

Mid-Atlantic Council Meeting February 14th - 16th 2017
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Boards
Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass
Agenda Topics

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I want to submit my written comments as part of the recorded meeting minutes and comments for the Summer Flounder Amendment and Black Sea Bass agenda topics that are scheduled to be discussed on Wednesday February 15th.

Summer Flounder Amendment and Black Sea Bass Commercial Framework

Goals

1. The management system should be changed to federal quota when fishing in federal waters and the ability to land the quota in whatever port is the safest and closest port the captain chooses –ex. the current Scup management plans.
2. Eliminate being subject to state by state quota while fishing in the EEZ.
3. Getting the harvest to the market with the best quality is paramount to the American consumers and should be to this management council.
4. The goal of this new management plan should reduce regulatory discards for federally permitted boats when fishing in the EEZ.
5. This amendment should address the inequities of federally permitted boats fishing in the EEZ for state by state landing quotas then trucking the fish over state lines to the market.
6. We need to replace the current system.

Objectives

1. Review from VTRs where the fish are being caught and in what months for the past 25 years. It seems that the majority of the fish are harvested in the EEZ from federally permitted boats, but then have to needlessly steam hundreds of miles to land the fish sacrificing product quality and market values.
 - **National Standard 4** – Conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different States. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocations shall be (A) fair and equitable to all fishermen; (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and (C)

carried out in such a manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excess share of such privileges.

2. The management system for fluke MUST be changed because the current system is so outdated and flawed. The current system does not have anything to do with conservation. In fact it promotes regulatory discards in the EEZ in the winter months that are unacceptable to the general public NOT just fishermen.
3. A new management system must be fair and equitable to all active federally permitted boats fishing in the EEZ from October thru April.
4. The new plan should incorporate safety at sea for the federally permitted vessels that are fishing in the EEZ.
 - ***National Standard 10*** - *Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, promote the safety of human life at sea*
5. A new management plan should not politics ahead of conservation and safety at sea.
6. Foreign owned companies should not influence the quota allocation process.
7. Latent effort must be addressed before this amendment is finalized.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

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