



National Marine Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov



Status Report of Greater Atlantic Region Actions

Prepared for the August 8-11, 2022
Meeting of the
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Table of Contents

NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL ACTIONS.....2
SMALL-MESH MULTISPECIES.....2
GROUND FISH.....2
SCALLOPS2
HERRING2
MONKFISH3
ATLANTIC DEEP-SEA RED CRAB3
SKATE.....3
MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL ACTIONS.....3
SPINY DOGFISH.....3
SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS.....4
SURFLAM AND OCEAN QUAHOG4
ATLANTIC BLUEFISH.....4
ATLANTIC MACKEREL, SQUID, AND BUTTERFISH5
TILEFISH5
OTHER ACTIONS.....5
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT5
JONAH CRAB.....5
INDUSTRY FUNDED MONITORING OMNIBUS AMENDMENT5
LOBSTER.....5
HABITAT ACTIONS.....6
PROTECTED RESOURCES ACTIONS.....6
**RESEARCH PERMITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - APPLICATIONS
UNDER REVIEW.....6**
**RESEARCH PERMITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS – APPLICATION
REVIEW COMPLETED.....6**

New England Council Actions

Small-Mesh Multispecies

None at this time.

Groundfish

2022 Recreational Rule for Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock

On August 2, 2022, NMFS published a proposed rule that would modify recreational measures for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock for the remainder of the 2022 fishing year. Comments on the proposed measures are being accepted through August 17, 2022. Proposed measures include an expanded fall season for GOM cod (September 1 through October 7 for all modes) and a 20-fish limit for GOM haddock. For additional information, please contact Kyle Molton at (978) 281-9236 or email at Kyle.Molton@noaa.gov.

Framework 63

NMFS approved Framework Adjustment 63 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in a final rule, effective July 15, 2022 (87 FR 42375). Framework 63 set catch limits for 5 of the 20 multispecies (groundfish) stocks, adjusted recreational measures for Georges Bank cod, and revised the default specifications process. For additional information, please contact Liz Sullivan at (978) 282-8493 or email at Liz.Sullivan@noaa.gov.

2022 Audit Model Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program Video Footage Review Rate

On June 15, 2022, NMFS announced that, for fishing year 2022, the EM video footage review rate for the audit model program will be 35 percent of sector trips for vessels experienced with EM and 50 percent for vessels that are new to EM. Experienced vessels are defined as those that participated in the audit model EM program while it operated under an exempted fishing permit and took a minimum of one sector trip in the operational audit model program in fishing year 2021. Experienced vessels have multiple years of experience with EM and the associated catch handling and reporting requirements. Vessels that are new to the audit model will remain at a 50 percent video footage review rate in 2022 to allow more opportunities for feedback on their catch handling and reporting performance. For additional information, please contact Claire Fitz-Gerald at (978) 281-9255 or email at Claire.Fitz-Gerald@noaa.gov.

Scallops

None at this time.

Herring

Framework Adjustment 9

On July 19, 2022, NMFS published a final rule (87 FR 42962) approving Framework Adjustment 9 to the FMP. This action established a rebuilding plan for herring, adjusted accountability measure catch threshold triggers when catch exceeds the herring annual catch limit (ACL) or management area sub-ACL, and revised regulatory text that was unnecessary, outdated, or unclear. For additional information, please contact Maria Fenton at (978) 281-9196 or email at Maria.Fenton@noaa.gov.

Monkfish

2022 Specifications

On April 21, 2022, NMFS published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (87 FR 23767) to implement specifications for the 2022 monkfish fishery, effective May 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023. NMFS reviewed available 2020 and 2021 fishery information and determined that there were no ACL overages or new biological information that would require altering the projected 2022 specifications first published in the final rule for Framework Adjustment 12 to the Monkfish FMP (85 FR 57986). For additional information, please contact Spencer Talmage at (978) 281-9232 or email at Spencer.Talmage@noaa.gov.

Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab

None at this time.

Skate

Approval Decision for Amendment 8

On June 22, 2022, NMFS made a final decision to approve Amendment 8 in its entirety to the Northeast Skate Complex FMP. This amendment revises two of the seven management objectives of the Skate FMP, as recommended by the Council, to update guidance for regulatory decisions and ensure that skate management continues to reflect and address the current needs and condition of the fishery. The public comment period was open through May 31, 2022, and one comment was received. The notice of this decision was published in the *Federal Register* on June 30, 2022. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Ferrio at (978) 281-9180 or email at Cynthia.Ferrio@noaa.gov.

Mid-Atlantic Council Actions

Spiny Dogfish

None at this time.

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

2022 Recreational Management Measures

On June 9, 2022, NMFS published a final rule for the 2022 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass recreational management measures. The rule adopts conservation equivalency, for 2022, for summer flounder and black sea bass. State, or regional measures can be liberalized to achieve up to a 16.5 percent increase in summer flounder harvest, and a harvest reduction of at least 20.7 percent is required for black sea bass. NMFS proposed a closure of the Federal scup fishery, but is not implementing the closure. NMFS decided to adopt a 1-inch minimum size increase for scup, given a number of factors including the social and economic impacts, stock status, and anticipated Council and Board action on recreational reform. For additional information, please contact Emily Keiley at (978) 281-9116 or email at Emily.Keiley@noaa.gov.

Surfclam and Ocean Quahog

None at this time.

Atlantic Bluefish

None at this time.

Quota Transfers

Summer Flounder

On June 16, 2022, NMFS published a notice (87 FR 36248) of a summer flounder quota transfer from the State of North Carolina to the Commonwealth of Virginia. North Carolina transferred 7,196 lb of summer flounder commercial quota to Virginia through mutual agreement of the states. This transfer was requested to repay landings made by an out-of-state permitted vessel under a safe harbor agreement. For additional information please contact Laura Deighan at (978) 281-9184 or Laura.Deighan@noaa.gov.

Bluefish

On July 20, 2022, NMFS published a notice (87 FR 43219) of bluefish quota transfers from the Commonwealth of Virginia to the State of Rhode Island and the State of New York. Virginia transferred 40,000 lb of bluefish commercial quota to Rhode Island and 40,000 lb of bluefish commercial quota to New York through mutual agreements of the states. These transfers were requested to ensure that New York and Rhode Island would not exceed their 2022 state quotas. For additional information please contact Laura Deighan at (978) 281-9184 or Laura.Deighan@noaa.gov.

Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish

None at this time.

Tilefish

Blueline Tilefish Specifications

On August 2, 2022, NMFS published a proposed rule (87 FR 47181) for 2022-2024 blueline tilefish specifications. Proposed specifications are status quo from 2021. The comment period closes on August 17, 2022. For additional information, please contact Laura Hansen at (978) 281-9225 or email at Laura.Hansen@noaa.gov.

Other Actions

Paperwork Reduction Act

None at this time.

Jonah Crab

None at this time.

Industry Funded Monitoring Omnibus Amendment

None at this time.

Lobster

Lobster Area 2 and 3 Measures and Coastwide Harvester Reporting Proposed Rule

On July 11, 2022, NMFS published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* (87 FR 41084) proposing measures to complement Addenda XXI, XXII, and XXVI to Amendment 3 to the Interstate FMP for American Lobster. Proposed measures include: ownership caps in Areas 2 and 3, a reduction in the Area 3 maximum trap cap, and mandatory harvester reporting for all Federal lobster permit holders using the electronic vessel trip report, including several new lobster-specific data elements. NMFS is accepting comments on the proposed rule and Paperwork Reduction Act analysis through August 10, 2022. For additional information, please contact Allison Murphy at (978) 281-9122 or email at Allison.Murphy@noaa.gov.

Habitat Actions

None at this time.

Protected Resources Actions

None at this time.

Research Permits and Acknowledgments - Applications Under Review

On April 29, 2022, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) requested the issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to pilot a third-party dockside monitoring (DSM) program in support of maximized retention electronic monitoring (MREM) for the Northeast multispecies fishery. The third-party DSM pilot would operate through the remainder of the 2022 fishing year (i.e., April 30, 2023). The EFP would authorize GMRI to operate a third-party pilot for a subset of MREM vessels while the MREM program operates under an EFP, and would exempt MREM vessels from the DSM requirement proposed in Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP to participate in either an independent third-party DSM program approved by NMFS, or the DSM program operated by NMFS at 50 CFR 648.11(l)(10)(i)(D). NMFS intends to publish a notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting public comments on this proposal in the near future. For additional information, please contact Claire Fitz-Gerald at (978) 281-9255 or email at Claire.Fitz-Gerald@noaa.gov.

Research Permits and Acknowledgments – Application Review Completed

On May 16, 2022, NMFS issued a Scientific Research Letter of Acknowledgement (LOA) to the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) in support of a survey in and around the Vineyard Wind development area. The goal of this project is to collect baseline data on benthic habitats and species that can be used in future assessments evaluating the environmental impacts of wind farm development in the Vineyard Wind development area. Two survey trips will be conducted between May and December 2022. During each of these trips, SMAST will partner with a commercial fishing vessel to deploy a drop camera pyramid at a series of survey stations in the Vineyard Wind lease area and in an adjacent control area. For more information, please contact Maria Fenton at (978) 281-9196 or email at Maria.Fenton@noaa.gov.