MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2019 Stock Assessment and Specification Timing

Joint Council and ASMFC Board Meeting

Annapolis, MD

December 11, 2018

2019 Stock Assessment and Schedule Overview

- Summer Flounder
  - Research Track assessment completed November 27-30 – SARC 66
  - Likely similar process to sea bass in 2017
- Black Sea Bass
  - Operational assessment in 2019
    - New MRIP catch/harvest timeseries; updated catch and survey info
  - Possible revision to 2019 specs; Set 2020-2021
- Scup (and Bluefish)
  - Operational assessment in 2019
  - Review of 2019 specs; Set 2020-2021 specs

Black Sea Bass Timeline – April 2019 Operational Assessment

Timeframe	Activity
Mid-March	Operational assessment complete
Early April (2nd-3rd?)	Peer review
Late April/early May	Peer review reports available
May 7 – 8	SSC meeting (followed by MC and AP meetings) – develop 2019-2021 specification recommendations
June 4 – 6	Council meeting – reconsider 2019 specs ASMFC Board meeting also needed
June 30	Data update available (2018 catch and survey info)
July 16 – 17	SSC reviews data update and previous 2020-2021 recommendations (MC and AP input would follow)
August 12 -15	Joint Council/Board meeting to recommend 2020-2021 specifications

April 2019 Operational Assessment Considerations

- Allows for reconsideration and potential modification to 2019 specifications
- Follows, generally, the current spec setting process and allows time for specs to be in place for January 1, 2020
- Inclusion of data through 2017 only
- Mid/late year changes in 2019 – differential implications/benefits to fisheries and states

Black Sea Bass Timeline – Delayed 2019 Operational Assessment

Timeframe	Activity
Late May/early June	2018 data available for use
Early July	Operational assessments complete
Late July	Peer review
Mid/late August	Peer review reports available
September 10-11	SSC meeting (followed by MC and AP meetings) – develop 2020-2021 specification recommendations
October	Council and Board meetings – sperate/joint

Delayed 2019 Operational Assessment Considerations

- Incorporate latest information to inform stock status and set specifications
- Could not reconsider or make modifications to 2019 specs
- Delayed process and need for interim 2020 specs with process and rulemaking details to be identified

Scup (and Bluefish)Timeline – 2019 Operational Assessment

- Products, outcomes and timeline would follow those identified for black sea bass
  - One Operational assessment peer review for all three species
- If April 2019 peer review, opportunity to reconsider 2019 specifications
  - Staff recommend no changes to 2019 specs
    - Current specifications and regulatory process/timeline if changes made for sea bass

Recommendations and Council/Board Discussion

- Goal: Council and Board agreement on process and timeline for 2019 Operational assessments

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- Staff recommendation in support of the delayed 2019 Operational assessment timeline
  - Status quo catch limits and management measures
  - Specifications informed by most recent info
    - Minimize data/management lag
    - Capture 2015 year class and any subsequent year class strength information
    - Next assessment update in 2021 – every 2 years after
  - Staff work with GARFO/NEFSC/ASMFC to finalize process details