

# Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

December 12-14, 2023  
Philadelphia, PA

## MOTIONS

### Tuesday, December 12, 2023

#### **Summer Flounder Commercial Mesh Issues**

I move to consider as a potential 2024 priority a framework adjustment/addendum to clarify the definition of a flynet and to consider moving the western boundary of the small-mesh exemption area. The intent of this framework/addendum is for possible implementation by November 1, 2024.

Council: Pentony/Cimino (19/0/1)

Board: Pentony/Cimino (Motion carries by consent)

Motion carries

#### **Summer Flounder 2024-2025 Recreational Measures**

Move to adopt regional conservation equivalency for 2024-2025 summer flounder recreational management. The harvest target is equal to the 2024-2025 RHL of 6.35 mil lb based on the application of the Percent Change Approach and the Recreation Demand Model harvest projection, which results in a 28% coastwide harvest reduction to be taken in 2024. Non-preferred coastwide measures include an 18.5-inch minimum size, 3 fish possession limit, and open season from May 8-September 30. Precautionary default measures include a 20-inch minimum size, 2 fish possession limit, and open season from July 1-August 31.

Board: Davis/Clark (11/0/0/0)

Council: Clark/Luisi (18/1/0)

Motion carries

Move that each summer flounder recreational management region except for the North Carolina region (i.e., MA, RI, CT-NY, NJ, DE-VA) take a 28% harvest reduction using the Technical Committee recommended configuration of the Recreation Demand Model to evaluate measures. North Carolina's exemption from the 28% reduction is contingent upon the required coastwide reduction being achieved. Measures are subject to Board approval prior to implementation.

Board: Batsavage/Kane (11/0/0/0)

Motion carries

### **Scup 2024-2025 Recreational Measures**

Move to adopt a 13.76 million pound recreational harvest target for scup in 2024-2025, with a 10% coastwide harvest reduction to be taken in 2024, based on the application of the Percent Change Approach and the outputs of the Recreation Demand Model. The 10% coastwide harvest reduction will be achieved by the states through the Commission process. Federal waters measures would consist of a year-round (January – December) open season, 40 fish possession limit, and 10-inch minimum size limit.

Council: Clark/Luisi (19/0/1)

Board: Clark/Luisi (Motion carries by consent with two abstentions)

Motion carries

### **Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

#### **Black Sea Bass 2024 Recreational Measures**

Move to adopt conservation equivalency for 2024 recreational black sea bass management with status quo measures. Status quo non-preferred coastwide measures are: 15 inch minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, and May 15 – September 8 open season. Status quo precautionary default measures are: 16 inch minimum size, 2 fish possession limit, and June 1 – August 31 open season.

Council: Grist/Clark (19/0/1)

Board: Grist/Clark (10/1/1/0)

Motion carries

#### **Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda**

Move to adopt the FMAT/PDT's recommendation to remove the pre-determined measures concept from further consideration under the Biological Reference Point Approach and the Biomass Based Matrix Approach alternatives.

Policy Board: Nowalsky/Clark (Motion carries by consent)

Council: Nowalsky/Clark (Motion carries by consent)

Motion carries

#### **Guidance Document for Council Review of Exempted Fishing Permit Applications for Unmanaged Forage Amendment Ecosystem Component Species**

Move to approve the guidance document as presented today.

Duval/Luisi

Motion carries by consent

## **Spiny Dogfish**

I move that the Council adopt 2024-2026 dogfish specifications that include the following deductions from the SSC-specified ABCs: the most recent estimate of Canadian landings (36 MT); no buffer for management uncertainty (0 MT); the model-predicted year- specific discards (2,382 MT for 2024; 2,441 MT for 2025; and 2,494 MT for 2026); and the most recent 3-year average recreational landings (112 MT). This results in commercial quotas of 4,605 MT (10.15 mil. pounds) for 2024; 4,723 MT (10.41 mil. pounds) for 2025; and 4,831 MT (10.65 mil. pounds) for 2026. (Reflected in Table 3 of Monitoring Committee summary.)

Gwin for Committee

### *Motion to amend:*

I move to amend to deduct the 2022 discard estimate of 2,134 MT for the 2024-2026 specifications instead of 2,382 MT for 2024, 2,441 MT for 2025, and 2,494 MT for 2026.

Farnham/Gwin (11/6/2)

Motion to amend carries

### *Main motion as amended:*

I move that the Council adopt 2024-2026 dogfish specifications that include the following deductions from the SSC-specified ABCs: the most recent estimate of Canadian landings (36 MT); no buffer for management uncertainty (0 MT); the 2022 estimated discards (2,134 MT for 2024-2026); and the most recent 3-year average recreational landings (112 MT). This results in commercial quotas of

- 10.70 mil. pounds for 2024;
- 11.09 mil. pounds for 2025;
- 11.44 mil. pounds for 2026.

### *Motion to amend:*

I move to amend to use the 2022 discard estimate of 2,134 MT for 2024 and then use the model-based discard estimates for 2025 and 2026.

Luisi/Batsavage (15/5/0)

Motion to amend carries

### *Main motion as amended:*

I move that the Council adopt 2024-2026 dogfish specifications that include the following deductions from the SSC-specified ABCs: the most recent estimate of Canadian landings (36 MT); no buffer for management uncertainty (0 MT); the 2022 estimated discards for 2024 (2,134 MT) then the model-based discard projections; and the most recent 3-year average recreational landings (112 MT). This results in commercial quotas of

- 10.70 mil. pounds for 2024;
- 10.41 mil. pounds for 2025;
- 10.65 mil. pounds for 2026.

*Motion to amend:*

I move to amend to use 2,134 MT for 2024, 2,187 for 2025 MT, and 2,234 for 2026 for discards.

Nowalsky/Hughes (18/0/1)

Motion to amend carries

*Main motion as amended:*

I move that the Council adopt 2024-2026 dogfish specifications that include the following deductions from the SSC-specified ABCs: the most recent estimate of Canadian landings (36 MT); no buffer for management uncertainty (0 MT); the 2022 estimated discards for 2024 (2,134 MT) then follow the trend of the model-based discard projections; and the most recent 3-year average recreational landings (112 MT). This results in commercial quotas of

- 10.70 mil. pounds for 2024;
- 10.97 mil. pounds for 2025;
- 11.22 mil. pounds for 2026.

Motion carries by consent with one objection

## **Atlantic Mackerel**

I move that the Council adopt 2024-2025 mackerel specifications with ABC = 3,200 mt, Canadian Catch = 74 mt, US ABC = ACL = 3,126 mt, Recreational set-aside = 2,143 mt, Commercial Discard set aside = 115 mt; DAH = 868 mt = DAP; JVP = 0, TALFF = 0. To accompany these, trip limits would be an initial trip limit of 20,000 pounds for limited access permits and 5,000 pounds for open access permits. Once 80% of the quota was landed, trip limits would change to 10,000 pounds for limited access permits and 2,500 pounds for open access permits.

Hughes/Duval

Motion carries by consent

## **2024 Implementation Plan**

I move to replace Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass item #9 (Framework action to consider modifications to the commercial scup Gear Restricted Areas) with the framework adjustment to address the summer flounder small-mesh exemption area and flynet definition, and associated issues, as agreed unanimously by the Council and Board.

Pentony/Hughes

Motion carries by consent

Move to approve the 2024 Implementation Plan as modified today.

Luisi/Grist

Motion carries by consent

I move that the Council initiate a framework adjustment to address several issues related to the summer flounder commercial fishery, specifically: To consider moving the western boundary of the Small-Mesh Exemption Area; to clarify the regulatory definition of a flynet; to clarify the requirements of enrolling in the Small-Mesh Exemption Program; and to ensure meaningful and effective evaluation criteria for the Small-Mesh Exemption Program and the use of the flynet exemption.

Pentony/Hughes

Motion carries by consent