of alternatives
Sept. 2017	Analyses refined; public hearing document developed; continued work on Draft EIS
Sept.-Nov. 2017	Draft EIS submitted to NMFS for preliminary review
Dec. 2017	Council and Board approve public hearing document and Draft EIS (Council must approve Draft EIS prior to public hearings)
Jan.- Apr. 2018	DEIS final submission; Notice of public hearings; Public hearings and summarization of comments; 60-day NEPA/MSA comment periods
May-June 2018	Council/Board consider public comments; Staff prepare documents for final action
Jul.-Aug. 2018	Final action
Sept.-Nov. 2018	Final Environmental Impact Statement finalized and submitted; NMFS and other agencies review; final edits completed
~Nov. 2018- May 2019	Rulemaking and comment periods (4-7 months from after EIS finalized)
~Spring 2019	Final rule effective

3. All Issues

■ Assumes:

- All or most proposed issues are addressed
- EIS is needed for NEPA analysis
- Revised MRIP estimates become available as scheduled (late 2017)
- Bulk of work on commercial issues is completed in 2017; bulk of recreational issues in 2018
- Current schedule for joint meetings, likely with additional webinar and in person meetings

3. All Issues

January-July 2017	Commercial working group and FMAT develop draft commercial range of alternatives and initial analyses/background for Council and Board consideration; FMAT refines draft alternatives for goals and objectives; staff begins Draft EIS; interim Committee/Board/AP meetings where necessary
August 2017	Council and Board review progress on commercial issues and goals and objectives
Fall 2017	Recreational working group begins developing draft recreational range of alternatives and initial analyses/background; Commercial working group and FMAT continue to refine commercial analyses
Late 2017	Revised MRIP time series become available for management use
January-July 2018	Recreational working group and FMAT continue to develop draft recreational range of alternatives and initial analyses/background based on revised MRIP information; commercial/recreational allocation model is updated with new MRIP time series
August 2018	Council and Board consider and approve range of alternatives for all issues
September 2018	Staff, FMAT and working groups refine analyses and develop public hearing document; continued work on Draft EIS
September-November 2018	Draft EIS submitted to NMFS for preliminary review
December 2018	Council and Board approve public hearing document and Draft EIS (Council must approve Draft EIS prior to public hearings)
January-April 2019	DEIS final submission; Notice of public hearings; Public hearings and summarization of comments; 60-day NEPA/MSA comment periods
May-June 2019	Council/Board consideration of public comments; Staff prepare documents for final action
July-August 2019	Final action
September-November 2019	Final Environmental Impact Statement finalized and submitted; NMFS and other agencies review; final edits completed
~November 2019-May 2020	Rulemaking and comment periods (4-7 months from after EIS finalized)
~Spring 2020	Final rule effective

For Discussion

- Feedback on timeline options and/or issues for inclusion
- Comfortable with timeline for inclusion of all issues, or preference for separate actions?
- No action needed unless Council/Board chooses to modify action scope or split action