Recreational Reform Initiative

Joint Council and ASMFC Policy Board Meeting
June 8, 2021
Presentation Outline

- Goal of Rec. Reform Initiative
- Progress made to date
- Harvest Control Rule
  - Staff working group discussions
  - Plans for further development by FMAT/PDT
Initiative Goal

- **Stability** in rec. mgmt. measures (bag/size/season)
- **Flexibility** in the mgmt. process
- **Accessibility** aligned with availability/stock status*
Progress to Date

- **2019 – 2020:** Steering Committee
  - Developed goal statement, provided guidance on topics to include.

- **October 2020:** Council and Policy Board initiated mgmt. actions for 9 topics.

- **February 2021:** Council and Policy Board prioritized further development of Harvest Control Rule (HCR) as immediate next step.

- **February 2021 – May 2021:** Informal staff working group further developed HCR.

- **June 2021 and beyond:** FMAT/PDT continues HCR development.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technical Guidance Document</th>
<th>Framework/Addendum</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Process for identifying and smoothing outlier MRIP estimates</td>
<td>• <strong>Harvest Control Rule</strong></td>
<td>• Rec. sector separation</td>
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<td>• Use of preliminary current year MRIP data</td>
<td>• Envelope of uncertainty approach for determining if changes to rec. management measures are needed</td>
<td>• Rec. catch accounting</td>
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<td>• Guidelines for maintaining status quo measures</td>
<td>• Multi-year recreational management measures</td>
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<td>• Changes to the timing of recommending federal waters measures</td>
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Harvest Control Rule

Conceptual idea:

- Range of pre-defined mgmt. measure “steps.”
- Step used in any given year based in large part on stock status indicators and trends (not just expected harvest compared to RHL).
- Least restrictive step: most liberal measures anglers feel they would need.
- Most restrictive step: promote conservation, while allowing some access and preventing loss of businesses.
Staff Working Group

- Staff working group discussed many aspects of the Harvest Control Rule

- Transitioning to a PDT/FMAT
  - Met for the first time this week as PDT/FMAT to begin in depth discussions
Stock Status Indicators

- Selection of appropriate mgmt. measure step should be based on multiple stock status indicators.
  - Potential indicators: biomass compared to target level, recruitment trends, harvest.

- Decision tree approach could be used to select measures based on multiple indicators.
Number of and Boundaries Between Steps

- Should use a limited number of management measure steps.
- Clearly defined boundaries between the steps.
- Informed by data considerations.
Determining Mgmt Measures

- Quantitative analysis required to determine and evaluate measures for each step.
- Existing model to emulate a fishery response to regulation changes.
  - Developed for summer flounder.
  - Black sea bass version in development.
  - Incorporates uncertainty.
  - Will be peer reviewed by sub-group of SSC.
Topics for FMAT/PDT

- Which stock status indicators are recommended?
- What is the appropriate number of steps?
- How to define the boundaries between steps?
- How to best use the empirical model in conjunction with manager and stakeholder input?
- Can the HCR be used for stocks under a rebuilding plan?
- How might accountability measures need to be modified?
- Appropriate use of data, especially at state/wave/mode level.
**Draft Timeline**

**June**
- FMAT/PDT further develops HCR (will continue through Dec)
- Assessment peer reviews for all 4 species

**July**
- SSC, MC, and AP meetings to develop recommendations for 2022-2023 catch and landings limits for all 4 species

**August**
- Council/Board recommend 2022-2023 catch and landings limits
- Council and Policy Board review progress on HCR
- SSC sub-group peer review of empirical model (tentative)

**Sept-Oct**
- Workshops and/or other methods to gather stakeholder input on HCR

**November**
- MC and AP meetings on 2022 recreational measures

**December**
- Target date for near complete development of the HCR by FMAT/PDT
- Council/Board adopt 2022 fed waters rec measures
- Final action on the SFSBSB Allocation Amendment
Discussion
Backup Slides
# FMAT/PDT Membership

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Role/Expertise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julia Beaty</td>
<td>MAFMC</td>
<td>FMAT/PDT Co-Chair</td>
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<td>Savannah Lewis</td>
<td>ASMFC</td>
<td>FMAT/PDT Co-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Celestino</td>
<td>NJ DEP</td>
<td>Technical analysis and state mgmt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dustin Colson Leaning</td>
<td>ASMFC</td>
<td>FMP coordinator for summer flounder, scup, and bluefish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Keiley</td>
<td>GARFO</td>
<td>Fisheries policy and legal requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Maniscalco</td>
<td>NY DEC</td>
<td>Technical analysis and state mgmt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Steinback</td>
<td>NEFSC</td>
<td>Recreational fisheries economist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greg Wojcik</td>
<td>CT DEEP</td>
<td>Technical analysis and state mgmt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Wood</td>
<td>NEFSC</td>
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