Scup Discard Report

Council and Board Meeting
August 11, 2020
Methods from 2015 benchmark stock assessment

Discards estimated by calendar quarter, statistical area, and three mesh categories:
- Large: 5” or greater
- Small: in between 2.125” and 5”
- Squid: 2.125” or less

Estimated discards are calculated using observer, VTR, and dealer data
Gear Restricted Areas (GRAs)

- Reduce bycatch of juvenile scup in small mesh fisheries
- Southern GRA: Jan. 1 – Mar. 15
- Northern GRA: Nov. 1 – Dec. 31
Highlights of Report

- Discards are still high but dropped in 2019 compared with 2018 and 2017
- Discards are variable by mesh size, quarter, and statistical area
- Average scup discards were lower after GRA implementation
- Decline in recruitment and increase in 2019 incidental possession limit may have contributed to the decrease in discards in 2019
  - Discards may continue to decline due to the low recruitment from 2016-2018
Discards By Mesh

Estimated scup discards (mt)

- Squid
- Small
- Large

Years: 2001 to 2019
Discards by Quarter

2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Squid mesh</th>
<th>Small mesh</th>
<th>Large mesh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Squid mesh</th>
<th>Small mesh</th>
<th>Large mesh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discards by Area

Estimated scup discards (mt)

- S GRA areas
- N GRA areas
- 538
- 611
- 612
- 635
- See note

Years: 2001 to 2019
Discards and Recruitment

Estimated discards (mt)

Recruitment (millions of age 0 scup)

- Recruitment (+2)
- Discards


Recruitment peaks in 2007 and 2017, while discards are highest in 2017.
Discards Before and after GRAs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Discards (mt)</th>
<th>Southern GRA areas (Q1)</th>
<th>Northern GRA areas (Q4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre GRA</td>
<td>Blue bar</td>
<td>Blue bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post GRA</td>
<td>Orange bar</td>
<td>Orange bar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Pre GRA
- Post GRA
Scup Biomass 1970s-2010s
Monitoring Committee Feedback

- No management action, continue to monitor
- Proactively plan actions to prevent big discard events when a strong year class is coming?
  - Challenging to respond that quickly
  - Variable when/where high discards occur
  - Not reduce the coverage of the GRAs or the minimum size any further
  - Gear related solutions
Questions/Discussion

- No action needed