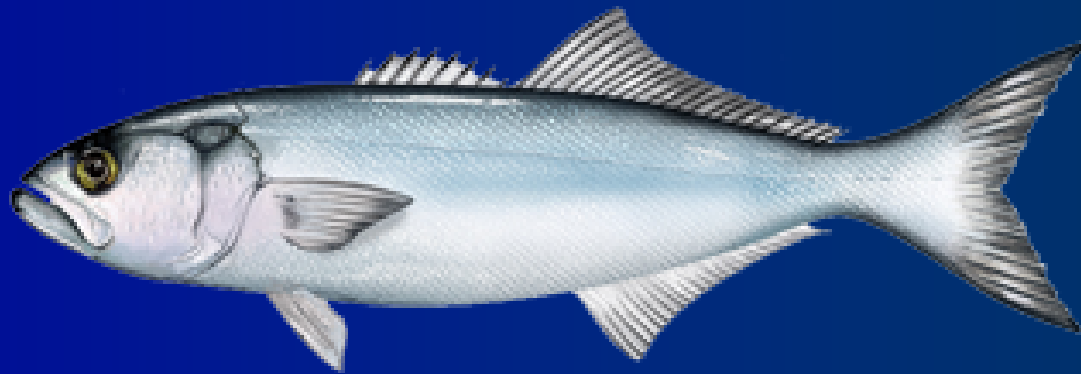




Bluefish Allocation Amendment



Council Meeting
October 8, 2019

Outline

- Where are we (timeline)
- Scoping summary recap
- Amendment Issues
- Rebuilding
- Necessary Council action/feedback
- Next steps

Where we are (timeline)

- December 2017 – Amendment initiated
- FMAT Meeting
- April 2018 – Paused development until the conclusion of the operational assessment (with exception to scoping)
- Conducted Scoping
- FMAT Meeting
- October 2019 Council Meeting – Amendment update

Issue	Number of written comments received	Number of hearing comments received
FMP Goals and Objectives		
Supports status quo	1	3
Goals and objectives should be re-evaluated and/or revised	2	0
Supports maintaining one or more of the current objectives	0	1
Commercial/Recreational Allocation		
Supports status quo	19	31
Increase commercial allocation	0	2
Decrease commercial allocation	1	0
Increase recreational allocation	0	0
Decrease recreational allocation	0	1
Update data for reallocation	1	6
Commercial Allocations to the States		
Supports status quo	3	14
Alter commercial allocations to the states	4	7
Quota Transfer Processes		
Supports status quo transfer from recreational to commercial sector	5	24
Do not allow transfer from recreational to commercial sector	6	0
Supports status quo state-to-state transfers	2	0
Do not allow state-to-state transfers	0	1
Do not allow any transfers	1	1
New transfer suggestion	1	1
Other Issues		
Status quo bag limit	0	5
Increase bag limit	0	4
Decrease bag limit	4	19
Other	10	0

Issue 1: FMP Goals and Objectives

Amendment Issue	FMAT	Public Comment (Scoping)
FMP Goals and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop one alternative in addition to the current G/O• Use the Summer Flounder Amendment as a model• Explore sector-based G/O• Promote catch and release	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Status quo• Recreational management maximizing abundance over landings• Considering the economic/intrinsic value of bluefish within the recreational fishery

Issue 2: Sector Allocations

Amendment Issue	FMAT	Public Comment (Scoping)
Commercial and Recreational Sector Allocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine MRIP PSEs• How did net bans affect allocation alternatives?• 87% rec., 13% comm. (38, 10, 5, 3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Status quo• Wait for updated MRIP estimates

Issue 2: Sector Allocations

■ Current Allocations

- 83% Recreational, 17% Commercial
- Based on 1981-1989 landings data (Amend. 1)

		Amend 1	38 years	20 years	10 years	5 years	3 years	Last year
		1981-1989	1981-2018	1999-2018	2009-2018	2014-2018	2016-2018	2018
New MRIP	Rec	90%	87%	85%	87%	87%	87%	86%
	Comm	10%	13%	15%	13%	13%	13%	14%
Old MRIP	Rec	83%	77%	70%	72%	70%	69%	62%
	Comm	17%	23%	30%	28%	30%	31%	38%

Issue 3: Comm. State Allocations

Amendment Issue	FMAT	Public Comment (Scoping)
Commercial Allocations to the States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore variability around state landings • Explore increased landings in specific states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status quo • Update the allocations with a more recent time series

State	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
	0.67	0.41	6.72	6.81	1.27	10.38	14.82	1.88	3.00	11.88	32.06	0.04	0.01	10.06

Issue 3: Comm. State Allocations

	1981-1989	1994-2018	1999-2018	2009-2018	2014-2018	2016-2018	2018
State	Current	Avg 25 years	Avg 20 years	Avg 10 years	Avg 5 years	Avg 3 years	Avg Last year
ME	0.67%	0.09%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NH	0.41%	0.66%	0.18%	0.13%	0.04%	0.00%	0.00%
MA	6.72%	8.74%	8.11%	10.80%	11.25%	10.44%	8.87%
RI	6.81%	9.20%	8.67%	10.25%	12.49%	13.26%	10.76%
CT	1.27%	0.97%	0.80%	1.08%	1.22%	1.56%	2.19%
NY	10.38%	21.53%	20.91%	21.18%	21.45%	21.29%	24.48%
NJ	14.82%	17.55%	16.26%	14.82%	11.87%	10.14%	2.55%
DE	1.88%	0.49%	0.40%	0.39%	0.63%	0.33%	0.29%
MD	3.00%	1.72%	1.63%	1.88%	1.66%	1.34%	1.24%
VA	11.88%	7.74%	6.95%	5.88%	5.06%	5.16%	4.66%
NC	32.06%	34.19%	34.43%	29.73%	29.51%	30.35%	34.75%
SC	0.04%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
GA	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FL	10.06%	2.99%	3.04%	3.90%	4.84%	6.11%	10.21%

Issue 4: Transfers

Amendment Issue	FMAT	Public Comment (Scoping)
Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comm. sector often does not utilize the transfer• Sector transfer also boosts individual state comm. quotas• Altering sector transfers may affect the need for comm. state-to-state transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Status quo: little opposition on the opportunity to transfer commercial quota between states• Status quo: Rec. to Comm., but some support revisions<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For-hire: status quo sector transfer○ Private Rec.: often opposed the sector transfer○ Comm.: Support both transfer options

Issue 4: Transfer

Year	Final Sector Transfer Amount	FR Citation
2000	0	65 FR 45844
2001	3.150 million lb	66 FR 23625
2002	5.933 million lb	67 FR 38909
2003	4.161 million lb	68 FR 25305
2004	5.085 million lb	69 FR 47798
2005	5.254 million lb	70 FR 13402
2006	5.367 million lb	71 FR 9471
2007	4.780 million lb	72 FR 4458
2008	4.088 million lb	73 FR 9957
2009	4.838 million lb	74 FR 20423
2010	5.387 million lb	75 FR 27221
2011	4.772 million lb	76 FR 17789
2012	5.052 million lb	77 FR 25100
2013	4.686 million lb	78 FR 26523
2014	3.340 million lb	79 FR 35293
2015	1.579 million lb	80 FR 46848
2016	1.577 million lb	81 FR 51370
2017	5.033 million lb	82 FR 13402
2018*	3.535 million lb	81 FR 51370

- Sector transfers have occurred every year since 2000
- Comm. state-to-state transfers continue to occur on an as needed basis

Issue 5

Amendment Issue	FMAT	Public Comment (Scoping)
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most other issues can be addressed through specs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update all data and indices with new MRIP estimates• Review/revise the 15-fish federal bag limit

Rebuilding

- Have not received the official overfished notice from GARFO
- Deadline for submission is 2 years
- Combine with the Allocation Amendment?
 - Streamline the two Amendments

Necessary Council/Board Action and/or Feedback

- Provide confirmation on the five issues to be analyzed in the Amendment
- Provide direction on Issue 5 (other issues)
 - Drop this from the Amendment?
- Identify whether additional scoping is warranted post operational assessment
- Provide direction on whether rebuilding should be incorporated into the Amendment

Next Steps

- Incorporate rebuilding plan
- FMAT meeting
- Bluefish Committee Meeting
- FMAT meeting
- February Council Meeting – approve range of alternatives
- April/June Council Meeting – draft public hearing document

Extra: Amendment Issues

Amendment Issue	FMAT	Public Comment (Scoping)
FMP Goals and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop one alternative in addition to the current G/O • Use the Summer Flounder Amendment as a model • Explore sector-based G/O • Promote catch and release 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status quo • Recreational management maximizing abundance over landings • Considering the economic/intrinsic value of bluefish within the recreational fishery
Commercial and Recreational Sector Allocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine MRIP PSEs • How did gillnet bans affect allocation alternatives • 87% rec., 13% comm. (38, 10, 5, 3 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status quo • Wait for updated MRIP estimates
Commercial Allocations to the States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore variability around state landings • Explore increased landings in states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status quo • Update the allocations with a more recent time series
Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comm. sector often does not utilize the transfer • Sector transfer also boosts individual state comm. quotas • Altering sector transfers may affect the need for comm. state-to-state transfers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status quo: little opposition on the opportunity to transfer commercial quota between states • Status quo: Rec. to Comm., but some support revisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For-hire: status quo sector transfer ○ Private Rec.: often opposed the sector transfer ○ Comm.: Support both transfer options
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most other issues can be addressed through specifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update all data and indices with new MRIP estimates • Review/revise the 15-fish federal bag limit

Extra: Issue 1: FMP Goals and Objectives

Current Bluefish FMP Goals and Objectives

- The goal of the management plan is to conserve the bluefish resource along the Atlantic coast.
 - Objective: Increase understanding of the stock and of the fishery.
 - Objective: Provide the highest availability of bluefish to U.S. fishermen while maintaining, within limits, traditional uses of bluefish.
 - Objective: Provide for cooperation among the coastal states, the various regional marine fishery management councils, and federal agencies involved along the coast to enhance the management of bluefish throughout its range.
 - Objective: Prevent recruitment overfishing.
 - Objective: Reduce the waste in both the commercial and recreational fisheries.