Summer Flounder, Scup, & Black Sea Bass
Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment
Scoping and Public Information Document

Council and Board
December 11, 2019
Annapolis, MD
Overview

- Joint amendment initiated October 2019
- Today: review and approve joint scoping/public information document
  - Draft action plan also included in materials (will be regularly updated; no approval needed)
- Scoping hearing schedule TBD; planned for early 2020
Why are changes being considered? (Section 3)

- Allocations based on historic proportions of harvest or catch from each sector
- Understanding of historic & recent harvest proportions have changed due to 2018 MRIP data revisions
  - Management implications for fixed allocation percentages defined in FMP
- Allocations have not been revised since set in early/mid 1990s
Amendment Objective (Section 3)

- Consider modifications to the current allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass.
Issues for Consideration (Section 4)

- Range of options will be developed, potentially including (1 of 2):
  - No action/status quo
  - Updating current base years with revised data
  - Using alternative base years
  - Other approaches not involving base years
  - Considering whether allocations should be catch or landings based
Issues for Consideration (Section 4)

- Range of options will be developed, potentially including (2 of 2):
  - Socioeconomic basis (e.g., optimizing economic efficiency or socioeconomic benefits)
  - Separate mode allocations for rec. sector (i.e., private vs. for-hire)
  - Ability to transfer allocation between sectors
  - Static vs. dynamic allocations
  - Framework provisions for future changes
  - Other approaches TBD
How to Get Involved (Section 5)

- Scoping hearings
  - Schedule TBD: staff will work with states, but feedback today is welcome
  - Anticipate starting hearings in late January/early February

- Written comment instructions
  - Comment period length will extend at least 14 days after the last hearing
## Timeline (Section 6)

(Abbreviated; more detailed timeline in action plan)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan/ Feb 2020</td>
<td>Scoping hearings and comment period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar/ Apr 2020</td>
<td>Scoping comments summarized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>Review scoping comments; identify potential categories of alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-Jul 2020</td>
<td>Initial development of draft management alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2020</td>
<td>Approve range of alternatives for inclusion in a public hearing document</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2020</td>
<td>Approve public hearing document</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early 2021</td>
<td>Public hearings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
<td>Final action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2021</td>
<td>Federal rulemaking and comment periods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late 2021/ Early 2022</td>
<td>Final rule effective</td>
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</table>
Timeline Notes

- Based on planned 2020 joint meeting schedule including May, August, and December
- Committee/subset of Board meeting planned for ~June 2020
- Unclear at this time what type of NEPA analysis will be required; EIS may mean slightly longer timeline
Fishery Background (Sections 7 and 8)

- Section 7: basic description of stock status for each species
- Section 8:
  - Landings/discard trends over time by sector
  - Tables for allocation base years with new and old data (provided in October discussion document)
Next Steps

- Populate Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT)
- Develop scoping hearing schedule & release document for comment
  - F.R. notice required 23 days in advance
  - Commission must make document publicly available 30 days before first hearing

http://www.mafmc.org/actions/sfsbssb-allocation-amendment
Discussion

- Feedback on document structure & content
- Input on potential hearing locations
- Approve document
EXTRA SLIDES
## Current Sector Allocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Base Years</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>60% comm./40% rec. (landings)</td>
<td>1980-1989</td>
<td>Am. 2</td>
<td>1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scup</td>
<td>78% comm./22% rec. (catch)</td>
<td>1988-1992</td>
<td>Am. 8</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>49% comm./51% rec. (landings)</td>
<td>1983-1992</td>
<td>Am. 9</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1: Commercial and recreational summer flounder landings and dead discards, 1982-2018. Data retrieved from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center 2019 data update. Commercial discard estimates prior to 1989 are not available.
**Figure 2:** Commercial and recreational scup landings and dead discards, 1981-2018. Data retrieved from the 2019 Northeast Fisheries Science Center Scup Operational Assessment.
**Figure 3**: Commercial and recreational black sea bass landings and discards, 1989-2018. Data retrieved from the 2019 Northeast Fisheries Science Center Black Sea Bass Operational Assessment.