



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901

Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)

Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

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

**December 2021 Council Meeting**

This document contains all written comments on the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment received for the December 2021 Council Meeting through December 9, 2021.

Comments received by the December 1 briefing book deadline (also included in Tab 9):

- Rhode Island Dealers Joint Letter
- Mark Phillips
- Joan Berko

Supplemental comments received between December 2 and December 9:

- June Lewis
- John Haran
- Mark Hodges
- Gus Lovgren
- Don DeBerardino
- John Curzake
- North Carolina Fisheries Association
- Burl Self
- Garden State Seafood Association
- Neil Delanoy
- Patrick Gillen
- Eric Lundvall
- Eating with the Ecosystem
- Chris Spies
- John DePersenaire

Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901

November 18, 2021

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

Dear Dr. Moore and Mid Atlantic Council Members,

We the undersigned Rhode Island federally permitted commercial fish dealer/processors are writing to strongly support the No Action/Status Quo Alternative for the Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment.

Although Rhode Island does not hold a seat on the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Point Judith, Rhode Island, accounted for more individual vessels landing black sea bass than any other port on the East Coast and 9% of the overall 2020 commercial landings.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, Rhode Island was awarded, based on landings, 15% of the coastwide baseline commercial fluke quota.<sup>2</sup> Of the state by state quotas for scup summer quota period, Rhode Island accounts for 56% of the entire coastwide quota, *more than all other East Coast states combined*.<sup>3</sup>

The state of Rhode Island has just been awarded a federal Saltonstall Kennedy grant entitled "Realizing the Full Potential of Rhode Island Seafood in Rhode Island", a targeted effort via the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative to increase in state consumption of "*three bellwether species landed in RI: summer flounder, black sea bass, and scup*".<sup>4</sup> This initiative has been lauded by RI Governor McKee and the entire federal RI Congressional delegation.<sup>5</sup>

The SK grant itself notes:

"Rhode Island has long been a major, steady contributor to the fisheries of the U.S., with annual landings valued at over \$100 million (ex-vessel), total economic output valued at over \$400 million, and total associated jobs exceeding 4,000. Point Judith is the third most valuable commercial fishing port on the East Coast.... While the Rhode Island commercial fishing and seafood industry are a key focus of the project, the success of the project is wholly dependent upon an increase in consumer awareness of,

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<sup>1</sup> See 2021 Black Sea Bass Fishery Information Document at [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/60e48e0984aa98094ae673b9/1625591306568/BSB\\_fishery\\_info\\_doc\\_2021.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/60e48e0984aa98094ae673b9/1625591306568/BSB_fishery_info_doc_2021.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> See 2021 Summer Flounder Fishery Information Document at [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/60eca7c7973f9128ac6e30ab/1626122184591/Fluke+AP+FPR+Info+Doc\\_2021.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/60eca7c7973f9128ac6e30ab/1626122184591/Fluke+AP+FPR+Info+Doc_2021.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See 2021 Scup Fishery Information Document at [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/60c3af6c249ef247cdaa8914/1623437165082/Scup\\_info\\_doc\\_2021.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/60c3af6c249ef247cdaa8914/1623437165082/Scup_info_doc_2021.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> See attached document, "Measuring the Impact of the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Campaign: Participants Needed: RI Seafood Dealers". Emphasis added.

<sup>5</sup> See RI DEM Press Release, November 16, 2021 at: <https://www.ri.gov/press/view/42487>.

demand for, and consumption of Rhode Island seafood products. As such, Rhode Island seafood consumers in Rhode Island stand to benefit as much, if not more than the industry itself. Rhode Island seafood consumers include all residents and all visitors to the state. Rhode Island, the Ocean State, is a prime destination for tourists seeking the Ocean-State experience, and that involves a lot of dining at a lot of Rhode Island restaurants.... And during a time when public health issues are at the fore, and food security has become a major concern, it stands to reason that improving public health and welfare via increased access to and consumption of healthful Rhode Island seafood is, per se, enormously important and particularly timely.... A final public benefit stemming from the campaign will be the enhanced opportunity for low-income segments of the population to access high-quality Rhode Island seafood products at an affordable price.”<sup>6</sup>

The first and foremost prerequisite to this effort is the availability of commercially landed Rhode Island seafood- specifically summer flounder, black sea bass, and scup. Rhode Island cannot develop new markets and new consumer awareness and feed the public while simultaneously losing commercial access to these species. Creating uncertainty through reallocation combined with the scientific and management uncertainty, and associated quota reductions, that will accompany increased recreational allocation will directly undermine these efforts.

Therefore, we can only support Status Quo when it comes to Allocation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Meghan Lapp, Seafreeze Shoreside



Chris Lee, Sea Fresh USA



Katie Almeida, The Town Dock

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<sup>6</sup> Saltonstall Kennedy Grant “Realizing the Full Potential of Rhode Island Seafood in Rhode Island”, p. 4, 7.

[Click here to view attachments to the Rhode Island Joint Dealer Letter](#) (SK grant documents pertaining to RI's upcoming marketing program for commercially harvested fluke, scup and sea bass)

To Mid Atlantic Council and staff:

Allocation Amendment, I support status quo.

I started fishing in 1964 or 65.

The commercial have lived with hard TAC's since the 90's, the council has had 20 close to 30 years to get the recreational under control and it has stuck it's head in the sand.

While the commercial sector has abided by your plans and NMFS has enforced them. Everyone has looked the other way on recreational. The recreational should not be rewarded for your inaction. The recreational lost in court over Red Snapper.

I was at the original summer flounder council meetings and the commercial said the same things the recreational are saying now. Commercial harvest was under reported, back in the late 60s, 70s and 80s a lot of fishermen were paid in cash. The guy I worked for he or his wife went to Fulton Fish Market once or twice a month and came back with a paper bag full of cash, then I would get paid in cash. I had to be careful I didn't put too much in the bank because my 1099 would be 1/3 to 1/2 of what I made. This was normal.

Commercial fishermen in New York were only counted if they were a trip boat that packed loose fish. Fish that were boxed at sea were not counted accurately. New York relied on the NMFS port agents for landings, if they were boxed at sea the port agent would ask the dock manager how many cartons were packed for a week, what were they mostly, whiting, scup or squid. Then the number of cartons times 60 lbs of whiting, scup or squid equals what went out of each port. Using Fulton Fish Market records was very iffy and a lot of offices had fires.

At the council meetings for summer flounder NY was represented by Charlie Johnson (NY Sports Fishing Federation), Carl Safina (Audubon and paid lobbyist for NY Sports Fishing Federation), Warren Hater (charter boat, died of cancer) Tony DeLernia (teacher and charter boat, took Warren's place) and Gordon Colvin (NY DEC). Not exactly commercial friendly. There was no incentive to reign in recreational fishing from these member in fact the sportfishing magazines rejoiced at commercial being curtailed and encouraged their readers to catch more fish.

The recreational should not be rewarded for increasing fishing effort and claiming bad numbers when the numbers were fine if it punished commercial.

Mark S Phillips

F/V Illusion

**From:** [Moore, Christopher](#)  
**To:** [Beaty, Julia](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Reallocation  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:56:10 PM

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Fyi and posting. C

On 12/1/21, 3:51 PM, "fishthewizard (null)" <fishthewizard@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Moore:

Any reduction of quota to the commercial black sea bass fishery will severely impact commercial fishermen, along with the public who depend on us for providing them with fish. We have abided by strict regulations for years, but are now at risk of losing fish through reallocation, even though black sea bass are abundant. While there is a moratorium on commercial permits, uncontrolled expansion of the recreational fishery is allowed. The allocation of black sea bass between sectors should remain status quo, unless the commercial allocation is increased.

Sincerely,

Joan Berko  
F/V Wizard

## Kiley Dancy

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**From:** Moore, Christopher  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 4, 2021 4:02 PM  
**To:** TechStaff  
**Subject:** Fwd: Recreational Fisheries

Fyi

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** charlie McBlondie <ocblondie1@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 4, 2021 1:00:38 PM  
**To:** Luisi, Michael <michael.luisi@maryland.gov>; Townsend, Wes <pakafish1@yahoo.com>; Pentony, Mike <Michael.Pentony@noaa.gov>; Batsavage, Chris <chris.batsavage@ncdenr.gov>; ellen.bolen@governor.virginia.gov <ellen.bolen@governor.virginia.gov>; Kuhn, Kristopher <kkuhn@pa.gov>; Cimino, Joseph <Joseph.Cimino@dep.nj.gov>; Stormer, David <David.Stormer@delaware.gov>; Davidson, Maureen <maureen.davidson@dec.ny.gov>; Schlichter, Thomas <outdoortom@optonline.net>; Wilke, Kate <kate.wilke@tnc.org>; Duval, Michelle <mduval.mafmc@gmail.com>; Winslow, Sara <fishsqueezers@yahoo.com>; Feller, Skip <sfeller3@verizon.net>; Risi, Paul <paul.risi@kbcc.cuny.edu>; Farnham, Dan <dfarnhamny@gmail.com>; Lenox, Scott <fishinoc@hotmail.com>; Gwin, Sonny <sonnygwin@verizon.net>; Hughes, Peter B. <phughes@atlanticcap.com>; Nowalsky, Adam <captadam@karenannii.com>; Hemilright Jr, Dewey <FVTARBABY@embarqmail.com>; Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>  
**Subject:** Recreational Fisheries

Dear Council Members,

I am a member from Maryland on the Council's Advisory Panel for Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass. I support Recreational fishermen being held accountable for the fish caught and discards. There is nothing in play in the Allocation Amendment as far as Recreational being checked or held accountable. This needs to change. Put some accountability on these Recreational fishermen. And on the "head-boats". For instance, tag their fish. We have gotten serious with the Commercial Fisheries, now time to get serious with Recreational. It is unfair to keep taking quota from the Commercial Fishermen [ones who make a living] to give to those that are just out for sport. Commercial is held accountable and Recreational is not. **I support Status Quo on Allocation and for the Council to get serious with Recreational accountability.**

Sincerely,  
June Lewis

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Kiley Dancy

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**From:** Moore, Christopher  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 5, 2021 1:20 PM  
**To:** TechStaff  
**Subject:** FW: Fluke scup sea bass allocation

Fyi and BB

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**From:** "sector13@comcast.net" <sector13@comcast.net>  
**Date:** Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 5:45 PM  
**To:** Michael Luisi <michael.luisi@maryland.gov>, "Townsend, Wes" <pakafish1@yahoo.com>, Mike Pentony <Michael.Pentony@noaa.gov>, Chris Batsavage <chris.batsavage@ncdenr.gov>, "ellen.bolen@governor.virginia.gov" <ellen.bolen@governor.virginia.gov>, "Kuhn, Kristopher" <kkuhn@pa.gov>, "Cimino, Joseph" <Joseph.Cimino@dep.nj.gov>, "Stormer, David" <David.Stormer@delaware.gov>, "Davidson, Maureen" <maureen.davidson@dec.ny.gov>, "Schlichter, Thomas" <outdoortom@optonline.net>, "Wilke, Kate" <kate.wilke@tnc.org>, "Duval, Michelle" <mduval.mafmc@gmail.com>, "Winslow, Sara" <fishsqueezers@yahoo.com>, "sfeller3@verizon.net" <sfeller3@verizon.net>, "Risi, Paul" <paul.risi@kbcc.cuny.edu>, "Farnham, Dan" <dfarnhamny@gmail.com>, "Lenox, Scott" <fishinoc@hotmail.com>, "Gwin, Sonny" <sonnygwin@verizon.net>, "phughes@atlanticcap.com" <phughes@atlanticcap.com>, Adam Nowalsky <captadam@karenannii.com>, Dewey Hemilright <FVTARBABY@embarqmail.com>, Christopher Moore <cmoore@mafmc.org>, "Lapp, Meghan" <Meghan@seafreezeld.com>  
**Subject:** Fluke scup sea bass allocation

Dear Mid Atlantic Council Members,

I represent Northeast Sectors 13 and 10. We have federally permitted vessels from NC to MA in our groups that harvest fluke, scup and sea bass. Our Sectors are based in Massachusetts, and some of our members homeport in New England states. In that respect we do not have representation on the Mid Atlantic Council. However, some of our membership homeport in Mid Atlantic states, and do have representation on the Mid Atlantic Council. I am writing this on behalf of all of our members to demonstrate that this Allocation Amendment issue is far reaching and affects many vessels from up and down the coast that rely on access to fluke, scup and sea bass throughout the year.

Our vessels are held to strict reporting standards, enforcement, and accountability standards. We are monitored in season, and comply with strict adherence to commercial trip limits and quota levels. We do not have the ability to exceed the commercial quota. The recreational sector routinely exceeds its quota, even under old MRIP numbers according to Council documents. If the recreational sector is exceeding their quota under new MRIP also, this should not surprise the Council. Instead, it should require the Council to take measures for recreational accountability and management. This is a Magnuson requirement. What it should not do is cause the Council to take allocation away from the commercial sector. That is backwards.



Our vessels rely on access to this fish to support jobs and families of crew, to pay bills, to feed America. They are not out for a good time on a Saturday afternoon before they go back to the office on Monday- this is our vessels' livelihoods. Income that is necessary to survive. They should not be punished for the bad behavior of others, or for Council inaction to manage recreational fisheries. The only action we can support is Status Quo for the Allocation Amendment. Any other option is unethical and punitive to commercial fisheries who have been the only accountable sector in management.

Sincerely,

John Haran

Sector manager- Sector 10 & 13

Sector13@comcast.net



Hodges Seafood Ltd  
2456 Bullock Trail  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454  
Tele #: 757-463-5475  
Cell #: 757-532-5475

Email: [mlhodges56@verizon.net](mailto:mlhodges56@verizon.net)

December 6, 2021

Christopher Moore, Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State St, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Chris,

I am a VA commercial fisherman writing to support for the Status Quo alternative regarding the Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment. Black sea bass, and fluke are major fisheries for our state and our commercial industry. We cannot afford to lose one pound of these resources that keep our local seafood industry alive.

Virginia commercial vessels, like all federally permitted commercial fishing vessels, are held to high standards of enforcement and accountability. This includes federal reporting via VTRs, observer coverage, US Coast Guard boarding at sea, federal and state enforcement and inspection at the docks, in season quota monitoring, accountability measures, and strict adherence to the commercial ACL. State vessels are similarly subject to state enforcement, SAFIS reporting, quota monitoring, accountability measures, and strict adherence to the commercial ACL. Dealers also are held to federal and state reporting requirements.

The recreational sector does not have this level of accountability, and is not even subject to in-season management. The alleged need for reallocation of commercial quota to the recreational sector is "new MRIP data", which shows higher recreational harvest numbers than previously estimated. However, according to recent Council documents and data, the recreational sector exceeded its RHL under "old MRIP" numbers 30% of the time for fluke and scup over a 15-year period, and 80% of the time for black sea bass in a 10-year period. New MRIP does not change this. The issue before the Council is lack of recreational accountability, not "new MRIP".

The commercial sector feeds the public. The importance of this fact cannot be understated. Commercial fishing vessels supply local restaurants, support tourism, feed families and provide food security even in the middle of pandemics. We cannot support any action that would reallocate commercial quota, particularly to an unaccountable sector. To support sustainable fisheries, the resource must be sustainably managed for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark L. Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark L. Hodges  
President

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gus Lovgren** <[gus.glove@gmail.com](mailto:gus.glove@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 5:14 PM

Subject: mafmc letter

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Council Members,

My name is Gus Lovgren, owner and operator of the Fishing Vessel Lilly Rose. I am writing this letter on behalf of myself as well as the members of the Fisherman's Dock Co-Op out of Point Pleasant, NJ. We are in favor of the status quo alternative regarding the commercial/ recreational allocation amendment. Here at the Fisherman's Dock Co-Op we have consistently ranked as one the top landing ports for summer flounder on the east coast for over a decade now, and scup and black sea bass are major contributors to our annual landings as well as our local economy.

Our commercial fleet has taken pride in how strictly we follow the regulations and not exceeding our quota. We have made sacrifices whenever necessary, if we ever exceeded our quota it was subtracted from the following year's harvest, yet if we ever under exceeded then the remaining weight was lost and forgotten about. For reasons such as these we can not agree to willingly hand over our hard-earned quota to another sector who continuously overfishes their quota with no repercussions. The commercial sector should not be punished for practicing sustainability while the recreational sector gets rewarded for their lack of accountability.

Although the "new MRIP" data shows higher recreational harvest numbers than previously estimated, it is still unreliable and inaccurate. More needs to be done to garnish more precise numbers for the recreational harvest. The commercial sector is responsible for VTRs, Coast Guard boardings and inspections at sea, observer coverage, federal and state enforcement, dockside inspections, in season quota monitoring, and we are required to notify the NJDFW a minimum of 2 hours prior to unloading. Every fish that crosses our decks is recorded on our VTRs, then is again recorded as it's unloaded at the dock and recorded once again as it's sold to various dealers. Our harvest numbers are precise, but there is no level of accountability anywhere close to this for the recreational sector.

These three fisheries are major to our dock, and with the upcoming reductions in scallop quota we will become even more reliant on them and can not afford to lose any quota. The Fisherman's Dock Co-Op has existed for over 70 years on the Jersey Shore. We have survived from generation to generation and have taken pride in the sustainability of our fisheries. We hope to continue for many more generations to come, but the resource needs to be responsibly managed, and this does not include rewarding the culprit and punishing those who follow the rules.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gus Lovgren

F/V Lilly Rose

Fisherman's Dock Co-Op

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**From:** Moore, Christopher  
**Sent:** Friday, December 10, 2021 9:59 AM  
**To:** TechStaff  
**Subject:** FW: QUOTA CUTS RESPONSE

**From:** Don DeBerardino II <dondnanuk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 6, 2021 5:19 PM  
**To:** Luisi, Michael <michael.luisi@maryland.gov>; Townsend, Wes <pakafish1@yahoo.com>; Pentony, Mike <Michael.Pentony@noaa.gov>; Batsavage, Chris <chris.batsavage@ncdenr.gov>; ellen.bolen@governor.virginia.gov; Kuhn, Kristopher <kkuhn@pa.gov>; Cimino, Joseph <Joseph.Cimino@dep.nj.gov>; Stormer, David <David.Stormer@delaware.gov>; Davidson, Maureen <maureen.davidson@dec.ny.gov>; Schlichter, Thomas <outdoortom@optonline.net>; Wilke, Kate <kate.wilke@tnc.org>; Duval, Michelle <mduval.mafmc@gmail.com>; Winslow, Sara <fishsqueezers@yahoo.com>; Feller, Skip <sfeller3@verizon.net>; Risi, Paul <paul.risi@kbcc.cuny.edu>; Farnham, Dan <dfarnhamny@gmail.com>; Lenox, Scott <fishinoc@hotmail.com>; Gwin, Sonny <sonnygwin@verizon.net>; Hughes, Peter B. <phughes@atlanticcap.com>; Nowalsky, Adam <captadam@karenanii.com>; Hemilright Jr, Dewey <FVTARBABY@embarqmail.com>; Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>  
**Subject:** QUOTA CUTS RESPONSE

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Dear Mid Atlantic Council,

I am a Rhode Island commercial fisherman. I catch fluke, scup and sea bass. I have been regulated more times than I can count. I can't afford to lose commercial quota because the Council doesn't want to regulate recreational fisheries the same way. I obey the rules. When there are quota cuts, I take the cuts. When the season closes down halfway through the season, I take the closure. Everything I catch I report. It is not my fault if the Council doesn't hold recreational fishermen accountable the same way. This is about equity. I shouldn't lose my income because the Council doesn't want to hold recreational fisheries accountable even though it holds me accountable. I only support Status Quo.

DON DEBERARDINO II

F/ V UMIAK

PT JUDITH, RI

## Kiley Dancy

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**From:** Moore, Christopher  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:25 AM  
**To:** TechStaff  
**Subject:** FW:

Fyi and BB

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 N. State St, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

302-526-5255  
mafmc.org

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**From:** John Curzake <fvemiliarose@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:01 PM  
**To:** Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>  
**Subject:**

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows  
Dear Mid Atlantic Council,

I am a commercial fisherman from RI. Fluke, scup, and sea bass are a main source of income for my business and crew. I cannot afford to directly lose income because the Council wants to reallocate commercial quota to cover recreational overages. Commercial fisherman are already heavily regulated. We could catch more if we were allowed. But we aren't. We are held accountable and we will be the only ones held accountable to rebuild the stock if it gets overfished by recreational overages. I can only support Status Quo on the Allocation Amendment.

Sincerely,  
John Curzake  
F/V Emilia Rose

# NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 86  
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557  
Phone: 252-726-6232 • Fax: 252-726-6200

[www.ncfish.org](http://www.ncfish.org)

December 7, 2021

Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street; Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

Mr. Chairman and Council Members:

You have heard the arguments in favor of the status quo alternative for the allocation amendment for summer flounder, black sea bass and scup. You well know these are major fisheries for North Carolina. More than “major”, they help with the survival of our entire industry so it’s not just the bottom line for those vessels in those fisheries, but a major component in whether or not the commercial fishing industry survives in our state!

While my current title for the North Carolina Fisheries Association is Director of Government Relations, I was Executive Director when I was a member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 1989 - 1992 and a member of the Demersal Species Committee when the plan was first developed.

It’s amazing that ever since the commercial sector was held accountable to strict management measures, the rec sector has not, and remains till this day. Dealers are also held to those federal and state reporting requirements.

Rather than strictly addressing accountability in the rec sector, we are looking at the possibility of losing quota via a change to allocation! Yet, it is the commercial sector that serves the vast majority of those who own this public trust resource, the consumer!

We provide food, sustainably, for a very hungry nation. Again, those same seafood consumers are also owners of this resource, and those needs cannot be filled by the rec sector!

We cannot support any option that reallocates quota. We urge the Council to address the lack of accountability by the rec sector before looking at any other issues.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Jerry Schill  
Director of Government Relations

## Kiley Dancy

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**From:** Moore, Christopher  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:21 AM  
**To:** TechStaff  
**Subject:** FW: Black Sea Bass

Fyi and BB

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 N. State St, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

302-526-5255  
mafmc.org

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**From:** Burl Self <b\_e\_self@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021 9:13 AM  
**To:** Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>  
**Subject:** Black Sea Bass

AS a sportsman I strongly support reducing the commercial allocation in favor of sports fishing. Makes better economic sense.

Best  
Burl Self  
Va Beach Va



December 8, 2021

Chris Moore, Executive Director

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

800 North State Street, Suite 201

Dover, DE 19901

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of Garden State Seafood Association, representing over 1200 commercial fishers and seafood processors in New Jersey, I am writing to express our support for the Status Quo alternative regarding the Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment. Summer flounder, black sea bass, and scup are major fisheries for our state and our commercial industry. We cannot afford to lose these resources that support our local seafood industry when overfishing is not occurring by the commercial sector.

New Jersey's commercial vessels, like all federally permitted commercial fishing vessels, are held to high standards of enforcement and accountability. This includes federal reporting via VTRs, observer coverage, US Coast Guard boardings at sea, federal and state enforcement and inspection at the docks, in season quota monitoring, accountability measures, and strict adherence to the commercial ACL. State vessels are similarly subject to state enforcement, SAFIS reporting, quota monitoring, accountability measures, and strict adherence to the commercial ACL. Dealers also are held to federal and state reporting requirements.

The recreational sector does not have this level of accountability, and is not even subject to in- season management. The alleged need for reallocation of commercial quota to the recreational sector is based on "new MRIP data", which shows higher recreational harvest numbers than previously estimated. However, according to recent Council documents and data, the recreational sector exceeded its RHL under "old MRIP" numbers 30% of the time for fluke and scup over a 15-year period, and 80% of the time for black sea bass in a 10-year period. New MRIP numbers does not change this fact. The issue before the Council is lack of recreational accountability, not "new MRIP data. (See attached chart)

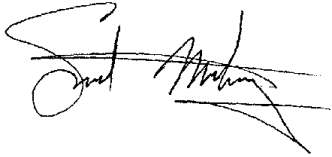
The commercial sector feeds the public. The importance of this fact cannot be understated. Commercial fishing vessels supply local restaurants, support tourism, feed families and provide food security even in the middle of pandemics. As an organization that supports the consumption of local seafood, with a



focus on sustainable resources, we cannot support any action that would reallocate commercial quota, particularly to an unaccountable recreational fishing sector. To support sustainable fisheries, the resource must be sustainably managed for all and by all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scot Mackey". The signature is stylized with a large initial "S" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scot Mackey

Executive Director

**Date/Time**

12/08/2021 12:52pm

**Name**

Neil Delanoy

**Email**

[ndelanoy@aol.com](mailto:ndelanoy@aol.com)

**Topic (Select One)**

Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Com/Rec Allocation Amendment

**Comments**

My name is Neil Delanoy. I started in the Party Boat business in 1974. I am currently the executive director of the Captree Boatmen's Association. We take 300,000 people fishing each year from New York State's largest For-Hire port. Over 40 years ago these fisheries were divided up Commercial/Recreational based on the best available science at the time. Although there was some confidence in commercial landing data, the recreational landings were more of a guess. Individual states had little or no credible data on the number of anglers or their landings. Fisheries management has come a long way since then. MRIP data is now the best available science. These numbers should and I believe are required to be used to allocate fish stocks equitably.

Respectfully submitted,  
Neil Delanoy  
Executive Director,  
Captree Boatmen's Association

**Date/Time**

12/08/2021 9:51pm

**Name**

Patrick Gillen

**Email**

[patrickg@optonline.net](mailto:patrickg@optonline.net)

**Topic (Select One)**

Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Com/Rec Allocation Amendment

**Comments**

We have a Party/Charter boat located at Captree New York.

The current quotas are based upon an artificially inflated commercial quota because after MRIP numbers showed that recs were harvesting a much higher percentage of many species, there was no mechanism to adjust the distribution so both quotas were increased in line with the old percentages to reflect the new biomass that would be necessary to carry the newly found rec harvest over the years.

The MRIP numbers may be questionable, but since they are being used to regulate the rec sector, they must be used in quota allocation.

The commercial sector has been fishing on extra quota due to the adjustments made because of the new MRIP data. This was never meant to be permanent, only temporary until the quota could be re-allocated through an amendment.

The rec fishery is open to better data through increased intercepts, various forms of reporting, and any other methods of improving the accuracy of the data.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Date/Time**

12/08/2021 10:46pm

**Name**

Eric Lundvall

**Email**

[ericlarslundvall@gmail.com](mailto:ericlarslundvall@gmail.com)

**Topic (Select One)**

Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Com/Rec Allocation Amendment

**Comments**

Dear Council Members,

My name is Eric Lundvall and I am a commercial fisherman from RI. I am writing to support Status Quo for the Allocation Amendment.

Fluke, scup and sea bass are a huge portion of my income. I cannot afford to lose any of my income that supports myself and my family because the Mid Atlantic Council refuses to hold the recreational sector accountable. I have obeyed all the rules, experienced more and more restrictive management over the course of my career, regulation after regulation, to the point that I even moved my entire family- myself, my wife and my children- from another state based on my best chances of continuing to make a living commercially fishing.

I have been held accountable by management and enforcement at every level as a commercial fisherman. As a commercial fisherman, I have VMS, VTRS, USCG boardings, state enforcement at the dock, corresponding dealer reports, observers, and more. Recreational has had nothing. And now because they have had nothing, the Council wants to take away a portion of my hard earned livelihood so that the recreational sector can continue to fish without any real management for another 30 years?

The Council has never managed recreational fishing. There is no enforcement, no boardings, no in season closures, no anything. While I get shut down in season if the commercial quota is reached, they keep on fishing and can exceed their quota. And now the Council wants to take my quota to cover that overage?

The Council needs to start holding the recreational sector accountable. That is the problem. Lack of accountability. Taking quota away from an accountable commercial industry and giving it to a recreational sector that has no management is unacceptable. And it won't solve anything because the recreational will just keep going over as they always have.

I only support Status Quo.

Sincerely,

ERIC LUNDVALL,

F/V RAYNA & KERSTIN  
PT. JUDITH, RHODE ISLAND

**Date/Time**

12/09/2021 1:51pm

**Name**

Kate Masury

**Email**

[kate@eatingwiththeecosystem.org](mailto:kate@eatingwiththeecosystem.org)

**Topic (Select One)**

Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Com/Rec Allocation Amendment

**Comments**

Please see the attached letter submitted on behalf of Eating with the Ecosystem.



EATING WITH THE ECOSYSTEM  
PO BOX 295  
WAKEFIELD RI 02880

December 7, 2021

Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director  
Mike Luisi, Chair  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Dr. Moore, Chairman Luisi, and members of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Eating with the Ecosystem is a small, non-profit organization based in Southern New England, promoting a place-based approach to sustaining New England's wild seafood. As an organization focused on linking seafood consumers to local seafood species, we are writing to support the No Action/Status Quo alternative for the Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass Commercial/ Recreational Allocation Amendment.

Commercial fishermen in Southern New England have been harvesting increasing numbers of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass in recent years due to a combination of climate-driven distribution shifts and stock expansion. Our work includes efforts to increase demand and markets for available, abundant commercial species consistent with our focus on place-based seafood and recognizing the changing nature of commercial harvests resulting from management and environmental factors. Commercial fisheries and their supply chains require consistency in allocation in order to develop and maintain markets for species. As summer flounder and black sea bass in particular are increasingly becoming an important part of commercial fishermen's portfolios in Southern New England, we urge the Council not to reallocate quota away from the commercial sector.

We are also supporters of recreational fisheries, but given the proposed actions under consideration, reallocating quota to the recreational sector will create additional uncertainty and inhibit the development of local markets for locally available, abundant seafood species. Therefore, we urge the Council to vote in favor of the No Action alternative.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

The Board of Directors  
Eating with the Ecosystem

**Date/Time**

12/09/2021 1:52pm

**Name**

Chris Spies

**Email**

[crispies@optonline.net](mailto:crispies@optonline.net)

**Topic (Select One)**

Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Com/Rec Allocation Amendment

**Comments**

As an avid angler that values catching summer flounder, scup and black sea bass I support bringing allocation into the 21st century using the following options.

Summer Flounder - I support 1a-1 = Catch Based Allocation. 44% commercial, 56% recreational.

Justification: this allocation uses the broadest baseline years from 2004-2018 and other recent periods that better reflect ongoing changes in the overall fishery and improvements to the catch data for both sectors.

Scup - I support 1b-3 = Catch Based Allocation. 61% commercial, 39% recreational.

Justification: this allocation uses baseline years from 2009-2018 and other recent periods that better reflect ongoing changes in the overall fishery and improvements to the catch data for both sectors.

Black Sea Bass - I support 1c-2 = Catch Based Allocation. 28% commercial, 72% recreational.

Justification: this allocation uses broad baseline years from 2004-2018. This 15-year recent period better reflects ongoing changes in the overall fishery and improvements to the catch data for both sectors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Spies  
1794 Lincoln Ave.  
Holbrook, NY 11741



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**From:** Moore, Christopher  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 9, 2021 5:55 PM  
**To:** TechStaff  
**Subject:** Fwd: Allocation Amendment Comments

**From:** John depersenaire <jdepersenaire@joinrfa.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 9, 2021 5:52:45 PM  
**To:** Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>  
**Subject:** Allocation Amendment Comments

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Dear Dr. Moore,

Please accept the following comments from the Recreational Fishing Alliance regarding action the Mid Atlantic Council will take next week with regard to allocations for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. After spending a considerable amount of time reviewing the MRIP estimates, acknowledging the improvements that have been made to the MRIP since its inception in 1981, and understanding how the recreational components of these fisheries have changed significantly since the 1980's, we find that there is overwhelming justification that supports using the more recent time series to make these important allocation decisions. In reviewing the MRIP numbers, one can observe a significant change in how these fisheries were prosecuted in the 1980-early 1990's with regard to mode, area, and region relative to the 2008-2018 time series. Anecdotally, we know the biomass distribution and length frequency on a spatial scale for these species, has changed relatively to the 1980's. This observation is often mentioned by Council members. From a data quality stand point, PSE's associated with catch estimates are marginally lower in the more recent time series thereby supporting the claim that the more recent time series represents catch estimates with lower uncertainty relative to the 1980 time series. The characteristics of the current summer flounder, scup and Black Sea bass fisheries are more similar to those of the more recent time series and therefore, RFA believes the recent time series is the more appropriate and representative time series to use for the pending allocation decisions. RFA can find no rationale arguments that support using the older time series given the improvements made to MRIP and the changes seen in these fisheries. RFA also supports the removal of years from the time series where the RHL for these species was estimated to be exceeded.

With that said, RFA supports the following options;

Summer Flounder: Option 1A-2  
Scup: Option 1B-3  
Black Sea Bass: Option 1C-2

Thank you of the opportunity to provide comments ahead of this important action.

Kindest regards,

John DePersenaire  
Recreational Fishing Alliance  
PO Box 250  
New Gretna, NJ 08224

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John DePersenaire  
Recreational Fishing Alliance