

## **Summary of Summer Flounder 2010 Recommendations**

As a starting point for discussion by the Summer Flounder Monitoring Committee (SFMC) and Science and Statistical Committee, the staff memo dated June 19, 2009 recommended a total allowable catch (TAC; includes both landings and discards) of 25.48 mil lb and a total allowable landings (TAL; only includes landings) of 22.13 mil lb for 2010, based on the  $F_{40\%} = 0.255$  target at a 50% probability that TAC/TAL will achieve the target F. The associated commercial quota would be 13.28 mil lb and the recreational harvest limit would be 8.85 mil lb. Staff recommended status quo for commercial management measures in the fishery (i.e. minimum size, gear requirements and triggers, etc.). See staff memo for additional details.

### **Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) Summary 2010 Summer Flounder 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 that the summer flounder TAC (ABC) should be set for one year only (2010) and be based on 50% probability of achieving the fishing mortality rate target,  $F_{40\%}$  (the associated TAC=25.48 million lbs and TAL=22.13 million pounds). Projections based on the accepted stock assessment indicate that this level of exploitation will still meet the rebuilding schedule.

The SSC emphasized that this recommendation takes into account scientific uncertainty only. The SSC did not take management uncertainty into account in its recommendations for 2010. The SSC noted that recent management efficacy has been less than 100% (i.e., the TAL has been exceeded routinely in recent years).

#### **Sources of scientific uncertainty:**

-new assessment model assumed age-specific natural mortality (M), which had substantial effects on reference points and stock status - this issue is still a considerable source of scientific uncertainty

- retrospective patterns in F and SSB still persist, but the pattern has changed and the effects are much smaller in recent years

-projections indicate that the stock is less likely to rebuild within the reference rebuilding time period at fishing mortality rates higher than  $F_{40\%}$

-recruitment from the 2009 year class looks high, but it will take several years to validate its strength

**Summer Flounder Monitoring Committee (SFMC) Summary**  
**2010 Summer Flounder 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 SFMC concurred with the staff recommendations given above. This group felt management uncertainty (performance history) in the recreational fishery could be considered in November when the SFMC meets to discuss specific recreational measures for 2010. Points of discussion included the input data, assessment model, and projections, retrospective pattern, performance history of the fishery, as well as specific commercial management measures (i.e. mesh size, minimum fish sizes, trip limits).