

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

August 9-12, 2021

Webinar Meeting

MOTIONS

Monday, August 9, 2021

Bluefish 2022-2023 Specifications

Move to adopt, based on the Council-preferred rebuilding plan and SSC/MC recommendations, a 2022 and 2023 bluefish ABC of 25.26 M pounds and 30.62 M pounds, respectively. This results in a 2022 commercial quota of 3.54 M pounds and an RHL of 13.89 M pounds. For 2023, this results in a commercial quota of 4.29 M pounds and an RHL of 22.14 M pounds.

Council: Cimino/Davidson

Board: Cimino/Davis

Move to amend to reduce the 2022 recreational ACL (21.73 M pounds) by 1% (217,279 pounds) for management uncertainty.

Council: deFur/Wilke

Board:

Motion fails for lack of a motion by members of the Board.

Back to the main motion:

Move to adopt, based on the Council-preferred rebuilding plan and SSC/MC recommendations, a 2022 and 2023 bluefish ABC of 25.26 M pounds and 30.62 M pounds, respectively. This results in a 2022 commercial quota of 3.54 M pounds and an RHL of 13.89 M pounds. For 2023, this results in a commercial quota of 4.29 M pounds and an RHL of 22.14 M pounds.

Council: 18/0/2

Board: 15/0/0/0

Motion carries

Summer Flounder 2022-2023 Specifications

Move to adopt the following specifications for summer flounder based on the constant ABC approach: For 2022 and 2023, the recreational ACL=ACT=14.64 mil lb, resulting in an RHL of 10.36 mil lb. The commercial ACL = ACT = 18.48 mil lb, resulting in a commercial quota of 15.53 mil lb.

Council: Cimino/DiLernia (Motion carries by consent with 2 abstentions by deFur and Farnham)

Board: Borden/Meserve (Motion carries by consent)

Motion carries

Scup 2022-2023 Specifications

Move to adopt the following specifications for scup:

- For 2022, the recreational ACL = ACT = 7.06 mil lb, resulting in an RHL of 6.08 mil lb. The commercial ACL = ACT = 25.05 mil lb, resulting in a commercial quota of 20.38 mil lb.
- For 2023, the recreational ACL = ACT = 6.53 mil lb, resulting in an RHL of 5.41 mil lb. The commercial ACL = ACT = 23.15 mil lb, resulting in a commercial quota of 17.87 mil lb.

Council: Nowalsky/DiLernia (Motion carries by consent)

Board: Nowalsky/Borden (Motion carries by consent)

Motion carries

Black Sea Bass 2022-2023 Specifications

Move to adopt the following specifications for black sea bass:

- For 2022, the recreational ACL = ACT = 8.76 mil lb, resulting in an RHL of 6.74 mil lb. The commercial ACL = ACT = 10.10 mil lb, resulting in a commercial quota of 6.47 mil lb.
- For 2023, the recreational ACL = ACT = 7.74 mil lb, resulting in an RHL of 5.95 mil lb. The commercial ACL = ACT = 8.93 mil lb, resulting in a commercial quota of 5.71 mil lb.

Board: Cimino/Madsen (Motion carries by consent)

Council: Cimino/Wilke (Motion carries by consent)

Motion carries

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Recreational Harvest Control Rule

Move to approve the draft range of alternatives presented today for further development in a harvest control rule framework/addendum.

Council: Pentony/Cimino (Motion carries by consent)

Policy Board: Pentony/Cimino (Motion carries by consent)

Motion carries

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment

Move to approve addition of the alternatives presented today.

Board: Davis/Meserve (Motion carries by consent with one abstention by Rhode Island)

Council: Duval/Cimino (16/3/0)

Motion carries

Golden Tilefish Multi-Year Specifications Framework

Move to establish the golden tilefish specifications (catch and landings limits) for 2022, 2023, and 2024 as specified in the Table below (Table 1 of the MC report).

Farnham/Hughes

Motion carries by consent with 1 recusal (Farnham)

	2022 (revised)	2023	2024	Basis
OFL	2,228,873 (1,011 mt)	2,226,669 (1,010 mt)	2,151,712 (976 mt)	Projections
ABC	1,964,319 (891 mt)	1,964,319 (891 mt)	1,964,319 (891 mt)	Staff recommendation based on overfishing probability averaging
ACL	1,964,319 (891 mt)	1,964,319 (891 mt)	1,964,319 (891 mt)	ABC = ACL
IFQ fishery ACT	1,763,478 (800 mt)	1,763,478 (800 mt)	1,763,478 (800 mt)	Deduction from management uncertainty = 0. IFQ ACT = 95% of the ACL and incidental ACT = 5% of the ACL. However, the MC is recommending an ACT that is below the ABC/ACL derived from the SSC recommendation and it is based on the more stable long-term productivity of the stock to acknowledge the positive development in the stock status but also to mitigate the potential risk to the stability and success in managing this relative data poor fishery
Incidental fishery ACT	92,815 (42 mt)	92,815 (42 mt)	92,815 (42 mt)	
Projected IFQ fishery discards	0	0	0	Data indicates no discards in the IFQ fishery (directed fishery). IFQ fishery discards are prohibited in the FMP
Projected incidental fishery discards	17,405 (8 mt)	17,405 (8 mt)	17,405 (8 mt)	Average discards (2016-2020) mostly sm/lg mesh OT and Gillnet gear
IFQ fishery TAL = IFQ fishery quota	1,763,478 (799.900 mt)	1,763,478 (799.900 mt)	1,763,478 (799.900 mt)	IFQ fishery TAL = IFQ fishery ACT – IFQ fishery discards. No additional reductions applied between IFQ TAL amounts and final IFQ fishery quota amounts
Incidental fishery TAL = incidental fishery quota	75,410 (34.205 mt)	75,410 (34.205 mt)	75,410 (34.205 mt)	IFQ fishery TAL = IFQ fishery ACT – IFQ fishery discards. No additional reductions applied between IFQ TAL amounts and final IFQ fishery quota amounts

Move that staff include the catch and landings limits presented above in the Tilefish Multi-year Specifications Framework document and submit the framework to NMFS.

Hughes/Farnham

Motion carries by consent with 1 abstention (NMFS) and 1 recusal (Farnham)

Atlantic Mackerel Issues

Emergency Action

Move that the Council move forward with Option 2 for Atlantic Mackerel emergency action as presented.

Hughes for Committee (18/1/0)

Motion carries

Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding

1. Move that the Council request analysis/alternatives for 50%/60%/75% rebuilding probabilities associated with a 10-year rebuilding timeline.

Hughes for Committee

Motion carries by consent

2. Move that the Council request the SSC perform additional analyses regarding recruitment assumptions and reference points to inform rebuilding decisions.

Hughes for Committee

Motion carries by consent

3. Move that the Council consider and analyze an alternative that would mimic the butterfish regulations for the mackerel fishery (3-inch + minimum mesh required to retain more than 5,000 pounds).

Hughes for Committee

Motion carries by consent

4. Move that the Council include an alternative and analysis of a 10-inch Atlantic mackerel minimum size limit for the recreational fishery (in addition to measures described in staff memo).

Hughes for Committee

Motion carries by consent

5. Move that the Council include an alternative and analysis of using no less than 129 MT for the RH/S cap throughout the rebuilding timeline

Hughes for Committee

Motion carries by consent

2021 Catch Issue

I move that the Council select 15,512 MT for 2021 catch projections.

Hughes/Farnham

Motion carries by consent.

Thursday, August 12, 2021

Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP)

Move to adopt the revised NTAP charter as presented here today.

Townsend/Farnham

Motion carries by consent