

Summary of Black Sea Bass 2010 Recommendations

As a starting point for discussion by the Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee (BSBMC) and Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) the staff memo dated June 18, 2009 recommended a total allowable catch (TAC; includes both landings and discards) of 5.83 mil lb and a total allowable landings (TAL; only includes landings) of 4.80 mil lb for 2010, based on the fishing mortality rate the stock experiences in 2008 ($F=0.28$). The associated commercial quota would be 2.35 mil lb and the recreational harvest limit would be 2.45 mil lb. Staff recommended status quo for commercial management measures in the fishery (i.e. minimum size, gear requirements, etc.; see staff memo).

Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) Summary 2010 Black Sea Bass 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 it maintain the 2009 *status quo* measures in 2010 (i.e., recommended 2010 TAL=2.3 million pounds). [See staff prepared Table BSB1, BSB2 and Figure BSB1 which provides associated TAC, commercial quotas, and recreational harvest limits].

The SSC notes that this advice is based on consideration of the scientific uncertainty inherent in the management of this species as a result of its unusual life history and the unknown reliability of fishery-independent surveys for this species. We note that no consideration of management uncertainty is included in this advice.

Sources of scientific uncertainty:

- assessment assumes constant M for both sexes; life history characteristics for this species (protogynous hermaphrodite) results in uncertainty relative to this assumption if differential M is exhibited by sex
- fishery independent indices may not correspond to stock abundance because surveys do not adequately sample preferred sea bass habitat
- retrospective patterns are evident

Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee (BSBMC) Summary
2010 Black Sea Bass 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 BSBMC disagreed with the SSC and recommended a 2010 TAC/TAL to the Council and ASMFC Board which was the mid-point between the SSC and staff recommendations. Specifically, the total allowable catch (TAC; includes both landings and discards) of 4.18 mil lb and a total allowable landings (TAL; only includes landings) of 3.55 mil lb was recommended by the BSBMC for 2010. [See staff prepared Table BSB1, BSB2 and Figure BSB1 which provides associated TAC, commercial quotas, and recreational harvest limits]. The BSBMC expressed concerns about the potential for disconnect between State and Federal quotas, but did not feel the lower quotas recommended by the SSC were necessary to account for scientific uncertainty. In addition, this group recommended:

- 1) a document be prepared to clearly define the roles of the SSC and Monitoring Committee's to aid them prior to deliberations, and
- 2) the need to communicate their ideas with the SSC and perhaps have a "pre-decision" meeting to develop preliminary information and discuss issues associated with each species.

The group agreed with all other staff recommended management measures. This group felt management uncertainty (performance history) in the recreational fishery could be considered in November when the BSBMC meets to discuss specific recreational measures for 2010.

Table BSB1. 2010 fishing mortality rate, commercial quotas, and recreational harvest limits associated with the SSC and BSBMC recommended TAC/TAL.

Measure	SSC Recommendations	BSBMC Recommendations
2010 F	0.122	0.194
TAC	2.71 mil lb	4.18 mil lb
TAL	2.30 mil lb	3.55 mil lb
Comm. Quota	1.13 mil lb	1.74 mil lb
Rec. Harvest Limit	1.17 mil lb	1.81 mil lb