

Summary of Scup 2010 Recommendations

As a starting point for discussion by the Scup Monitoring Committee (SMC) and Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) the staff memo dated June 23, 2009 recommended a total allowable catch (TAC; includes both landings and discards) of 14.90 mil lb and a total allowable landings (TAL; only includes landings) of 12.30 mil lb for 2010, based on a 10% increase relative to the 2009 TAL and an estimate of discards. The associated commercial quota would be 9.59 mil lb and the recreational harvest limit would be 2.71 mil lb. Staff recommended status quo for commercial management measures in the fishery (i.e. minimum size, gear requirements, trip limits and triggers, etc.; see staff memo).

Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) Summary 2010 Scup Specifications July 16, 2009 Philadelphia, PA

SSC members: Brian Rothschild (SSC Chair), Scott Crosson, Mike Wilberg, Ed Houde, Wendy Gabriel, Tom Miller, Rob Latour, Jan Jiao, John Boreman, and Cynthia Jones.

Staff Present: Rich Seagraves, Jessica Coakley, Kathy Collins, José Montañez, and Tom Hoff.

Others Present: Rick Robins, Fred Serchuk, Kate Simons, Mike Ruccio, David Pierce, Carolyn Creed, Greg DiDomenico, and Sean McKeon.

Draft Consensus Summary Points:

By consensus the SSC recommends to the Council a one-year interim ABC for scup for 2010, based on a 10% increase in the 2009 TAC (i.e., recommended 2010 TAC=17.094 million pounds). [See staff prepared Table SC1 and SC2 given below which provides associated TAL, commercial quota, and recreational harvest limit].

The SSC notes that the recommended TAC is in line with advice from the assessment and the independent peer review that despite the apparently high stock biomass, quotas should be expanded slowly because of the high degree of scientific uncertainty in stock status. We note that no management uncertainty is included in this advice.

Sources of scientific uncertainty:

- there has been a substantial change in the approach to the assessing scup and the sensitivity and reliability of the new stock assessment is not fully understood
- assessment model is informed by fishery independent survey indices which are truncated above age 2 and commercial catch at age data for older ages; it is unclear the extent to which the fishery provides an unbiased estimate of stock abundance; therefore, considerable uncertainty exists about the population dynamics of older fish in the population
- discard estimates are major source of uncertainty: discard estimates are imprecise and discard mortality is a significant component of fishing mortality for this stock

Scup Monitoring Committee (SMC) Summary
2010 Scup Specifications
July 17, 2009
Philadelphia, PA

Committee Members: Bob Beal, Mike Ruccio, Greg Wojcik, Tom Baum, Steve Doctor, Mark Terceiro, Paul Caruso, Rob O'Reilly, Chris Batsavage, Jason McNamee, and Christina Grahn.

Staff Present: Jessica Coakley (SFMC Chair), Kathy Collins, José Montañez, and Dan Furlong.

Others Present: Kristen Cevoli and Kirk Moore.

Consensus Summary Points:

The SMC agreed with the SSC recommendation and proposed a 2010 TAC/TAL based on a 10% increase in TAC from the prior year (2009). Specifically, the total allowable catch (TAC; includes both landings and discards) is 17.09 mil lb and the total allowable landings (TAL; only includes landings) is 13.50 mil lb was recommended by the SMC for 2010. [See staff prepared Table SC1 and SC2 given below which provides associated TAL, commercial quota, and recreational harvest limit]. This group felt management uncertainty (performance history) in the recreational fishery could be considered in November when the SMC meets to discuss specific recreational measures for 2010. The group also discussed the current allocations to the recreational and commercial fishery, as well as allocations by period and the current trip limits (and triggers). They recommended the Council consider revisiting these allocations and associated measures. The group highlighted that the basis for changing allocation would need to be something other than historical catch data (which established the allocations); the recent catch data are confounded by management measures therefore, other metrics would need to be utilized.

Table SC1. Commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits associated with the SSC and SMC recommended TAC/TAL.

Measure	SSC and SMC Recommendations
TAC	17.09 mil lb
TAL	13.50 mil lb
Comm. Quota	10.53 mil lb
Rec. Harvest Limit	2.97 mil lb

Table SC2. Commercial quotas, by period, associated with the SSC and SMC recommended TAC/TAL.

Period	Percent Allocation	Commercial Quota
Winter I	45.11%	4,750,083
Summer	38.95%	4,101,435
Winter II	15.94%	1,678,482
Total	100%	10,530,000