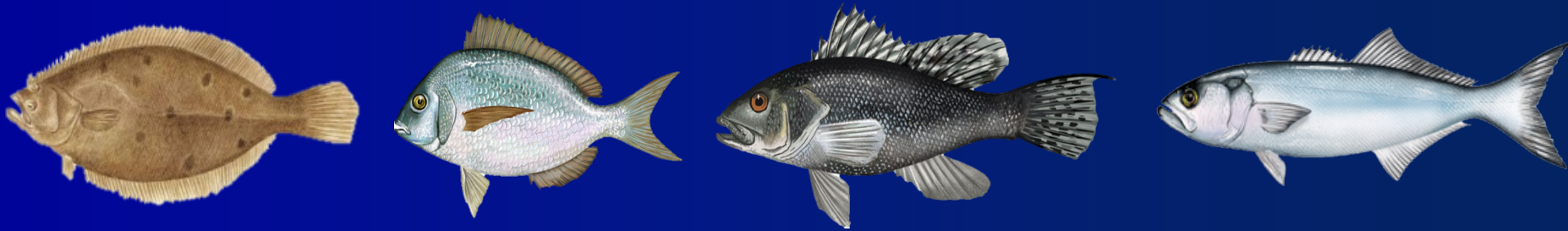




Recreational Reform Initiative



Joint Council and Board Meeting
August 6, 2020

Objective

- Determine next steps.
 - Initiate a management action?
 - Which topics to include?



Progress to Date

- **Joint Steering Committee formed March 2019.**
- **Draft initiative outline.**
 - Goal/vision.
 - 5 priority objectives.
- **Monitoring Committee review.**
 - Generally support continued development of all objectives.
- **Topics removed from commercial/recreational allocation amendment:**
 - Harvest control rule
 - Recreational accountability
 - Recreational catch accounting
- **Sector separation**

Initiative Goal/Vision

- **Stability** in rec. mgmt. measures (bag/size/season)
- **Flexibility** in the mgmt. process
- **Accessibility** aligned with availability/stock status*



1: Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into mgmt.

- Adopt a standardized process for **IDing and smoothing outliers** - for both high and low outliers.
- Use an **“envelope of uncertainty” approach** for determining if changes to measures are needed.
 - Define a range above and below the projected harvest estimate (e.g., based on PSE). If RHL falls within that range, no changes would be made to measures.
- Evaluate the **pros and cons of using preliminary current year data.**

2: Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo measures

- Develop a process for considering harvest and multiple stock status metrics (biomass, fishing mortality, recruitment) when determining if measures should remain unchanged.



3: Develop a process for setting multi-year measures

- **Set measures for 2 years at a time** with a commitment to making no changes in the interim year.
- Don't react to new data that would otherwise allow for liberalizations or require restrictions in the interim year.

4: Improvements to process used to make changes to state and federal mgmt. measures

- Not discussed in detail by Steering Committee.
- Could include considerations related to:
 - State by state vs. regional measures
 - Conservation equivalency process (state and federal)
 - Guidelines for using MRIP data at granular levels
 - Considerations for using data other than MRIP

5: Timing of federal waters measures recommendation

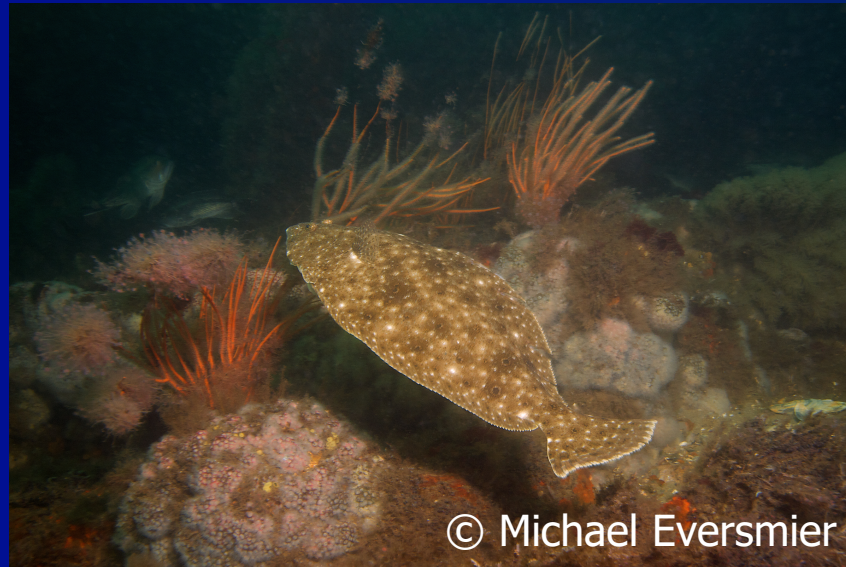
- Federal waters measures currently recommended in December. Could the recommendation be made in October or August?



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Additional MC feedback

- Consider more explicitly tying changes in mgmt. measures to stock assessment.
 - E.g., only make changes after stock assessment updates.



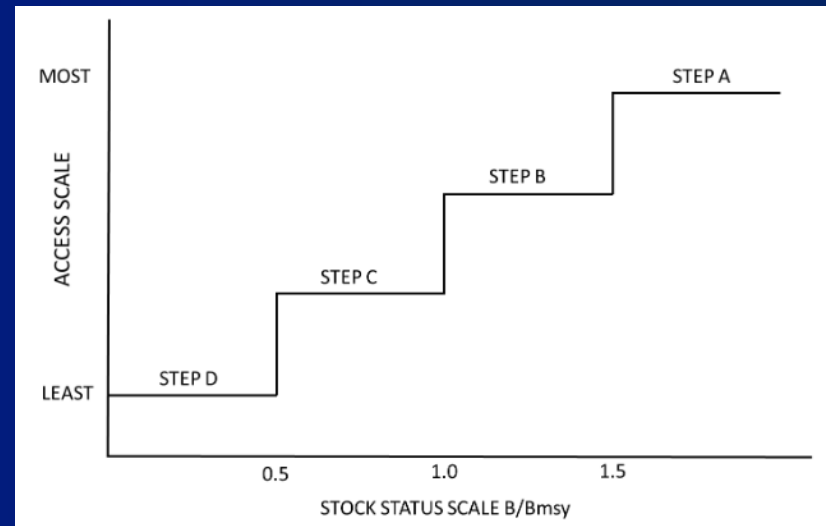
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Items removed from other actions

- Summer flounder, scup, black sea bass allocation amendment
 - Harvest control rule proposed through scoping
 - Recreational accountability
 - Recreational catch accounting
- Bluefish amendment
 - Sector separation

Harvest Control Rule

- Allocation aspects of proposal not feasible under MSA.
- Rec. measures aspects of proposal may warrant further development.
- Conceptual idea:
 - Range of pre-defined mgmt. measures.
 - Upper bound = most liberal set of measures preferred by anglers when biomass is high.
 - Lower bound = most restrictive measures that could be tolerated without major loss of business.
 - Step used in any given year based on biomass.



Harvest Control Rule, continued

Steering Committee input

- Concept worth further developing.
- Further analysis needed.
- Difficult to predict future harvest – impacted by many factors.
- Pre-determined measures would be starting point for consideration and would be regularly re-evaluated.

Rec. Accountability

- Suggested through scoping: more frequent overage paybacks, in-season closures.
- Would represent a reversal of changes made through Amendment 19.

Rec. Catch Accounting

- Suggested through scoping: private angler reporting, manage harvest with tags, tournament reporting, enhanced VTR reporting.
- Consider for all recreational species?
- Lessons learned from initiatives and other regions.

Sector Separation

- Removed from Bluefish Amendment this morning.
- Desire to address for multiple species in a comprehensive way.

Type of Management Action

Framework/Addendum

- Everything in Steering Committee outline
- Accountability measures
- Pre-determined management measure steps in Harvest Control Rule
- Changes to data reported through VTRs without changes to who submits VTRs

Amendment

- Changes to who submits catch/harvest data
 - Private angler reporting
 - Mandatory tournament reporting
 - Requiring additional entities to submit VTRs (e.g., state-only vessels)
- Managing recreational harvest with a tag system
- Sector separation (probably)

Timeline – assuming FW/addendum

Potential Timeframe	Task
Fall 2020 – early 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMAT or other group works with staff to develop alternatives. • Monitoring Committee assists with analysis for options related to uncertainty in MRIP data.
Feb 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council/Board refine range of alternatives.
Spring 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of alternatives and preliminary impacts analysis. • Council/Board approve final range of alternatives and draft document for public comment. • Public hearings (if desired).
Summer 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final action
Fall 2021 – Spring 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal rulemaking

Discussion

- Initiate a management action?
- Which topics to include?

