



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 31, 2023
To: Scientific and Statistical Committee
From: Julia Beaty, staff
Subject: Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda

On September 12, 2023, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will receive an update on the Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda. This management action is being developed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission). This is a follow-on action to the [Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda](#), which implemented the Percent Change Approach for setting recreational management measures for the four recreational species that are jointly managed by the Council and the Commission. In adopting the Percent Change Approach, the Council and the Commission agreed it should sunset by the end of 2025 with the goal of considering an improved measures setting process, as developed through this management action, starting with 2026 measures.

The intent of this meeting is to provide the SSC with an overview of this follow-on management action, which is in the early stages of development. The SSC will also receive a presentation on plans for use of the Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) model. The SSC will also have a preliminary discussion of the potential involvement of the SSC in this management action. For example, it may be beneficial for the SSC to assist the Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT)/Plan Development Team (PDT) in determining how to best address issues raised during the SSC's review of the Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda (see supplemental materials below). The FMAT/PDT also suggested it may be appropriate for the SSC to assist with development of approaches that consider recent fishing mortality rates when determining how measures should change. Specific Terms of Reference (TORs) for the SSC to address will be defined by Council leadership at a later date. Once TORs have been defined, the SSC may wish to form a sub-group to support this work. The SSC could have a preliminary discussion of sub-group membership during their September meeting, with membership finalized after TORs have been defined.

The following materials are provided to assist in the SSC's discussion of this topic:

- 1) Draft action plan summarizing the alternatives under consideration and the planned timeline.

- 2) Summary of the July 11, 2023 FMAT/PDT meeting focusing on use of the Summer Flounder MSE model in development of this management action.

The following supplemental documents provide additional information on the topics to be discussed:

- 3) [Overview of Summer Flounder MSE Model](#) (May 2022)
- 4) [Final SSC Report on Implications of Recreational Harvest Control Rules on ABC Specification](#) (May 2022)