Black Sea Bass
2018 Recreational Measures

Joint MAFMC & ASMFC Board Meeting
Annapolis, MD
December 13, 2017
Outline

1. Recreational Fishery Performance
2. Regulatory Review
3. Staff Recommendation
4. Monitoring Committee Recommendations
5. Advisory Panel February Webinar Comments
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2016 Performance &amp; 2017 Projections</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2016 RHL</strong></td>
<td>2.82 mil lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2016 Final Landings</strong></td>
<td>5.19 mil lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 RHL</strong></td>
<td>4.29 mil lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landings through wave 4</strong></td>
<td>2.61 mil lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 Proj. Landings</strong>*</td>
<td>3.79 mil lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018 RHL</strong></td>
<td>3.66 mil lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 Proj. to 2018 RHL</strong></td>
<td>+3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Projected using % landings by wave and state in 2016; no state adjustments given same management measures in place.
### 2017 Projections – by state

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2016 (Final)</th>
<th>2017 (Projected)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of Fish</td>
<td>Weight (lb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>392,239</td>
<td>891,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI</td>
<td>254,704</td>
<td>564,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>435,624</td>
<td>914,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>1,032,606</td>
<td>2,211,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>294,313</td>
<td>398,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>24,168</td>
<td>31,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>79,951</td>
<td>103,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>28,913</td>
<td>70,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>1,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,543,382</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,187,015</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accountability Measures

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>3-year average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rec ACL (mil lb)</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>3.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total rec. catch (mil lb)</td>
<td>4.69</td>
<td>4.93</td>
<td>6.40</td>
<td>5.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landings</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>3.79</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>4.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discards</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overage %</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overage (mil lb)</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>2.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accountability Measures

- BSB biomass is above target → adjustments to bag, size, and season as AM

- Monitoring Committee will need to take into account performance of past measures and conditions that precipitated the overage

- Staff & Monitoring Committee recommendation – AMs should not be implemented in 2018
  
  - Overages occurred when stock was rapidly expanding; availability was high
  
  - ACL’s implemented prior to new assessment; information indicates ACL in these years would have been significantly higher → likely no overages
2017 Federal Measures

- 12.5-inch TL minimum size
- 15 fish possession limit
- May 15-September 21 and October 22-December 31
2017 State Measures

- Since 2011: Commission has approved “ad hoc regional management” in state waters
  - Current addendum expires end of 2017
- Considering draft Addendum XXX
  - Allocation options to different state/regional alignments; more consistent measures
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Min. Size (in.)</th>
<th>Bag</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10 fish</td>
<td>May 19 - September 21; October 18-December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10 fish</td>
<td>January 1 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5 fish</td>
<td>May 21-August 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 fish</td>
<td>May 25-August 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7 fish</td>
<td>September 1-September 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 fish</td>
<td>October 22 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5 fish</td>
<td>May 1-December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT authorized party/charter</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8 fish</td>
<td>May 1-December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3 fish</td>
<td>June 27-August 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8 fish</td>
<td>September 1-October 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 fish</td>
<td>November 1-December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>2 fish</td>
<td>July 1-August 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 fish</td>
<td>October 22-December 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2017 State Measures (S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Min. Size (in.)</th>
<th>Poss. Limit</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 fish</td>
<td>May 15 - September 21 and October 22 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRFC</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>15 fish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC (north of Cape Hatteras)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Length Frequencies (N)

New Hampshire - New York

% of harvest

Length (inches)

2015 2016
Length Frequencies (S)

New Jersey - Virginia

% of harvest

Length (inches)

- 2015
- 2016
Staff Recommendation(s) & Considerations

- 2018 RHL – 3.66 mil lb; 2017 proj. landings – 3.79 mil lb
  - Results in 3.5% reduction needed to constrain landings to 2018 RHL

- Recommend no reduction in recreational management measures for 2018
  - Reduction needed is much smaller than uncertainty around harvest estimate
  - Positive stock condition; low fishing mortality; 2015 year class; harvest lower than 2016 and in line with 2014-2015
  - Re-evaluate once additional 2017 information is available
  - Not necessarily require status quo measures

- Support continued development of alternative methods to calculate and evaluate recreational adjustments
Federal measures recommendation

- Removal of Sept 22 – Oct 21 closure
- Continuous season (dates TBD), 10 fish possession limit, 12.5 inch minimum size
- Apply to the states of DE-NC (Southern Region)
- Outcome of Addendum XXX – used as baseline/modification for other states/region

Since MC meeting federal water examples were developed:

- May 15 – Oct 19, 10 fish possession limit, 12.5” minimum
- June 1 – Oct 31, 10 fish possession limit, 12.5” minimum
- May 15 – Oct 23, 8 fish possession limit, 12.5” minimum
Staff Recommendation(s) & Considerations

- Biological and management considerations of Wave 1 fishery – 2018 and beyond
- Recent law enforcement actions
  - MRIP uncertainty; future adjustments to ACT?
Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- No reduction in recreational measures for 2018

- Backup coastwide measures
  - Only needed if a reduction is needed and if reduction not implemented by states
  - 14” size; 3 fish possession; June 15 – Sept 15
Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- Status quo federal water measures
  - Support concept of removing Sept/Oct closure and a continuous season
  - Concerned about loss of days in May and/or Dec given importance to fishery
  - Dates aligned with other recreational fisheries (e.g. tautog)
  - Get additional input from advisors on federal water changes and associated trade-offs

- Comments on Wave 1 fishery (2018 & LOA)
Advisory Panel Comments

Comments regarding staff recommendation for federal waters:

- General support in removing closure
  - Reduce discards when other fisheries are open
  - Provide states with additional flexibility in crafting recreational management measures
  - Reduce angler confusion
- No agreement regarding trade-offs
- Some supported reducing to 10 fish, others no
- No adjustments needed for fall closure removal
Advisory Panel Comments

General comments:

- How large does the stock need to be in order for liberalization of management measures?
- Measures less restrictive when re-building
- Lack of buy-in from recreational anglers

Accuracy and continued use of MRIP data

- Noted: 2016 NY Wave 6; 2017 NJ Wave 3; 2017 projections for NY and MD
- Requested additional review by SSC and MC/TC
- Changes to MRIP estimates will create more uncertainty
Advisory Panel Comments

General comments (cont.):

Potential implications with Council review of Risk Policy

General AP frustration:

Checking a box but no action based on comments

Potential for a meeting with advisors and Demersal Committee
Set 2018 recreational federal water measures
- If status quo, no motion needed
- Potential “interaction” with ASMFC draft Addendum XXX
  - Depending upon regions and allocations chosen by Board in February
Questions??