

Kiley Dancy

From: Ryan Landolfi <landolfi.rr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 12:09 PM
To: Moore, Christopher; Kiley Dancy
Subject: Supplemental Comment for October 19, 2019 Council Meeting

Dear Dr. Moore and Ms. Dancy,

I'd like to take this time and thank you for the opportunity to have comments included in the upcoming council meeting and to voice some specific concerns I have, in particular with regard to Summer Flounder.

My 2019 summer flounder season has been far and away my least productive. The quality of the fishing in the NY Bight for summer flounder has been steadily declining, with the only observable changes being the increasing size limits and decreasing bag limits. The philosophy that removing the larger spawning females from the population, with a relatively much lower percentage of large male fish, seems to have put this fishery into a tailspin. While I understand there are many factors at play including predictive models, catch surveys, commercial quotas, etc., I believe the regulations are not functioning as intended (to protect the stock) and are having a deleterious effect on the overall health of the fishery. This does not seem to only be a New Jersey issue, although I do feel the fishing pressure in this area only exacerbates the problem.

In reviewing the briefing materials from Tab 12, I came across the comments made by Tom B. Smith, and I could not agree more. Several factors have contributed to the decline of this fishery including commercial discards, commercial harvest of spawning stock biomass during spawning months prior to dropping eggs, recreational discard mortality, etc.; however, I believe the ever-increasing size limits, removing spawning age and size fish from the population, is ultimately endangering this great fishery to a point of collapse. Anglers from the NJ/PA/NY area are now travelling yearly to MA to go on 2-day fishing trips in Cape Cod just to have the chance to catch some sizable fish that will pass regulatory restrictions. At a certain point, many anglers are going to decide that the investment made into recreational fishing tackle, gear, boating costs, party and charter boat fares, etc. are not worth the 2 fish over 18 inches they see per season. I don't believe it is the intention of this council to dissuade recreational fishing, but that time has come for many.

I ask that you please consider implementing a recreational slot limit to protect not only the future of the summer flounder fishery, but also the future of recreational fishing for the generations to follow.

Thank you,
Ryan Landolfi
Concerned New Jersey Recreational Angler

Kiley Dancy

From: Bill Klimas Billfish <billfish715@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 6:22 PM
To: Moore, Christopher; Kiley Dancy
Subject: Supplemental Material For The Website

Please add these comments to the supplemental material on the Council meeting web page.

Some of us have been around for quite a few years and have watched saltwater fishing evolve. Fishing tackle has continued to improve by leaps and bounds, from lighter rods and reels to line, hooks and terminal tackle. Electronics, boats, social media, and techniques have all given new dimensions to fishing. Through all of these advances and years, never has there been a year when there were no fluke to catch. They are resilient.

When size limits were below 15", there was no outrage about overfishing. Even if there was a lot of pressure on the fluke population, they kept on coming back. Do we need to have size limits at 18" or more in order to save the future of fluke fishing? The future somehow becomes the past very quickly. Ask any person who is retired. When I look at the past, I've always been able to find and catch fluke. If I'm fishing for a dinner or two, do I need an 18" fish to eat? No. Would I be happy to catch and eat a 15" or 16" fluke? Yes. Will I destroy the fluke fishing for the future by keeping some of the sandwich-sized fluke? No.

For me, the past was once the future and never has there been a season when I went without having fluke for dinner. The recreational fishermen will never destroy the future of summer flounder fishing. Commercial guys won't either unless they are encouraged and allowed to drag for them during the winter on their spawning beds.

Recreational guys never destroyed the winter flounder fishing or the striped bass and bluefish and weakfish and tuna and ling and whiting and mackerel yada, yada, yada.....but the recs pay the price for the mismanagement of the guys who have the most influential lobbyists.

The past is behind us with its 14.5", 15", 15.5", 16", 16.5", 17", 17.5" limits and still the fluke are here but we can't keep them. Why are the "scientists" afraid of the future of the summer flounder? With the scientists or without them, the fluke are still here. The science is glorified numbers crunching and mathematical equations with incomplete data input and variables. One scientific haul seine for data research and data, taken in the wrong area will give much different information than the same haul seine done only a few miles away. One sample will indicate a much smaller total than the another. It might indicate how few fluke are on the bottom. As a result, you guessed it, the results would indicate a dire future for the fish and fishermen

Had the haul been done with different equipment or in a different area where the fluke were, there would be a different outcome. The past has proven itself. If there has to be a compromise and the committee insists that the summer flounder have to be regulated, then settle on a reduced size limit. We are being encouraged to harvest the mature females with the most eggs when most of us would settle to take home a few smaller fluke which have far fewer eggs.

It's about time someone calls out the regulators and their advisors about their failed management policies over all these years. If their efforts to engineer the future of the summer flounder were successful, the current size and possession limits would never be necessary. Think of how many size increases have been made over the last 20 years. Each change indicates one failed plan after another and yet, the failed science continues. "Insanity"Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

Admit the failure of the program and stop punishing recreational fishermen who just want to enjoy fishing and bring home a few fillets.

Bill Klimas
New Jersey

Kiley Dancy

From: Hart, Larry <larry.hart@credit-suisse.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 5:47 PM
To: Moore, Christopher; Kiley Dancy
Subject: Fluke 2020

Please consider a "slot" regulation for Fluke this year so that recreational anglers are no longer forced to remove the larger female breeders from the stock. Also please consider a commercial ban on Fluke landings during their winter Spawn off-shore. . . Thanks, Larry Hart (New Jersey recreational fisherman)

Larry Hart

CREDIT SUISSE SECURITIES (USA) LLC

CS Sec USA LLC | EM OPS IT - Princeton, MIOM 87

Princeton Forrestal | Princeton NJ 08540-6689 | Americas

Phone +1 212 325 9992

larry.hart@credit-suisse.com | www.credit-suisse.com

=====
Please access the attached hyperlink for an important electronic communications disclaimer:
http://www.credit-suisse.com/legal/en/disclaimer_email_ib.html
=====

Kiley Dancy

From: Tom K. <tomkaye@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 5:09 PM
To: Moore, Christopher
Cc: Kiley Dancy
Subject: Recreational Fluke regulations meeting

If you would be so kind Gentlemen. please include my comments below in the Supplemental Material for the meeting on October 8th

I am 70 years-old and although I got into it late, have been a recreational fluke fisherman for more than 45 years.

Have owned multiple boats but since Sandy have fished Party & primarily Charter operators.

Have seen and adhered to changing regulations over the years to the point that I can now barely catch a legal keeper fluke for dinner,

maybe once every other or every third trip. Of eleven trips specifically targeting fluke this 2019 season, I have taken a limit only three times,

three times went home with one or two, and five times with no keepers but dozens of shorts thrown back.

It's not about the meat on the table or in the freezer for me but I am more troubled by the fact that regulations require me to keep the

bigger breeder females and toss back the "shorts" which are predominant and scientifically proven to be usually males.

WHERE DOES IT END ??

To what lengths will my heirs have to go to in order to retain a legal fluke ??? 20---22--24 inch fish ????

It is time for sensible regulations and seasons coinciding with other states so that the species is perpetuated

and future generations can enjoy the sport.

Time for slot fish for fluke anglers similar to what has been done with other species elsewhere.

Thanks for listening.

Tom Kowalik
10 Susan Lane
Byram Township, NJ 07821

Kiley Dancy

From: Mark Seidman <markseidman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:43 AM
To: Moore, Christopher
Cc: Kiley Dancy
Subject: Fluke (Summer Flounder) Management Commentary

Good Morning Dr. Moore,

I am writing to include my comments in the Supplemental Material Disclosure for the upcoming Joint Meeting of the ASMFC & MAFMC.

As a recreational angler who primarily practices catch & release, I am a strong proponent of instituting a slot limit for Summer Flounder in the 15"-18" range. Sexually mature fish (females generally over 18" in length) should be protected rather than targeted in order to repopulate this over-exploited resource. Such regulations would most certainly put a halt to commercial netting operations targeting this species, but the same was done for striped bass many years ago and look how that fishery rebounded. It is time for laws to be put in place to protect and serve the general public for the long term rather than a commercial interest in the short term. I would hazard a guess that dollars pumped into the overall economy from recreational anglers quite possibly outweighs contributions made by commercial net dragners. Thank you for providing a medium through which our voices can be heard, and I implore you to make the best decision to conserve this dwindling resource.

Sincerely,

Mark Seidman
Westampton, NJ

Kiley Dancy

From: Moore, Christopher
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:54 AM
To: Kiley Dancy
Subject: FW: Summer Flounder

From: Bruce cornine <brewlugger@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:59 AM
To: Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>
Subject: Fwd: Summer Flounder

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

From: **Bruce cornine** <brewlugger@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2019
Subject: Summer Flounder
To: cmoore@marmc.org

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

From: **Bruce cornine** <brewlugger@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2019
Subject: Summer Flounder
To: cmoore@marmc.org

Please consider implementing a slot limit that excludes the harvest of Summer Flounder over 18 inches.

Kiley Dancy

From: Moore, Christopher
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:08 AM
To: Kiley Dancy
Subject: FW: Summer Flounder Comments

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Anfuso <tanfuso@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 6:17 AM
To: Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>
Subject: Summer Flounder Comments

Director Moore;

Please consider the following two comments to improve the summer flounder breeding stock and young of the year.

1. Close all fishing during the spawning season.
2. Since most fish 18 inches or larger are females, stop forcing anglers to target large females who produce the most eggs. Implement a slot fish for summer flounder to protect the breeders

Thank you for your consideration.

Tim Anfuso
50 Society Hill Way
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

Sent from my iPad

Kiley Dancy

From: Moore, Christopher
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:10 AM
To: Kiley Dancy
Subject: FW: NJ fluke regulations

From: Merle Lockhart <merle705@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 9:08 PM
To: Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>
Subject: NJ fluke regulations

I feel as a recreational fisherman that these rules are terrible. Not only to a family man or woman spending the money for a fun day out looking to bring home some dinner it's insane go catch 1 fish at 18" let alone 3. How about a guy hooked fish that might be undersized but is gonna die anyway I dont see the reason why this "meal" has to go to waste because of a size limit. Dont even get me started on the daggers being allowed to keep 14" fish than that fluke being sold at a store for 9.99 and up a pound it's a joke. All these formulas put in place are down right sickening there should be a universal rule for the entire coast with a set season set limit and size and a closure to the offshore winter dragging total BS.

Thank you

Kiley Dancy

From: Bill Klimas <billfish715@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Moore, Christopher; Kiley Dancy
Subject: Re: Supplemental Material For The Website

One more thing to ponder.....After looking back over all of the size limit increases, I had to think, once again, about the science involved with all of the changes and management. If the science and management was accurate and trustworthy, why did the size limits continue to increase? Someone and something had to be wrong, otherwise the increases would never have continued. They would not have continued for so many years either. The mistake would have been discovered and admitted and rectified. Instead, mistakes kept being made for decades. Many of the younger fishermen can't remember the shorter size regulations and they are being fed incorrect information about who is to blame for the current state of affairs. Many of young fishermen believe that their fathers and grandfathers are to blame. WRONG! Look to the legislators who are socially engineering everything including the future of fluke fishing.

No one is held accountable except the fishermen who now are pitted against each other while the rules' makers get off scott free. Think about it. Their management plans have not worked and yet they continue to call the shots. Will they ever admit their failures? Don't hold your breath. Even though we fishermen are many and they are few , we continue to comply, but for how long? Let fishermen set the rules and standards.

Sent from my iPad

Kiley Dancy

From: Mike Yocius <mike@rclsolar.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 2:41 PM
To: Moore, Christopher
Cc: Kiley Dancy
Subject: Council Meeting Public Comment

Greetings DR. Moore,

I would like to request that my comments be included in the supplemental material at the upcoming council meeting.

Regarding Summer Flounder Stocks:

- It is purely common sense that if you are trying to rebuild a fish stock, it should not be possible for said stock to be fished commercially DURING THE PRIME SPAWNING PERIOD, AT THE PRIME SPAWNING GROUNDS!
- It is purely common sense that if you are trying to rebuild a fish stock, the minimum size limit should not be so large that only prime breeding females are able to be legally harvested by recreational anglers.

Respectfully,

Michael Yocius
Bridgeton, NJ
mike@rclsolar.com

Kiley Dancy

From: john riccardi <jwriccardi1224@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:18 PM
To: Kiley Dancy
Subject: October Fluke Meeting

I have been fishing for over 30 years, and sadly as restrictions have tightened the fishing has gotten worse. One would believe larger size limits and reduced quota would help rebuild overfishing, but in the case of Fluke and sea bass we can see after years it has in fact gotten much worse. As noted in the comments almost 95% of the fluke over 18 inches are breeders and they are the ones recs are killing(if we are lucky). Fishing in cape may nj this was the worst season I have ever seen. I stated last few years it can't get any worse but surely it has. We would go trips without even catching any keepers and some not even shorts. I would imagine it is very hard to keep 2 sides happy as well as do what's best for the fishery but in the case of Fluke and sea bass we are making it worse. After reading tab 12 what troubled me most was this.

Because commercial discards resulted in the commercial ACL being exceeded in 2017 and likely in 2018 as well, trends in commercial discards should continue to be monitored closely for potential future incorporation into ACT recommendations. However, commercial catch and landings limits were increased substantially in 2019 and will be maintained at this higher level for 2020 and 2021. To me the recreational angler this says overfish and well increase your quota. Seems greatly unfair especially for two more years when the fishery is in dire trouble.

2nd alarming comment

Extremely revealing chart regarding commercial discards comparing percentages on observed trawls to percentages obtained from FVTR's. Source is 57th SAW page 302. Could not find comparable information in 66th SAW Assessment Report. If available, would be interested in reviewing years 2012 – 2017. The disparity between observed versus unobserved discard rates (those reported on VTR's) is substantial and if representative would have significant implications quantifying annual commercial catch levels and associated discard mortality rates.

Why would actual vessel trips be ignored and flawed scientific data be used when we have factual???

One other comment is MRIP. It has been proven time and time again how flawed and unrealistic the data actually is, yet we continue to use it. In today's era of technology there is no reason not to have anglers report their catch via some sort of app, Yes some would be resistant and not have the technology but I think far more anglers would provide data if they knew it would be for the good of the fishery. Please consider in this meeting lowering the size limits for recreational fisherman as well as preventing off shore decimation during the prime breeding season in the offshore canyons.

Concerned Angler
John Riccardi
Cape May NJ

Kiley Dancy

From: Mike Skirka <skirkam@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 5:12 PM
To: Moore, Christopher
Cc: Kiley Dancy
Subject: Please Include These Comments in the Supplemental Material for the Meeting October 8 - Summer Flounder Specifications

Dear Dr. Moore:

I am a recreational angler and marine conservationist based near Atlantic Highlands, NJ and have been fishing our coastal waters for summer flounder for over 45 years – since before the time that there were ANY size limits on the species. I have a degree in biology and have tried to remain informed on the entire process of marine fisheries management by attending related webinar presentations sponsored by Rutgers NJAES and Dr. Doug Zemeckis.

I know how government scientists hate and discount “anecdotal evidence” from recreational fishermen and private charter/party boats, but 2019 was the worst year for summer flounder in my memory and this experience is shared by ALL of my friends and reflected in ALL recreational fishing websites that I check on.

The government has a somewhat reasonable method of tracking and monitoring the commercial catch. The November 2018 benchmark stock assessment found that the summer flounder stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The commercial quota for 14” fish and above was raised 49%. The mesh size of 6” square is believed to minimize under size discards, yet there is an estimated 80% discard mortality rate for summer flounder caught in trawls, so they are allowed to keep all they scoop up rather than “waste” the resource.

Compared to the methods used to track commercial catches, the methodology for “estimating” recreational landings is full of uncertainty with a strong bias for overly conservative overestimation. As a result, although a 49% increase in the recreational allowable catch was believed to be OK, the estimated landing “data” indicated that the recreational catch was already too large to allow for a further increase without a severe shortening of the season. We are allowed to only keep 3 fish over 18”. We must discard under-sized gut-hooked or gill-damaged fish, even though these fish will most likely die. Another “anecdotal” observation of mine is that I have never have seen so many bottom trawlers in operation on the flat bottom areas offshore of Sandy Hook during late summer flounder season. There is no other species that they could be legitimately targeting. I’ll bet most of the recreational discards are swooped up within a week by these commercials. NOT FAIR OR PRUDENT.

Recruitment of juvenile summer flounder to the fishery has been below average since about 2011 and the driving factors behind this trend have not been identified. It should be very clear to those in positions responsible for trying to manage and regulate this fishery THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE APPROACH FOR SUMMER FLOUNDER MANAGEMENT. Please consider these options;

- As for striped bass, allow recreational fishermen to keep 3 slot sized fish under 18 inches. The evidence is that most all fish over 18” are breeding females. Save these fish to help restore the fishery. Most summer flounder are sexually mature around 12”, so most slot sized fish will have had at least several years to spawn.
- HOOK AND LINE FISHERMEN WILL NEVER DECIMATE A FISHERY. Immediately reduce and freeze the commercial quota to the level before the 49% increase. Increase the mesh size to 8 inch square and work with the other branches of government to authorize a 100% tax reimbursement for the cost of the new gear in the year of purchase. Ban the offshore netting of summer flounder during the winter spawning season (or whenever best science has determines that spawning occurs).
- Keep these regulations in place for a number of years and see what happens.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and I wish you and all those involved well in the honest and fair pursuit of good and practical management for our summer flounder.

Michael A. Skirka
5 Oakdale Run
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



NEW YORK RECREATIONAL & FOR-HIRE FISHING ALLIANCE

"LET US FISH"

TO: Dr. Chris Moore, Kiley Dancy and Julia Beatty October 3, 2019
FROM: NEW YORK RECREATIONAL & FOR HIRE FISHING ALLIANCE
**SUBJECT: Supplemental comments concerning the Tom Smith
summer flounder analysis**

Dear Dr. Moore, Kiley & Julia (MAFMC Staff),

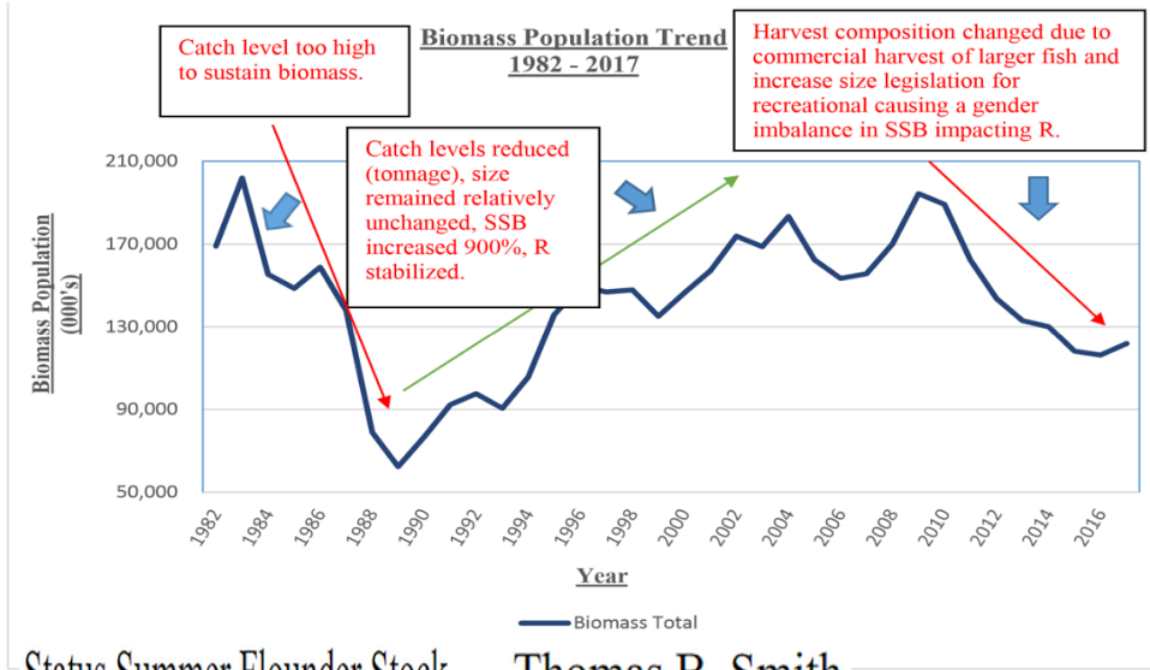
The NY RFHFA which represents the party and charter industry and recreational anglers with the New York State Marine Coastal District is submitting a supplemental comment due to what has been added to the MAFMC briefing material for the October 2019 meeting.

After reviewing the summer flounder memo material and analysis made by Tom Smith (NJ) found here:

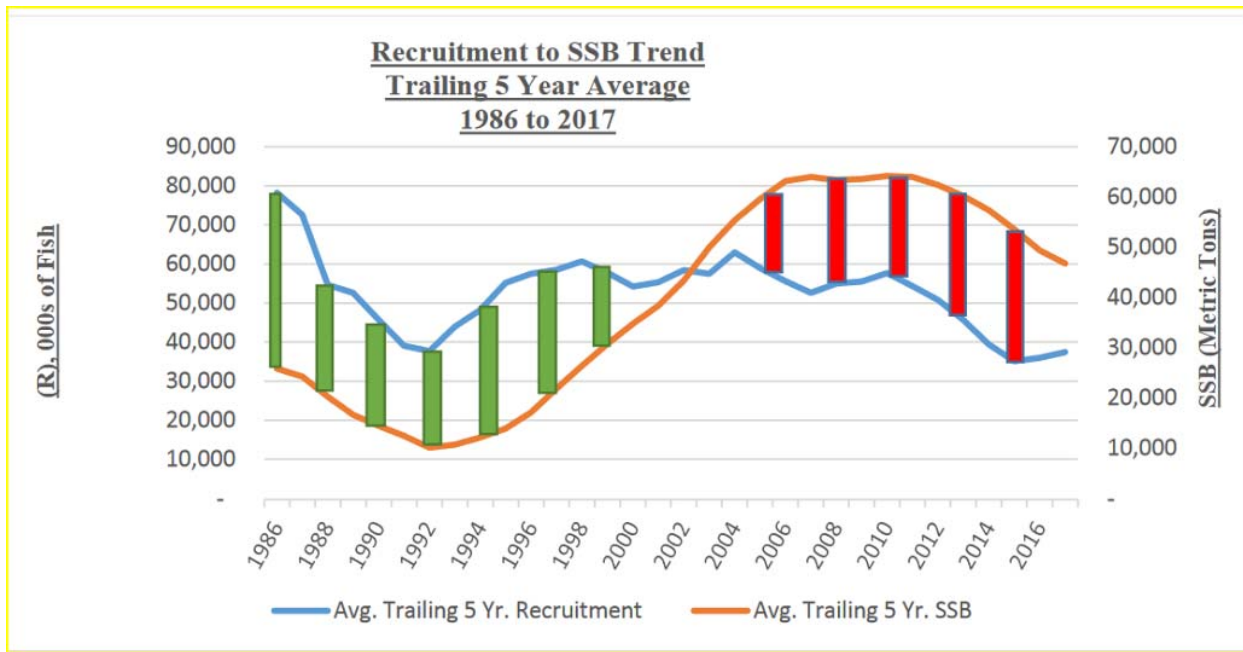
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/5d8e3811aaf0456f3557619a/1569601560658/Tab12_Summer-Flounder-Specifications_2019-10.pdf

The NY RFHFA will highlight two charts which should provide some context to the questionable status of summer management policies and resulting regulations adopted. (Note: summer flounder = fluke).

SECTION 4 - BIOMASS COMPOSITION CHANGE:



Status Summer Flounder Stock Thomas B. Smith



During the summer flounder benchmark assessment review, stakeholders as well as other participants have consistently mentioned that the increase in minimum size for 'flake' starting in 2003, has changed angling behavior to essentially have this fishery

skewing to higher minimum size retention which has resulted in the harvest of greater than >95% in the removals of female fluke. This gender bias in removals of one sex was also exacerbated during this time period with the commercial sector operating under low trip limits which leads to the retention of the largest fluke, females, due to the historically documented higher market returns.

The general consensus amongst a diverse group of commercial and for-hire industry participants is that this regulatory practice of removing the largest fluke had led to the reduced summer flounder recruitment for over the last decade, and the results based upon the last peer review assessment is in an overall decline in both total and female spawning stock biomass.

Those at the NEFSC and on the MAFMC SSC who monitor, research and make assessments on summer flounder population dynamics, seem to have taken issue with the analysis made by Tom Smith and a number of AP advisors, as well as stakeholders and those participants with their “daily on the water fishery performance perspective” as heard at the MC and AP. Anecdotal comments should carry some bearing on what the science and management policies result in the yearly performance of a fishery.

Past management approaches taken in regulating this fishery over the last 15 years in targeting the largest and most productive female fish have now resulted in a noticeable scarcity of fluke reaching the minimum harvesting size for a particular state, but also the extremely diminished abundance over the past few years of fish from within the inner bays, various sounds and nearshore beach fishery in a number of areas from New Jersey through to southern Massachusetts. Those on the MAFMC have to consider and adopt a vastly different management strategy in regulating the summer flounder fishery in the coming years.

We at the NY RFHFA thank you for your consideration of our concerns over the current management approach to the summer flounder fishery and hopefully discuss at the upcoming Council meeting the analysis laid out by Tom Smith.

Thank you,

Steven Cannizzo –NY RFHFA

Captain Joe Tangel, Director –fv KING COD

Captain James Schneider –JAMES JOSEPH Fleet

Captain Carl Forsberg –VIKING FLEET

Captain Kenny Higgins –CAPTREE PRIDE

Captain Anthony Testa Sr. –fv STEFFANI ANN

Captain Anthony Testa Jr. –fv STEFFANI ANN

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 12:48 PM

Name: Thomas Trageser

Topic(s): Summer Flounder Specifications

Comments: The summer flounder (and sea bass) management models are not yielding accurate results. As a result, recreational fisherman are being continually denied fishing opportunities. This regulatory overreach will have the reverse effect upon the constituents you wish to regulate.

According to the NOAA website on regulatory history of summer flounder,

(<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/summer-flounder#management>)

this vitally important species has been under management control for over 30 years! During that time size limits have increased from 14" and bag limits have been reduced. An unintended consequence of the regulations is recreational fisherman have been forced to cull through smaller, perfectly edible fish increasing mortality and only allowed to harvest breeding females. Furthermore, the research completed to determine the fact that 95% of the fluke over 18" are female was paid for by recreational fisherman. Sadly the people making the rules have little to no experience in the fishery!

Recreational fisherman have listened and abided by the rules during these three decades and received absolutely nothing in return. Our cooperation in regulations was based on the premise anglers would have a better fishery in the future. However, the efforts during this regulatory period have not yielded any results. It's time for the SSC and the extensive broader regulatory bodies (ASMFC, MAMFC, GARFO) to publicly admit failure in this fishery.

In the last 3 years recreational anglers have been providing intelligent and relevant analyses of your own data that supports the epic failures of the SSC. The analysis provided by Thomas Smith provides factual evidence that the population is being completely mismanaged by the current regulatory leadership. I am aware his analysis has been shared. I would like to know what will be done with it. At a minimum, the analysis provides strong evidence that the "best available" science is not being used.

The science being used, clearly isn't working and now recreational anglers are once again providing data that should be used to provide future regulatory enhancements.

Further regulatory pressure on this fishery will result in "waking the sleeping giant" and cause recreational fisherman to simply ignore revised regulations.

Email: ttrageser@oceanmhs.org

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 2:29 PM

Name: Lawrence Sehnal

Topic(s): Summer Flounder Specifications

Comments: Guys we need a Rec slot limit stop putting the pressure on all our females.

Email: captsehnal@gmail.com

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 11:00 AM

Name: rocky mcguigan

Topic(s): Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocations

Comments: The direction that our summer flounder management has been going is the wrong way and it has been for a long time now. It is very easy to see the continuing decline using your own data for proof. Please do not continue to make the same mistakes using bad science.

Thank you,

Rocky McGuigan

Email: rockyoutdoors@msn.com

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 2:49 PM

Name: Michael Reta

Topic(s): Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocations

Comments: Put an end to the offshore dragging of fluke during the spawn. Nothing is more detrimental to fish stocks than not allowing them to breed.

Email: mikreta@aol.com

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 4:34 PM

Name: Dennis O'Keefe

Topic(s): Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocations

Comments: I would just like to see something simple in regards to summer flounder or fluke as it is called in Nj. I would like to see a side limit of 16-17-18 inch fish with a limit of 3 total per day. In my view that would take pressure off the breeding fish (18 and above) and give fisherman a chance to bring meal home now and then. Personally, I throw back 18's and 19's sometimes. The limits you have previously set are difficult to achieve and it is doing great harm to the party and charter boats in the NJ area.
Thank You

Email: okeefed@msn.com

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 5:31 PM

Name: Henry Weiman

Topic(s): Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocations

Comments: Stop forcing the recreational angler to kill breeding female fish. Implement a lower size limit or slot, to allow the harvest of smaller male Summer Flounder.

Be honest with yourselves about the damage that the commercial fleet is doing to the Summer Flounder fishery.

I will accept a Recreational Moratorium on Summer Flounder as long as it is applied to the Commercial as well.

Email: henry.Weiman@hotmail.com

Thursday, October 3, 2019 12:45 PM

Name: William Scott

Topic(s): Summer Flounder Specifications

Comments: A slot size for the harvesting of Fluke should be considered as all of the fish 18" and larger are females needed to reproduce the biomass. Also, the season should be rescheduled to later in September as these fish are found in higher numbers later in September than the current season allows.

Email: scottlobi@optonline.net