



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## ASMFC & MAFMFC Joint Meeting Webinar

---

*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

---

MAFMC & ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Board and ISFMP Policy Board  
February 11, 2022

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP, Tina Berger, Communications or the identified individual at 703.842.0740

### Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

<b>SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (FEBRUARY 8, 2022).....</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Meeting Summary</i> .....	2
<i>Motions</i> .....	2
<b>MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (FEBRUARY 8, 2022).....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Meeting Summary</i> .....	3
<b>COUNCIL &amp; ISFMP POLICY BOARD (FEBRUARY 8, 2022).....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Meeting Summary</i> .....	3

## **SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (February 8, 2022)**

### ***Meeting Summary***

In December 2021, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) jointly approved a 28% reduction in coastwide black sea bass harvest compared to the 2018-2021 average. This reduction was deemed necessary to prevent exceeding the 2022 recreational harvest limit (RHL). They also jointly agreed to use the conservation equivalency process to waive federal waters measures and allow states to work together as regions to develop measures to collectively reduce harvest to prevent a 2022 RHL overage.

The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee (TC) met several times in January 2022 to develop an agreed upon methodology for states to use when developing regional proposals for recreational black sea bass measures. The TC considered methodologies for identifying and smoothing outlier recreational harvest estimates at the state, wave, and mode level for 2018-2021. As a result of this analysis, the TC recommended a modified coastwide harvest reduction target of 24% but agreed that reductions ranging from 20.7% to 26.8% could be justified based on its outlier analysis.

At the Board-only meeting hosted on the Council's February Meeting webinar, the Board met to review TC recommendations and approved a revised harvest reduction target of 20.7% to be used by regions when developing proposals for 2022 recreational measures for black sea bass. States within each region are now expected to work collectively to develop measures which are designed to achieve this coastwide reduction in harvest to meet, but not exceed, the 2022 recreational harvest limit of 6.74 million pounds. The Board will meet again in mid-March to review regional proposals. The exact date for the meeting has not yet been set; the details of which will be released when they become available.

The Board also approved non-preferred coastwide measures, which were modified to reflect the revised harvest reduction target of 20.7% and are intended to be waived in favor of regional measures that would collectively prevent an RHL overage. The revised non-preferred coastwide measures include a 14-inch minimum size limit, a 5 fish possession limit, and an open season of May 15-October 8. The Council and Board's December 2021 recommendation for precautionary default measures, consisting of a 16-inch minimum size, a 3 fish possession limit, and an open season of June 24-December 31, remained unchanged. These measures are intended to be implemented in any state or region that does not put forward a proposal that can be approved by the Board through the Commission's conservation equivalency process.

For more information, please contact Dustin Colson Leaning, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [dleaning@asmfc.org](mailto:dleaning@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

### ***Motions***

#### ***Main Motion Made Via Email***

**Move to specify a 24% reduction in harvest compared to the 2018-2021 average incorporating the Technical Committee's analyses of the MRIP data to achieve the coastwide 2022 RHL for black sea bass, and adjust the non-preferred coastwide measures for consistency to: 14-inch minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, and open season of May 15-October 2.**

Motion made by Ms. Meserve and seconded by Mr. Batsavage. Motion substituted.

### **Substitute Motion Made Via Email**

**Move to substitute to specify a 20.7% reduction in harvest compared to the 2018-2021 average incorporating the Technical Committee’s analyses of the MRIP data to achieve the coastwide 2022 RHL for black sea bass, and adjust the non-preferred coastwide measures for consistency to: 14-inch minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, and open season of May 15-October 8.**

Motion made by Mr. Gorham and seconded by Mr. Sikorski. Motion carries (8 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 null).

### **Main Motion as Substituted**

**Move to specify a 20.7% reduction in harvest compared to the 2018-2021 average incorporating the Technical Committee’s analyses of the MRIP data to achieve the coastwide 2022 RHL for black sea bass, and adjust the non-preferred coastwide measures for consistency to: 14-inch minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, and open season of May 15-October 8.**

Motion carries (10 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention).

## **MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (February 8, 2022)**

### ***Meeting Summary***

#### **Reconsideration of 2022 Black Sea Bass Recreational Management Measures**

Following the meeting of the Summer Flounder, Scup and Sea Bass Board, the Council reconvened to review the TC’s recommendations and the Board’s action. Based on this review, the Council voted to modify the coastwide reduction target to 20.7% and also approved modified non-preferred coastwide measures based on the revised reduction target.

### ***Motions***

**Move to rescind the December 2021 black sea bass recreational management motion and move to adopt conservation equivalency for 2022 black sea bass recreational management, with a 20.7% reduction in coastwide harvest compared to the 2018-2021 average to achieve the 2022 RHL. Non-preferred coastwide measures are: 14-inch minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, and open season of May 15-October 8. Precautionary default measures are: 16-inch minimum size, 3 fish possession limit, and open season of June 24-December 31.**

Motion made by Mr. Cimino and seconded by Mr. Risi. Motion passes with no objection and 2 abstentions.

## **COUNCIL & ISFMP Policy Board (February 8, 2022)**

### ***Meeting Summary***

#### **Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda**

The Council and the Commission’s Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (Policy Board) met to review the range of alternatives in the Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Draft Addenda. The goal of this proposed action is to establish a process for setting recreational bag, size, and season limits for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish such that measures aim to prevent overfishing, are reflective of stock status, appropriately account for uncertainty in the recreational data, take into consideration angler preferences, and provide an appropriate level of stability and predictability in changes from year to year. The options under consideration include various methods to allow for greater stability in measures and more explicit consideration of stock status when setting the measures compared to the current process.

The Council and Policy Board requested that the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) provide a qualitative evaluation of the potential effect of each of the five primary options in this proposed action on the SSC's assessment and application of risk and uncertainty in determining acceptable biological catch levels. The intent is to provide the Council and Policy Board with information to consider the tradeoffs among the different alternatives with respect to the relative risk of overfishing, increasing uncertainty, fishery stability, and the likelihood of reaching or remaining at the target biomass level.

The Policy Board approved its draft addenda for public comment, with public hearings to take place in the coming months. The Commission will distribute a press release on the Draft Addenda's availability and public hearing schedule once the hearing details have been finalized.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Policy Director, at [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org).

### **Motions**

#### **Main Motion**

**Request that the SSC provide a qualitative evaluation, in time for final action at the June 2022 Council/Policy Board meeting, regarding the potential effect of each of the five primary alternatives in the Harvest Control Rule Addendum/Framework on the SSC's assessment and application of risk and uncertainty in determining ABCs. The intent is to provide the Council and Policy Board with information to consider the tradeoffs among the different alternatives with respect to the relative risk of overfishing, increasing uncertainty, fishery stability, and the likelihood of reaching/remaining at  $B_{MSY}$  for each approach at different biomass levels (e.g., for  $\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY} < B < B_{MSY}$ , the relative risk among alternatives is (highest to lowest)  $E > C > B > A > D$ ).**

Council: Motion made by Ms. Duval and seconded by Mr. Hemilright.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Hasbrouck and seconded by Ms. Madsen.

#### **Motion to Amend (Council and Board)**

**Move to amend to replace "in time for final action at the June 2022 Council/Policy Board meeting" with "in time for final action by the August 2022 meeting."**

Board: Motion made by Mr. Reid and seconded by Mr. Cimino. Motion to amend fails for lack of a majority (2 in favor, 15 opposed).

Council: Motion made by Mr. Cimino and seconded by Mr. Nowalsky. Motion to amend carries (11 in favor, 9 opposed).

#### **Motion to Reconsider (Council Only)**

**Move to reconsider the Council's motion to amend.**

Council: Motion made by Mr. Farnham and seconded by Mr. Cimino. Motion to reconsider passes (17 in favor, 3 opposed).

#### **Reconsidered Motion to Amend (Council Only)**

**Move to amend to replace "in time for final action at the June 2022 Council/Policy Board meeting" with "in time for final action by the August 2022 meeting."**

Council: Motion to amend fails (5 in favor, 15 opposed).

**Main Motion (Council and Board)**

**Request that the SSC provide a qualitative evaluation, in time for final action at the June 2022 Council/Policy Board meeting, regarding the potential effect of each of the five primary alternatives in the Harvest Control Rule Addendum/Framework on the SSC's assessment and application of risk and uncertainty in determining ABCs. The intent is to provide the Council and Policy Board with information to consider the tradeoffs among the different alternatives with respect to the relative risk of overfishing, increasing uncertainty, fishery stability, and the likelihood of reaching/remaining at  $B_{MSY}$  for each approach at different biomass levels (e.g., for  $\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY} < B < B_{MSY}$ , the relative risk among alternatives is (highest to lowest)  $E > C > B > A > D$ ).**

Council: Motion carries with one objection and one abstention.

Board: Motion carries with 1 abstention.

**Board Only**

**Move to approve Draft Addendum XXXIV to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP and Draft Addendum II to the Bluefish FMP for public comment as presented today.**

Motion made by Dr. McNamee and seconded by Ms. Patterson. Motion carries (15 in favor).

**Council Only**

**Move to approve the range of options in the Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda as presented today.**

Motion made by Mr. Farnham and seconded by Mr. Batsavage. Motion carries by consent.

