



Strategic Plan for Reforming Black Sea Bass Recreational Management

Joint ASMFC/MAFMC Spring Meeting

Arlington, VA

April 30, 2018

Presentation Outline



1. Introduction
2. Timeline
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Introduction



- Recreational management is a work in progress
- Draft document developed to initiate discussion of strategy for reforming management program
 - **Goal:** Improve the management program for recreational black sea bass by providing reasonable and equitable access to the resource, commensurate with stock status and distribution, and bolstering accountability.
 - **General Strategy:** Pursue a comprehensive, iterative approach - developed and implemented via an interim program for 2018-2020, paving the way for fully amended program in 2021.

Timeline



- **2018**: Interim Program development and adoption
- **2019-2020**: Interim Program implementation
- **2018-2020**: Full Program development and adoption
- **2021**: Full Program implementation



Major Tracks



1. Stock Status

- SSB well above target; high biomass despite ACL/RHL overages; distinct sub-spatial units

2. Catch & Effort Data

- Need for improved discard data; appropriate use of MRIP data; opportunities for self-reported data

3. Management

- Manage catch versus harvest; F-based approach; multi-year specification and evaluation; equity in access

4. Stakeholder Engagement

- Participation in process; reporting and stewardship

Next Steps (Short Term)



- **Today:** 1) Initial feedback from Board and Council on general aspects of proposed strategy, and 2) consent to move forward with further development of strategy
- **May:** Solicit additional input from Board & Council
- **Late Spring/Early Summer:** 1) Leadership, staff, and GARFO identify/clarify tasks, actions, and timeframes needed to achieve key elements of strategy, and 2) working group is convened to develop initial set of options for 2019-2020 [interim] management program
- **August:** Board & Council 1) establish ABC for 2019 (& 2020?), 2) give full consideration to proposed strategy, and 3) review initial options for 2019-2020 management program
- **October:** Draft addendum, addressing 2019-2020 management program is considered for public comment
- **December:** Draft addendum is considered for final approval

Discussion & Guidance



- Questions?
- **Is there support for moving forward, in short term, as proposed (i.e., next steps)?**
- Discussion & Guidance:
 - Does the strategy serve as a useful and appropriate platform for guiding reform of the management program?
 - Does it capture the most important elements?
Any key issues to be added/modified/removed?

Action Items



- Prioritize operational update for late 2018/early 2019