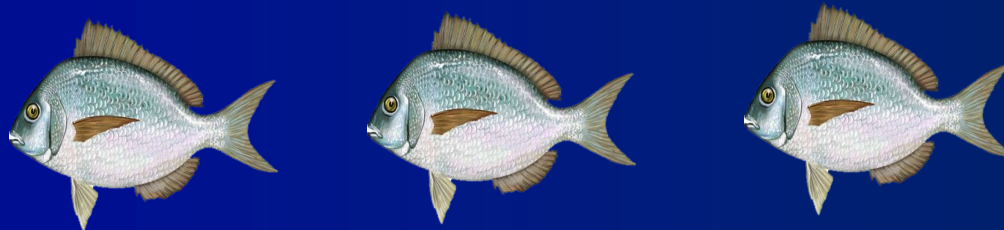




Scup 2024-2025 Recreational Measures



Monitoring Committee

November 14, 2023

Meeting Objectives

- Determine appropriate percent change in harvest required under the Percent Change Approach.
- Recommend federal waters measures and preliminarily discuss state water measure

<i>Column 1</i> 2023 RHL vs expected harvest under 2022 measures	<i>Column 2</i> Biomass compared to target level (SSB/SSB_{MSY})	<i>Column 3</i> Change in Harvest
RHL greater than upper bound of expected harvest CI (RHL underage expected)	Very high greater than 150% of target	Liberalization % = difference between harvest estimate and 2023 RHL, not to exceed 40%
	High at least target, but no higher than 150% of target	Liberalization % = difference between harvest estimate and 2023 RHL, not to exceed 20%
	Low below target stock size	Liberalization: 10%
RHL within expected harvest CI (harvest expected to be close to RHL)	Very high greater than 150% of target	Liberalization: 10%
	High at least target, but no higher than 150% of target	No liberalization or reduction: 0%
	Low below target stock size	Reduction: 10%
RHL less than lower bound of expected harvest CI (RHL overage expected)	Very high greater than 150% of target	Reduction: 10%
	High at least target, but no higher than 150% of target	Reduction % = difference between harvest estimate and 2023 RHL, not to exceed 20%
	Low below target stock size	Reduction % = difference between harvest estimate and 2023 RHL, not to exceed 40%

2023 Federal Recreational Measures



Possession
limit

- 40 scup

**Updated
in 2023**

Size limit

- 10 inches total length

Season

- May 1-December 31

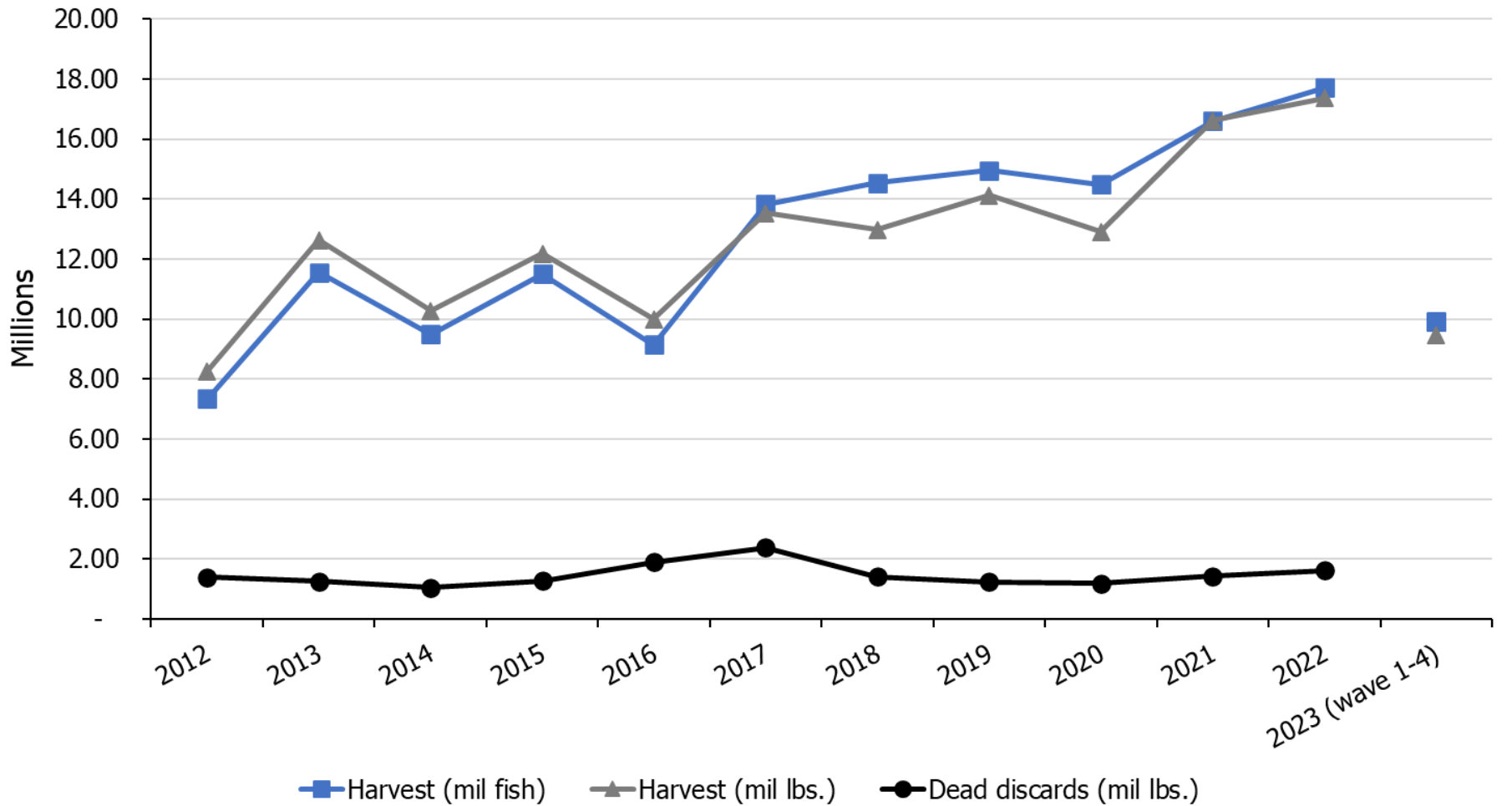
**Updated
in 2023**

2023 State Recreational Measures

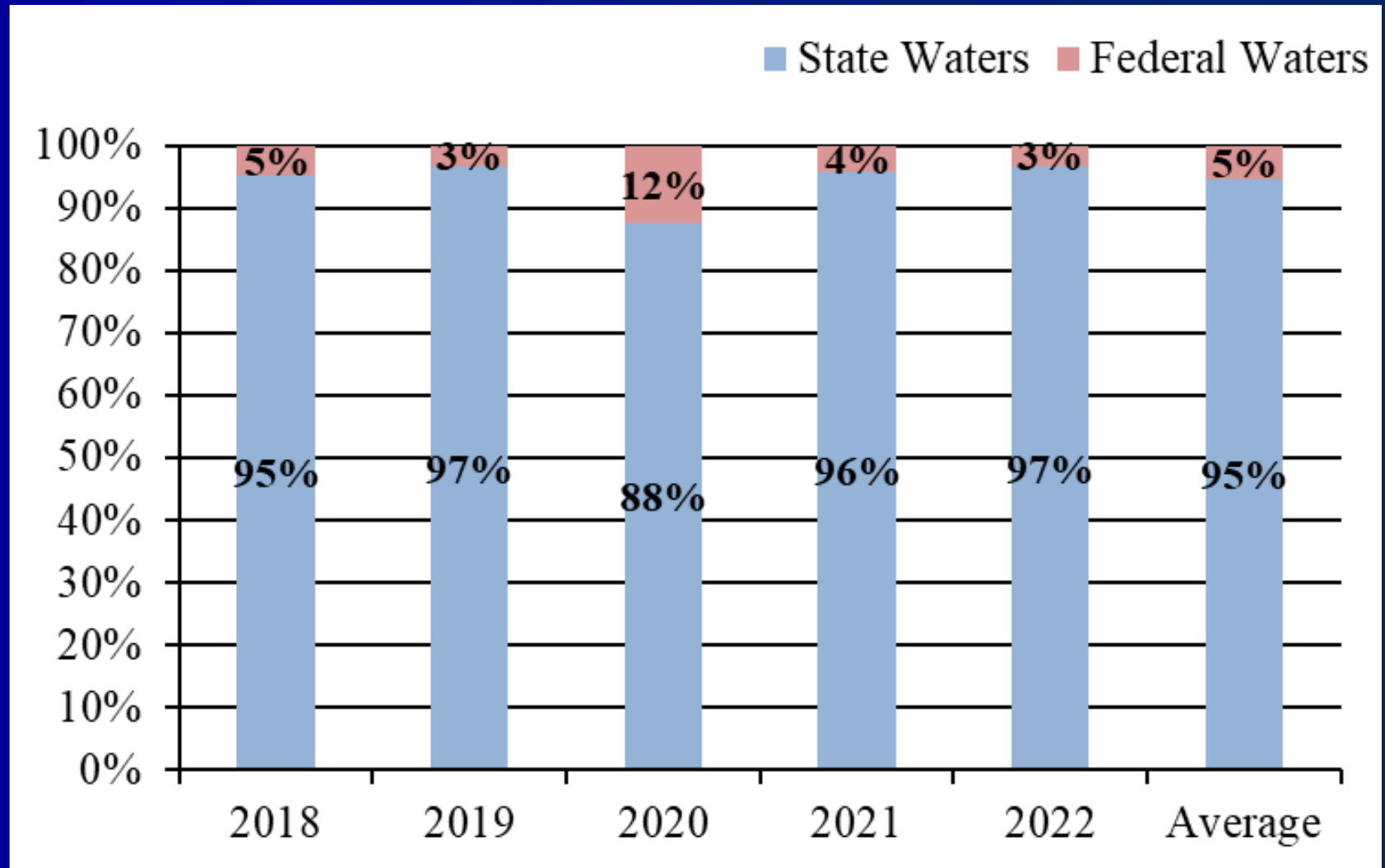
State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
MA (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec 31
MA (shore)	9.5		
MA (party/charter)	10.5	40 fish	May 1 – June 30
		30 fish	July 1 – Dec 31
RI (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec 31
RI (shore)	9.5		
RI (party/charter)	10.5"	30 fish	May 1 – Aug 31; Nov 1 – Dec 31
		40 fish	Sept 1 – Oct 31
CT (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec 31
CT (shore)	9.5		
CT (Auth For-Hire Mon. Program Vessels)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Aug 31; Nov 1 – Dec 31
		40 fish	Sept 1 – Oct 31
NY (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec 31
NY (shore)	9.5		
NY (party/charter)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Aug 31; Nov 1 – Dec 31
		40 fish	Sept 1 – Oct 31
NJ	10	30 fish	Aug 1 – Dec 31
DE	9	40 fish	Jan 1 – Dec 31
MD			
VA		30 fish	
NC, North of Cape Hatteras		40 fish	

Recreational Landing Trends

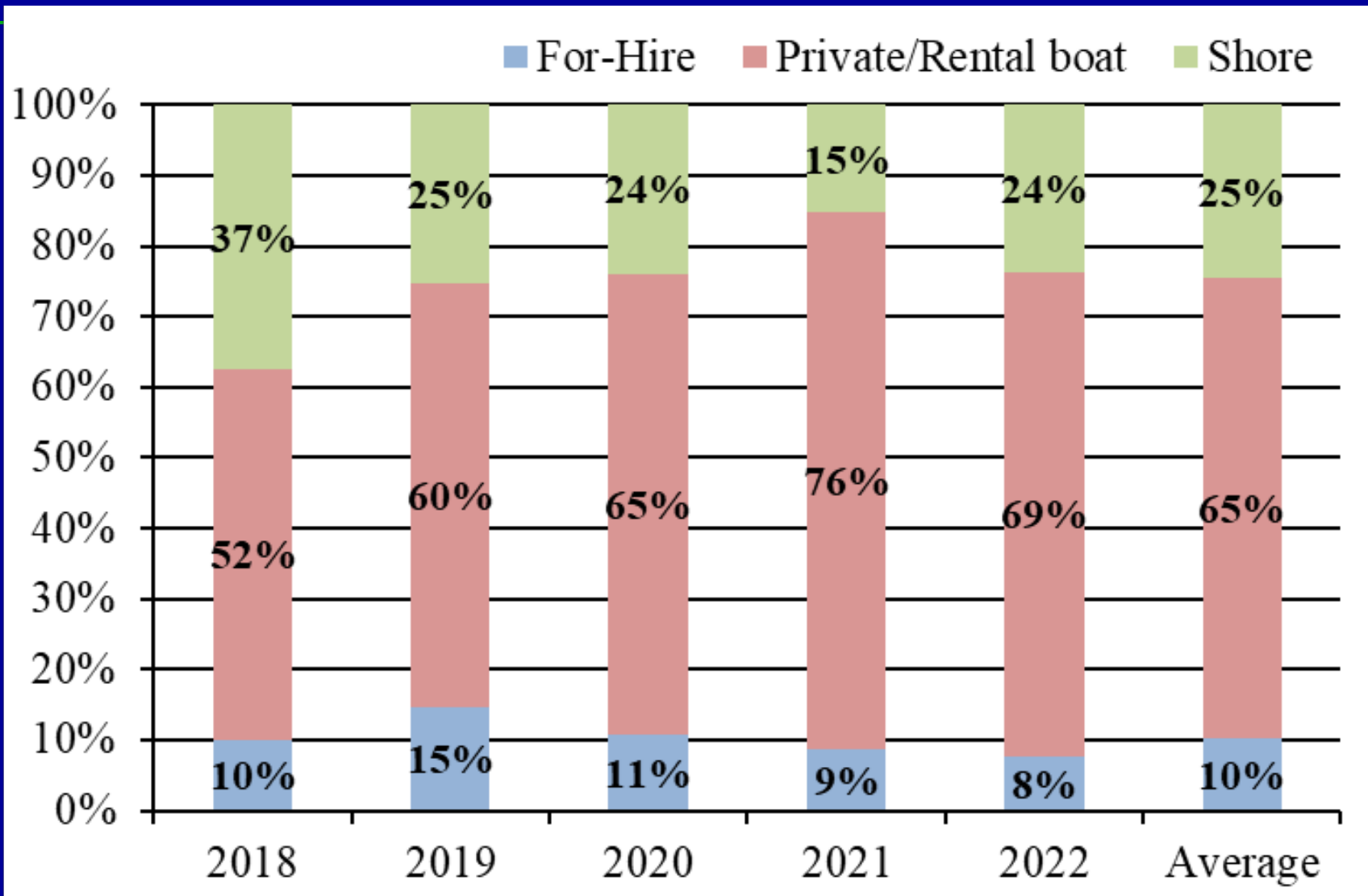
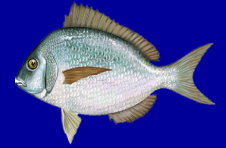
With 2023 Waves 1-4



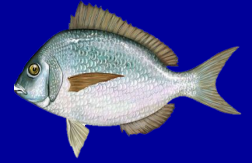
Harvest in Federal and State Waters



Harvest By Mode



Harvest By State



State	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (w1-4)
ME	0	0	0	0	0	0
NH	0	0	0	0	0	0
MA	3,021,958	1,924,202	1,174,793	3,763,514	2,098,575	776,243
RI	2,030,259	2,856,459	1,330,397	2,467,932	2,898,790	1,582,362
CT	2,574,308	2,242,549	2,951,959	2,856,535	1,822,874	1,697,575
NY	4,906,041	6,970,873	6,253,478	7,177,770	10,249,645	5,330,495
NJ	443,700	118,830	1,200,943	194,092	284,678	68,995
DE	362	0	316	1,179	1,757	0
MD	369	444	578	331	2,211	0
VA	0	229	0	157,454	0	0
NC	420	2,637	1,346	2,831	2,848	2,978
Total	12,977,417	14,116,223	12,913,810	16,621,638	17,361,378	9,458,648

Percent Change in Harvest Needed for 2024-2025



■ **Percent Change Approach Step 1:**

Compare 2024-2025 RHL to 80% confidence interval around expected 2024-2025 harvest under current (2023) measures

- Estimate and CI generate from Recreational Demand Model (RDM)
- 80% CI based on recommendations of the MC/TC from May 2023

Percent Change in Harvest Needed for 2024-2025



- **Percent Change Approach Step 1:**

Compare 2024-2025 RHL to 80% confidence interval around expected 2024-2025 harvest under current (2023) measures


	Median (mil lbs.)	80% CI	2024-2025 Average RHL
RDM	15.29	14.07 – 16.29	12.51

- **RHL is less than the lower bound of the CI**

Percent Change in Harvest Needed for 2024-2025



- **Percent Change Approach Step 2:**
Biomass compared to the target
 - Consider the most recent estimate of SSB compared to the target level from the 2023 management track assessment
 - Scup biomass $>$ 150% of the target stock size, therefore putting scup in the “**very high**” stock size category

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Rec. Accountability Measures



3. If biomass is above the target: Adjustments to measures will be made, taking into account the performance of the measures and conditions that precipitated the overage

Year	Rec. Harvest (mil lbs.)	Rec. Dead Discards (mil lbs.)	Total Dead Rec. Catch (mil lbs.)	Rec. ACL (mil lbs.)	% Over/Under ACL
2020	12.91	1.15	14.06	7.87	+79%
2021	16.62	1.36	17.98	7.66	+135%
2022	17.36	1.63	18.99	7.06	+169%
Average	15.63	1.42	17.05	7.53	+126%

2020 recreational estimates were developed using imputation methods

- GARFO letter indicated no additional action is required in 2024 to address recent overages, given 2023 10% reduction adopted and the improvements made to RDM

Resulting 2024-2025 Harvest Target

- The MC is tasked with developing recommendations for rec. limits for federal waters
 - May also preliminarily discuss adjustments needed to state measures; however, state measures developed separately through Commission process
- Federal and state measures should collectively achieve the **10% reduction** required by Percent Change Approach
 - RDM median estimate of 15.29 million pounds results in a harvest target of **13.76 million pounds**



2024 Fed. Waters Recreational Season

- Joint Dec. 2022 meeting, the Council/Board agreed to:
 - Reduce possession limit to 40 fish
 - **Shorten the federal waters season to May 1 – Dec. 31**
 - Maintain the 10-inch min. size adopted in 2021
- Throughout 2023, the May 1 – Dec. 31 season (i.e., Jan. 1 – April 31 closure) has come up at several Board and Council meetings
 - Concern about season disproportionately impacting some states, specifically southern states like NJ expressed importance of wave 1 and 2 to the for-hire industry
 - Northern states expressed need for season given those states took the bulk of the required 2023 reduction and desire for consistency between state/federal regs



2024 Fed. Waters Recreational Season Continued

- When this topic came up at the joint August 2023 meeting
 - GARFO indicated that if the forthcoming rec. management measures setting process indicates the May 1 – Dec. 31 federal season is no longer needed; NOAA could publish a rule by the end of 2023 to modify the federal season for 2024
- Percent Change Approach for 2024-2025 measures requires a 10% reduction in harvest
 - Removal of May 1 – Dec. 31 federal season may not be appropriate
 - However, if desirable, the MC could consider recommending alternative measure that achieve the same reduction in place of the May 1 – Dec. 31 season (i.e., Jan – April closure)



Considerations for 2024-2025 Federal Measures

- Federal and state water measures should collectively achieve the 10% reduction required
- Federal minimum size increase implemented in 2022 and decrease possession limit and modified season implemented in 2023
- Recent 5-year average federal water harvest is about 5% of total coastwide harvest
- RDM cannot estimate harvest in federal waters separate from state waters
- If changes to the May 1 – Dec. 31 federal season are desired, MC should discuss how analyze possible equivalent measures



Discussion Points

- Determine appropriate percent change in harvest required under the Percent Change Approach
 - 10% Reduction in Harvest
- Discuss potential modifications to the previously adopted federal waters season (i.e., Jan – April closure)
- Recommend Federal water measures and preliminary consider state water measures
 - Staff recommend maintaining current federal water measures and adjusting state measure through the Commission process to achieve the full 10% reduction

