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
3. Major Tracks
4. Next Steps
5. Discussion and Guidance
6. Action Items
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