Re-consideration of a 2018 Wave 1 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery

Riverhead, New York
October 11, 2017
Consideration to open Wave 1 fishery

- Feb 2017 – implementation through an EFP
- May 2017 – development of an LOA program
- June 2017 – specification setting
- Aug 2017 – considered but not approved
  - Open Sat & Sun only; Open entire wave
- Oct 2017 – reconsideration and decision
  - February 1 – 28, 2018; 15 fish possession; 12.5” minimum size
## Potential Wave 1 Harvest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Number of Vessels</th>
<th>Number of Trips / Vessel</th>
<th>Ave Number of Anglers / Trip</th>
<th>Avg. Harvest / Angler</th>
<th>Total Wave 1 For-Hire Harvest (lb)</th>
<th>Total Wave 1 Harvest (lb)</th>
<th>Total February Harvest (lb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>88,312</td>
<td>176,623</td>
<td>64,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>105,974</td>
<td>211,948</td>
<td>77,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>137,766</td>
<td>275,532</td>
<td>101,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>158,961</td>
<td>317,922</td>
<td>116,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>176,623</td>
<td>353,246</td>
<td>129,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>194,286</td>
<td>388,571</td>
<td>142,606</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Used for-hire sector estimates to scale total harvest
  - Evaluation of Wave 6 and Wave 2 catch as a proxy for Wave 1
  - Proportion of Wave 1 harvest in Feb and avg. Feb harvest/day

- Application of 2013 VTR data to potential 2018 fishery
- Higher sea bass availability and high angler interest
# Potential Wave 1 Harvest and Implications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Projected Harvest (lb)</th>
<th>Reduction to Rest of Rec Fishery</th>
<th>Season Implications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>64,821</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>Coastwide: 3 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Federal/Southern Region: 2 days in Wv 3 or 2 days in Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Specific: 1 day Wv 3 in MA; 1 day Wv 4 in NY; 1 day Wv 3 in NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coastwide: 4 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>77,785</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>Federal/Southern Region: 3 days in Wv 3 or 6 days in Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Specific: 1 day Wv 3 in MA; 2 days Wv 4 in NY; 1 day Wv 3 in NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coastwide: 5 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>101,120</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>Federal/Southern Region: 4 days in Wv 3 or 3 days in Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Specific: 2 days Wv 5 in MA; 2 days Wv 4 in NY; 2 days Wv 3 in NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coastwide: 5 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>116,677</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>Federal/Southern Region: 4 days in Wv 3 or 4 days in Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>State Specific: 2 days Wv 3 in MA; 2 days Wv 4 in NY; 2 days Wv 3 in NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coastwide: 6 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>129,641</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>Federal/Southern Region: 5 days in Wv 3 or 4 days in Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Specific: 2 days Wv 3 in MA; 3 days Wv 4 in NY; 2 days Wv 3 in NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coastwide: 7 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>142,606</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>Federal/Southern Region: 5 days in Wv 3 or 5 days in Wv 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Specific: 2 days Wv 3 in MA; 3 days Wv 4 in NY; 3 days Wv 3 in NJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preliminary 2017 Wave 3 Estimates & Projections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># of Fish</th>
<th>Weight (lb)</th>
<th># of Fish</th>
<th>Weight (lb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>162,143</td>
<td>400,846</td>
<td>158,771</td>
<td>431,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI</td>
<td>7,477</td>
<td>14,136</td>
<td>51,852</td>
<td>101,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>128,600</td>
<td>276,186</td>
<td>17,972</td>
<td>51,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,297</td>
<td>2,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>140,641</td>
<td>206,937</td>
<td>460,334</td>
<td>631,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>9,142</td>
<td>12,351</td>
<td>27,448</td>
<td>38,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>14,743</td>
<td>19,865</td>
<td>18,210</td>
<td>26,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>6,288</td>
<td>6,913</td>
<td>10,628</td>
<td>13,385</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>469,034</td>
<td>937,234</td>
<td>746,512</td>
<td>1,296,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 2017 Wave estimates are 59% higher in number and 38% higher in weight
- Projected harvest for the rest of 2017 is estimated to be between 5.55 to 5.71 mill lbs
- 2017 projections would be approx. 52% higher than 2018 RHL of 3.66 mill lbs
2018 Wave 1 Considerations Review

- Harvest analysis caveats
- Implications for rest of season
  - ~2% - 4% of 2018 RHL
- Preliminary 2017 harvest estimates & projections
  - May necessitate season reductions in 2018 that could range from 30-50 days
  - Wave 1 “allocation” in addition to any necessary reductions
- Data collection – catch, effort information

- 2018 Wave 1 option for consideration:
  - February 1 – 28 season, 15 fish possession, 12.5” minimum size
QUESTIONS?