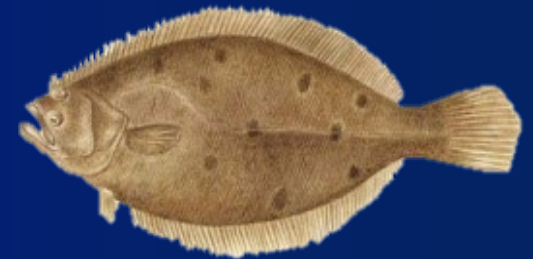


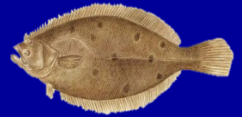
# Summer Flounder 2024-2025 Recreational Measures

Advisory Panel

December 4, 2023



# AP Objectives



- Review recent recreational fishery performance
- Review Monitoring Committee recommendations for 2024-2025 recreational management measures
- Provide input to the Council and Board on 2024-2025 measures

# 2023 Recreational Measures



- Regional Conservation Equivalency
  - State measures control harvest; federal measures waived
- Non-preferred coastwide measures
  - Implemented in federal regulations, but waived
  - 18-inches, 3 fish, May 15-Sept. 22
- Precautionary default
  - “Deterrent” measures
  - 20-inch TL, 2 fish, July 1-August 31

# 2023 State Measures



	Min. Size (in)	Bag Limit	Season
<b>MA</b>	16.5	5 fish	May 21-September 29
<b>RI</b>	18	4 fish	
<b>RI SHORE</b>	18	2 fish*	May 3-December 31
	17	2 fish*	
<b>CT</b>	18.5	4 fish	May 1-October 9
<b>CT SHORE SITES</b>	17		
<b>NY</b>	18.5		
<b>NJ</b>	Slot limit 17-18	2 fish <sup>b</sup>	May 2-September 27
	18	1 fish <sup>b</sup>	
<b>NJ SHORE SITE</b>	16	2 fish	
<b>NJ DE BAY</b>	17	3 fish	
<b>DE, MD, PRFC, VA</b>	16	4 fish	
<b>NC<sup>c</sup></b>	15	1 fish	September 15-29

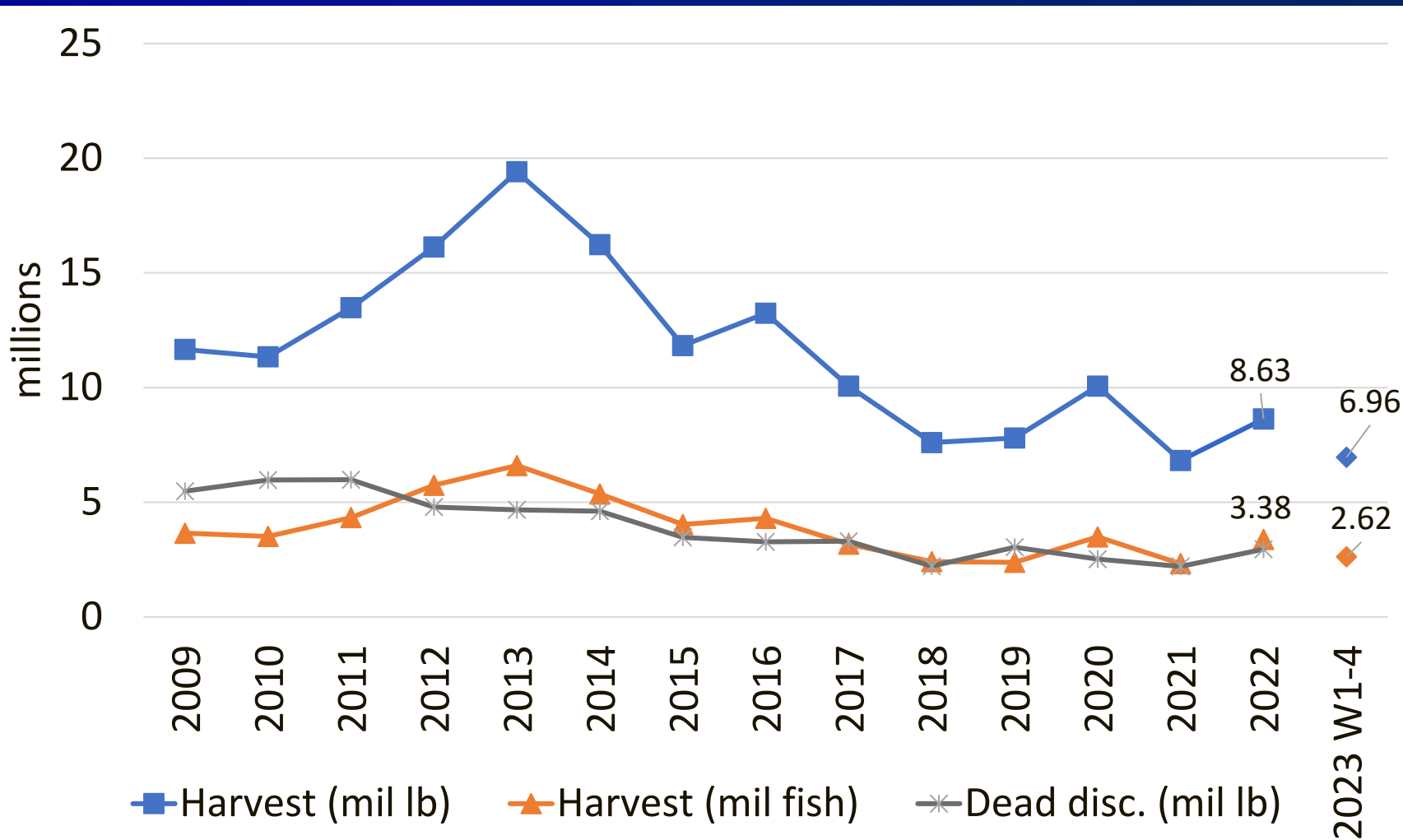
<sup>a</sup> Combined limit of 4 fish, no more than 2 at 17 inches

<sup>b</sup> NJ slot limit total possession limit of 3 fish: 2 between 17-18; 1 over 18

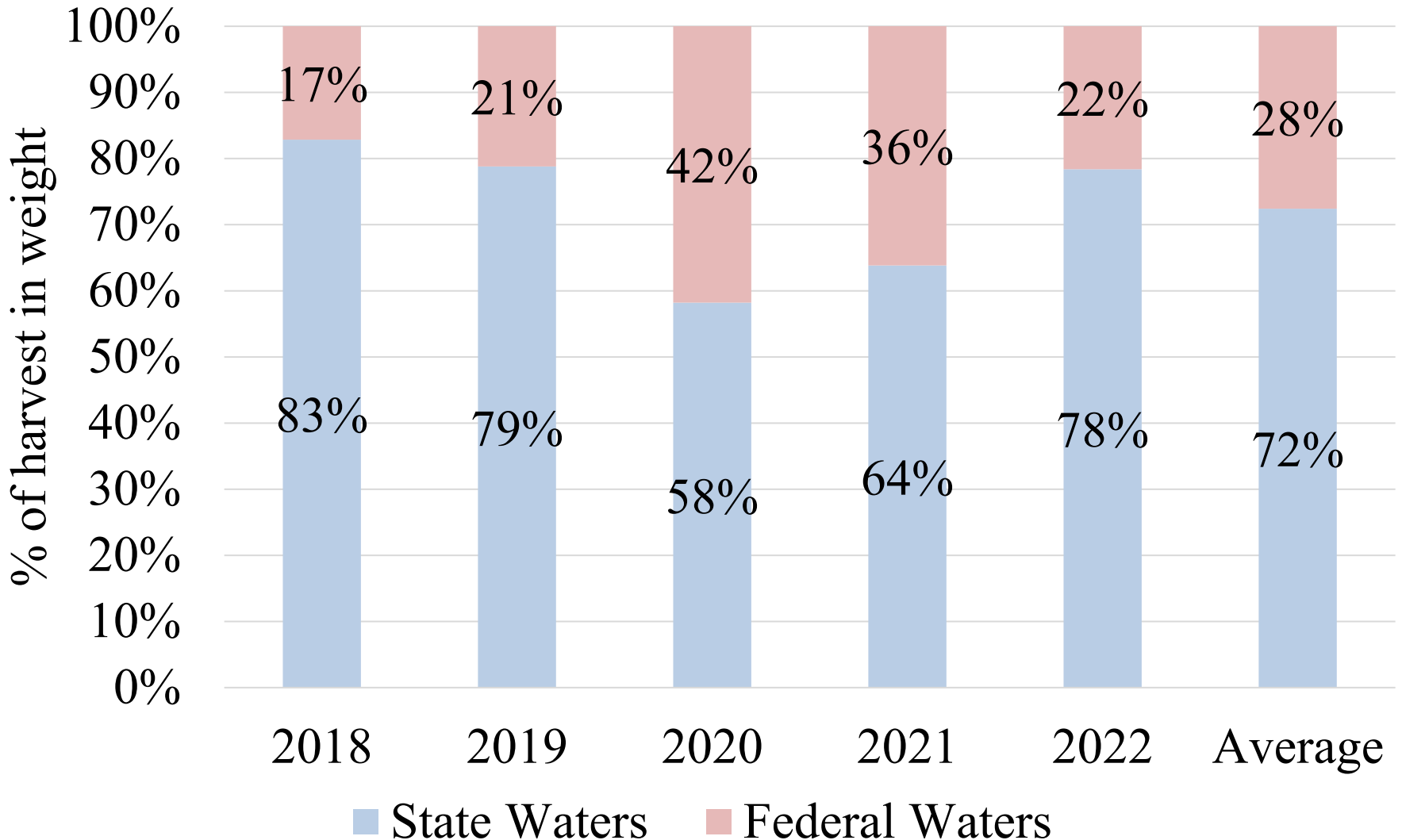
<sup>c</sup> NC restrictions to reduce mortality on southern flounder

# Harvest 2009-2022

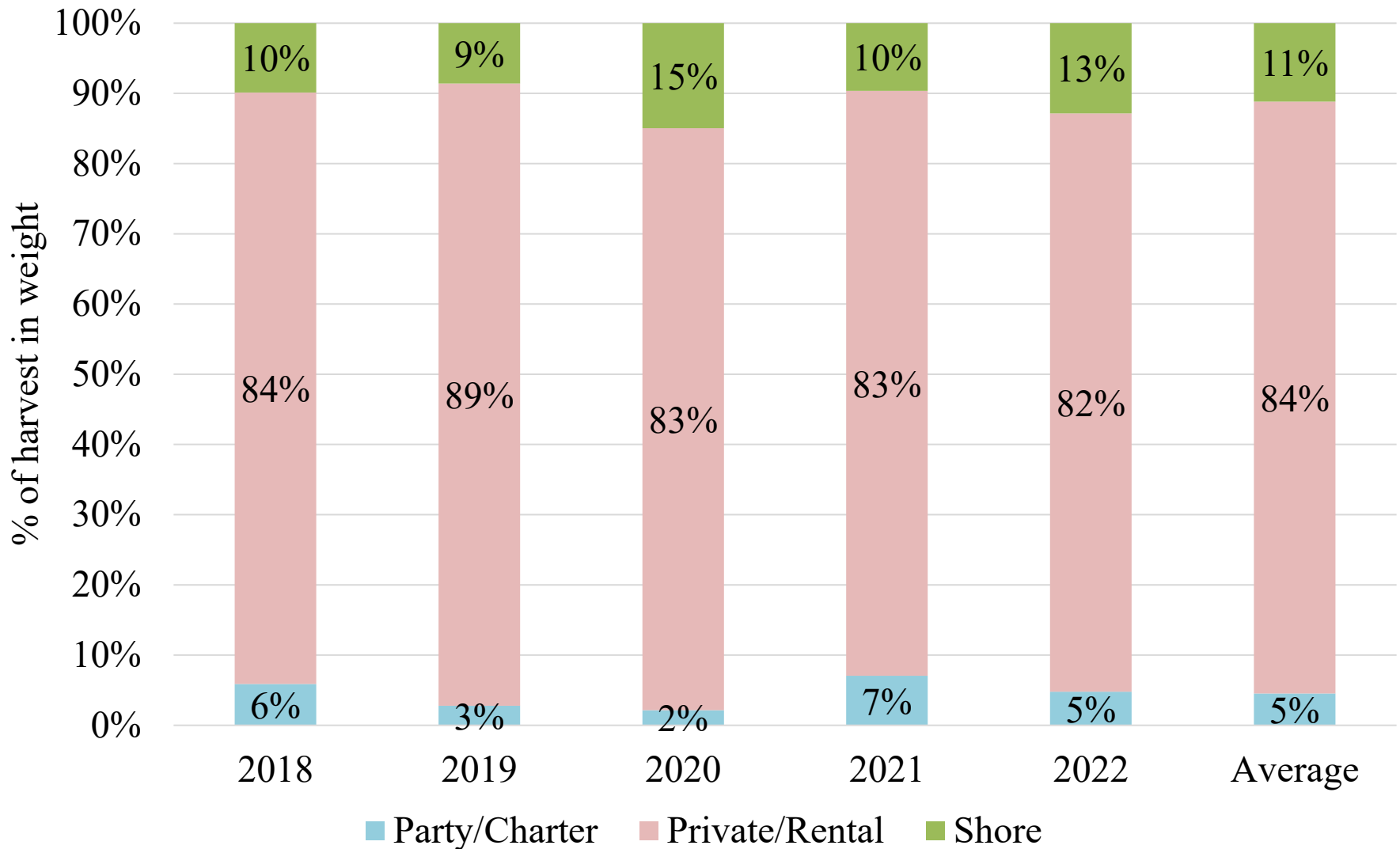
With 2023 Waves 1-4



# State vs. Federal Waters Harvest (lb)



# Harvest (lb) by mode



<i>Column 1</i> <b>2024-25 RHL vs expected harvest under 2023 measures</b>	<i>Column 2</i> <b>Biomass compared to target level (SSB/SSB<sub>MSY</sub>)</b>	<i>Column 3</i> <b>Change in Harvest</b>
<b>RHL greater than upper bound of expected harvest CI</b> (RHL underage expected)	<b>Very high</b> greater than 150% of target	<b>Liberalization</b> % = difference between harvest estimate and RHL, <b>not to exceed 40%</b>
	<b>High</b> at least target, but no higher than 150% of target	<b>Liberalization</b> % = difference between harvest estimate and RHL, <b>not to exceed 20%</b>
	<b>Low</b> below target stock size	<b>Liberalization: 10%</b>
<b>RHL within expected harvest CI</b> (harvest expected to be close to RHL)	<b>Very high</b> greater than 150% of target	<b>Liberalization: 10%</b>
	<b>High</b> at least target, but no higher than 150% of target	<b>No liberalization or reduction: 0%</b>
	<b>Low</b> below target stock size	<b>Reduction: 10%</b>
<b>RHL less than lower bound of expected harvest CI</b> (RHL overage expected)	<b>Very high</b> greater than 150% of target	<b>Reduction: 10%</b>
	<b>High</b> at least target, but no higher than 150% of target	<b>Reduction</b> % = difference between harvest estimate and RHL, <b>not to exceed 20%</b>
	<b>Low</b> below target stock size	<b>Reduction</b> % = difference between harvest estimate and RHL, <b>not to exceed 40%</b>



# Recreation Demand Model (RDM)

- Rec. measures process now informed by harvest projections generated by NEFSC Recreation Demand Model (RDM)
  - Used for the first time to set 2023 measures
- See overview document at:  
[https://www.mafmc.org/s/Tab02\\_RDM-Overview\\_2023-12.pdf](https://www.mafmc.org/s/Tab02_RDM-Overview_2023-12.pdf)
- Council/Board will receive refresher on RDM before discussing rec. measures, Tues 12/12 at 1pm

# Percent Change in Harvest Needed for 2024-2025



<i>Column 1</i> 2024-25 RHL vs expected harvest under 2023 measures
RHL greater than upper bound of expected harvest CI (RHL underage expected)
RHL within expected harvest CI (harvest expected to be close to RHL)
RHL less than lower bound of expected harvest CI (RHL overage expected)

- **Percent Change Approach Step 1:** Compare 2024-2025 RHL to 80% confidence interval around expected 2024-2025 harvest under current (2023) measures
- RHL is less than the lower bound of this CI

	Median	80% CI	2024-2025 RHL
<b>RDM estimate</b>	8.88	8.10 – 9.48	6.35

<i>Column 1</i> <b>2024-25 RHL vs expected harvest under 2023 measures</b>	<i>Column 2</i> <b>Biomass compared to target level (SSB/SSB<sub>MSY</sub>)</b>	<i>Column 3</i> <b>Change in Harvest</b>
<b>RHL greater than upper bound of expected harvest CI</b> (RHL underage expected)	<b>Very high</b> greater than 150% of target	<b>Liberalization</b> % = difference between harvest estimate and RHL, <b>not to exceed 40%</b>
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# Rec. Accountability Measures: Not Triggered for Summer Flounder



	Rec. Harvest (mil lb)	Rec. Dead Discards (mil lb)	Dead Rec. Catch (mil lb)	Rec. ACL (mil lb)	% Over/Under ACL
<b>2020<sup>a</sup></b>	10.08	2.52	12.59	11.51	+9%
<b>2021</b>	6.82	2.20	9.01	12.48	-28%
<b>2022</b>	8.63	2.95	11.58	14.64	-21%
<b>Average</b>	<b>8.51</b>	<b>2.55</b>	<b>11.06</b>	<b>12.88</b>	<b>-14%</b>

<sup>a</sup> 2020 MRIP harvest estimate incorporated ~19% imputed data

# 2024-2025 Harvest Target

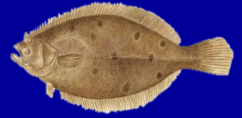
- Percent reduction = difference between harvest estimate and RHL, not to exceed 40%
- Harvest estimate of 8.88 million pounds, reduced down to RHL of **6.35 million pounds**
  - **28% reduction in harvest**

# Monitoring Committee Recommendations



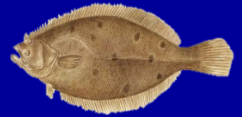
- Recommend continuation of regional conservation equivalency in 2024-2025 using the same regions as 2023
  - Federal measures waived; combination of regional measures designed to achieve harvest target

# MC Recommendation: Non-Preferred Coastwide Measures



- Non-preferred coastwide measures required under CE (waived)
  - Current: 18 inches, 3 fish, May 15-September 22
- RDM results to estimate non-preferred coastwide measures were not available at time of Nov. 13-14 MC meeting
  - Follow up call on Dec. 7
  - Staff recommendation: 18.5 inches, 3 fish, May 8-September 30

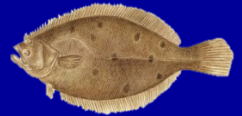
# Precautionary Default Measures



- MC will also recommend precautionary default measures on 12/7 call
- *Status quo* precautionary default measures of **2 fish, 20 inches, July 1-August 31**
- Likely to be sufficiently restrictive in all states; staff recommend no changes



# Summary



- Percent Change Approach with use of Recreational Demand Model & 80% CI results in:
  - 28% reduction relative to expected 2024 harvest
  - Target = 6.35 mil lb RHL
- Continuation of regional conservation equivalency
- MC to recommend on 12/7:
  - Non-preferred coastwide measures, potentially 18.5 in, 3 fish, May 8-September 30
  - Precautionary default measures (currently 20 in, 2 fish, Jul 1-Aug 31)
- Technical Committee to develop regional proposals in early 2024 (feedback from AP on potential approaches to modify measures?)
- Measures to be held constant over 2024-2025