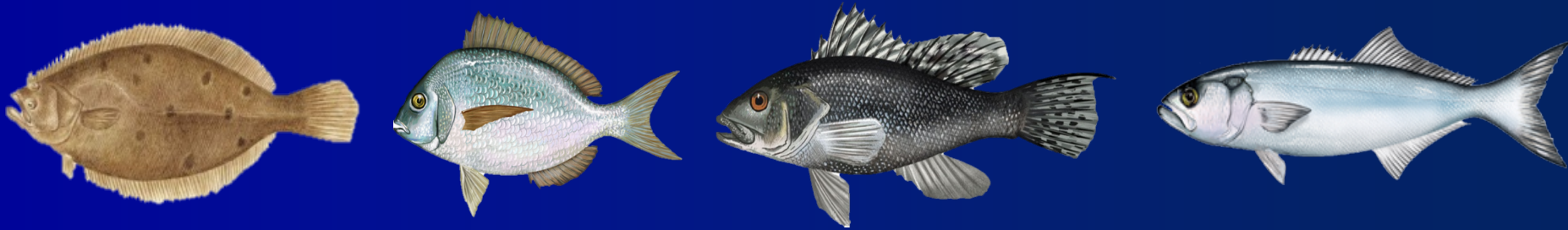




# Recreational Reform Initiative



Joint Council and Board Meeting  
June 16, 2020

# Objective

- Review progress to date.
- Determine next steps.



# Progress to Date

- Joint Steering Committee formed March 2019.
- Draft initiative outline.
  - Goal/vision.
  - 5 priority objectives.
- Monitoring Committee review.
  - Generally supportive of continued development of all objectives (+1).
- Not currently associated with a mgmt. action.

# 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. (1/3)

- Adopt a standardized process for **IDing and smoothing outliers** - for both high and low outliers.
- Monitoring Committee feedback:
  - Very beneficial.
  - Could increase likelihood of using smoothed estimates in multiple parts of mgmt. process.
  - Multiple potentially appropriate approaches.
  - Need to consider appropriate level of examination (state/wave/mode).

# 1: Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into mgmt. (2/3)

- 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.
- Monitoring Committee feedback:
  - Support continued development.
  - Need to further discussion on how to define the envelope.



# 1: Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into mgmt. (3/3)

- Evaluate the **pros and cons of using preliminary current year data.**
- Monitoring Committee feedback:
  - Differences between preliminary and final may not be as great as they once were – should evaluate.
  - Final data more appropriate for multi-year measures. Preliminary current year data may be appropriate for annual adjustments to measures.



## 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.**
- Monitoring Committee supports continued development.
  - Management measures changes in response to stock assessment updates vs. harvest estimates.



### 3: Develop a process for setting multi-year measures (1/2)

- **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.
- Further consideration needed on how to meet MSA requirement for annual ACL evaluation.

# 3: Develop a process for setting multi-year measures (2/2)

## Monitoring Committee feedback

- Very supportive of this approach.
- Could bring together multiple objectives: use final MRIP estimates, consider timing of recommendation, react to stock assessments, stability in measures.
- Would work best with a strong commitment to no changes at state or federal level (no CE).
- Would help with evaluation of effectiveness of measures.
- Potential for compounding overages and underages – a conservation risk and benefit.
- Consider socioeconomic pros and cons.

## 4: Improvements to process used to make changes to state and federal mgmt. measures (1/2)

- 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

## 4: Improvements to process used to make changes to state and federal mgmt. measures (2/2)

### Monitoring Committee feedback

- Guidelines on how to best use MRIP data could be beneficial, but may be challenging to standardize across states.
- Need additional analysis to better understand potential limitations/challenges of this approach.

# 5: Timing of federal waters measures recommendation

- Federal waters measures currently recommended in December. Could the recommendation be made in October or August?
- Monitoring Committee feedback:
  - Supportive of continued consideration.
  - Recent timelines have posed challenges for robust technical review.
  - May not allow for use of preliminary current year data.

# Additional MC feedback

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



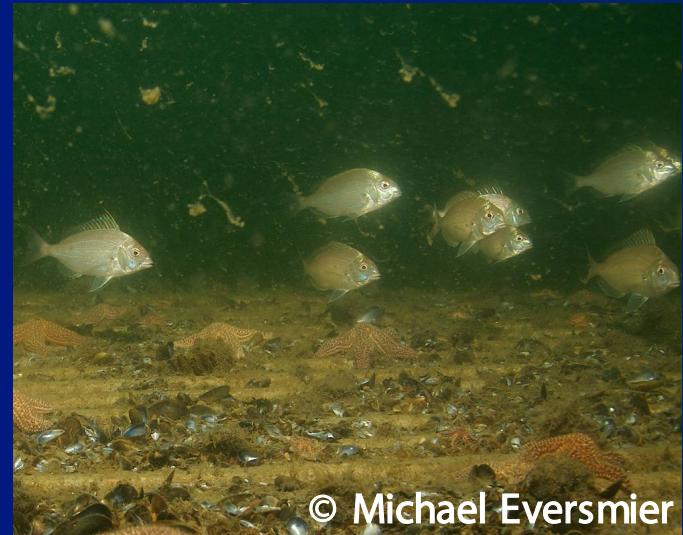
# Items removed from com/rec amendment

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- Harvest control rule proposed through scoping
- Recreational accountability
- Recreational catch accounting

# Discussion

- Next steps
- MAFMC staff recommendation: initiate a framework/addendum



- 1) Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into mgmt. process
  - Process to ID and smooth outliers
  - Envelope of uncertainty
  - Use of preliminary current year data
- 2) Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo measures
- 3) Develop process for setting multi-year rec. measures
- 4) Improvements to process used to make changes to measures
- 5) Possibility of recommending measures earlier in the year
- 6) Change measures only after assessment update (MC recommendation)?
- 7) Harvest control rule?
- 8) Recreational accountability?
- 9) Recreational catch accounting?