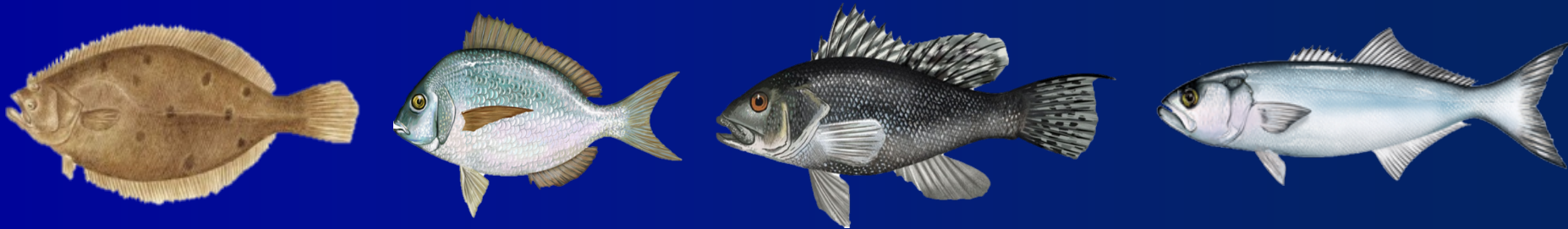




# Recreational Reform Initiative



Joint Council and ASMFC Policy Board Meeting  
December 16, 2020

# Initiative Goal/Vision

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



# Oct. 2020 Joint Motion

Move to initiate a joint framework/addendum to address the following topics for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish, as discussed today:

- Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into management
- Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo measures
- Develop a process for setting multi-year measures
- Consider changes to the timing of federal waters measures recommendations
- Harvest control rule

and to also initiate an amendment to address recreational sector separation and recreational catch accounting such that scoping for the amendment would be conducted during the development of the framework/addendum.

# Staff Recommendation

Technical Guidance Document	Framework/Addendum	Amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a process for identifying and smoothing outlier MRIP estimates.*</li> <li>• Evaluate the pros and cons of using preliminary current year MRIP data.*</li> <li>• Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Envelope of uncertainty approach for determining if changes to recreational management measures are needed.*</li> <li>• Develop process for setting multi-year recreational management measures.</li> <li>• Consider changes to the timing of recommending federal waters measures.</li> <li>• Harvest Control Rule proposal put forward by 6 recreational organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational sector separation.</li> <li>• Recreational catch accounting.</li> </ul>

# Draft Timeline for Work in 2021

## Staff Memo

Month	Technical Doc.	FW/Addendum	Amendment
Jan	Form MC/TC subgroup or other technical team	Form FMAT/PDT or other group to assist with analysis and development of alternatives	Form FMAT/PDT
Feb	Further develop and analyze topics	Development of alternatives	Develop draft scoping document
Mar			
Apr			
May	Council/Board review of progress	Council/Board review and refine alternatives	Council/Board approve scoping document and scoping plan
Jun	Further technical development	Further develop alternatives	Scoping
Jul			
Aug	Council/Board review draft document and consider for approval	Council/Board review alternatives and approve draft addendum for public hearings	Council/Board review scoping comments and refine scope of action
Sep	--	Public hearings, if desired by states	FMAT/PDT development of alternatives
Oct	--		
Nov	MC/TC consider for use in 2022 rec specs	AP meeting to provide input	
Dec	--	Council/Board take final action	Council/Board review alternatives

# Draft Timeline for Work in 2021

## Revised after further staff discussion

Month	Technical Doc.	FW/Addendum	Amendment
Jan	Form MC/TC subgroup or other technical team	Form FMAT/PDT or other group to assist with analysis and development of alternatives	
Feb	Further develop and analyze topics	Development of alternatives	Form FMAT/PDT
Mar			
Apr			
May	Council/Board review progress	Council/Board review and refine alternatives	Develop draft scoping document
Jun	Further technical development	Further develop alternatives	
Jul			
Aug	Council/Board review draft document and consider for approval	Council/Board review alts and approve draft add. for public hearings	Council/Board approve scoping document and plan
Sep	--	Public hearings, if desired by states	Scoping
Oct	--		
Nov	MC/TC consider for use in 2022 rec specs	AP meeting to provide input	
6 <sup>Dec</sup>	--	Council/Board take final action	Council/Board review scoping comments and refine scope of action

# Discussion

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# Backup Slides



## Recreational Reform Initiative Potential Topics

### **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.**
- *All 3: technical guidance document*

## 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.
- *Technical guidance document or framework/addendum, depending on details.*



## Recreational Reform Initiative Potential Topics

### 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.
- Synchronize changes with stock assessment updates.
- Further consideration of MSA requirements for annual ACL evaluation needed.
- *Framework/addendum.*

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

- Could include topics such as:
  - 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
- *Technical guidance document or framework/addendum, depending on details.*

## Recreational Reform Initiative Potential Topics

### 5: Timing of federal waters measures recommendation



*Technical guidance document or framework/addendum, depending on details.*

## #6: Recreational Sector Separation

- Should the for-hire sector be managed separately from the private/rental and shore modes?
  - Separate allocations of catch/landings limits?
  - Separate management measures without separate allocations?
  - Data considerations: higher PSEs when MRIP data split by mode, only federally permitted vessels submit VTRs.
- Stakeholder interest (e.g., perception that for-hire MRIP data more certain than private/shore).
- *FMP amendment.*

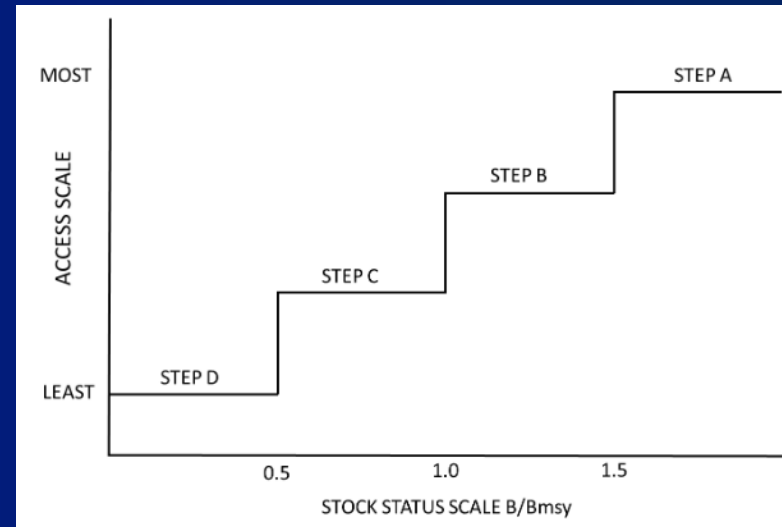
## **#7: Recreational catch accounting**

- Stakeholder suggestions: private angler reporting, manage harvest with tags, tournament reporting, enhanced VTR reporting.
- Consider for all recreational species?
- Lessons learned from initiatives and other regions.
- *FMP amendment for most options, framework/addendum for others.*

# Recreational Reform Initiative Potential Topics

## #9: Harvest Control Rule

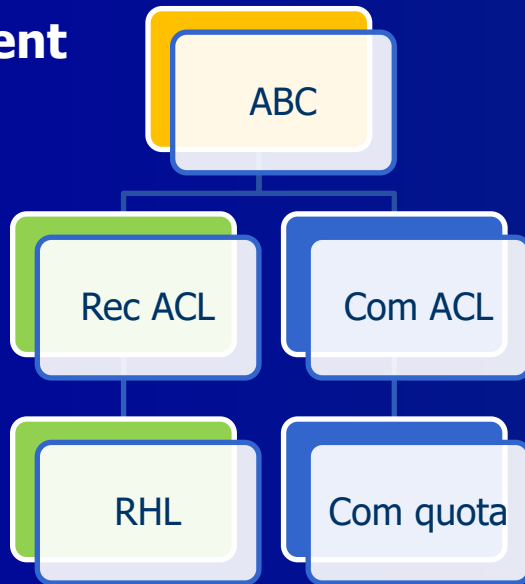
- Proposed by 6 recreational organizations.
- Conceptual idea:
  - Range of pre-defined mgmt. measures.
  - Step used in any given year based on biomass.
  - Upper and lower bounds informed by stakeholder input.
    - Step A: most liberal set of measures preferred by anglers when biomass is high.
    - Step B: most restrictive set of measures that could be tolerated without major loss of businesses.
- *Framework/addendum.*



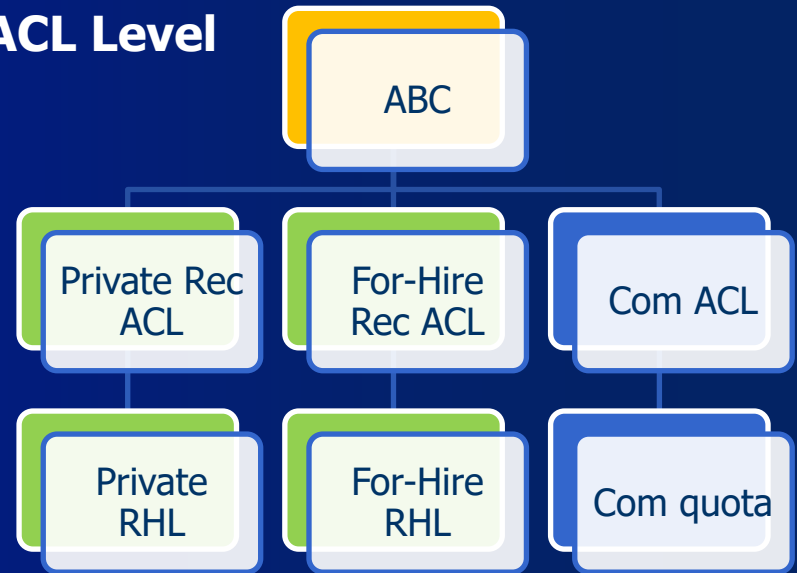


# Example sector separation structures for SFSBSB

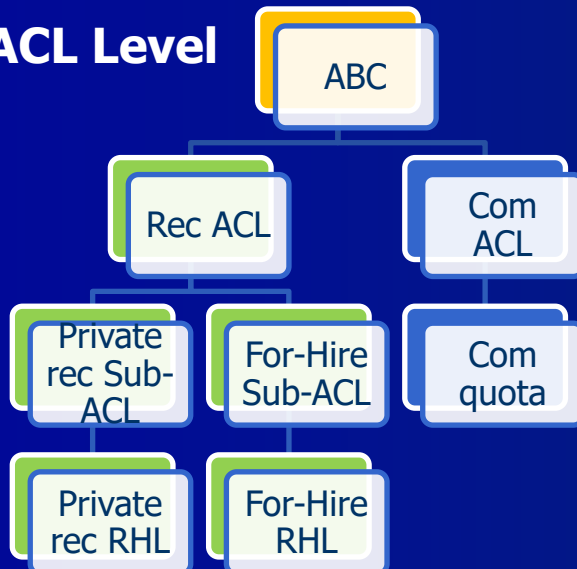
**A: Current**



**B: ACL Level**



**C: Sub-ACL Level**

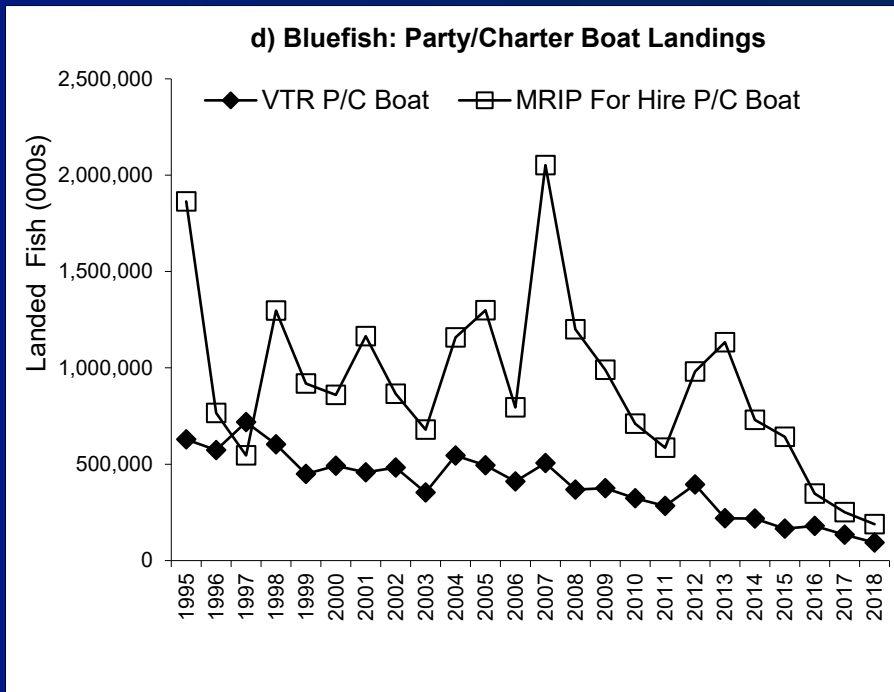
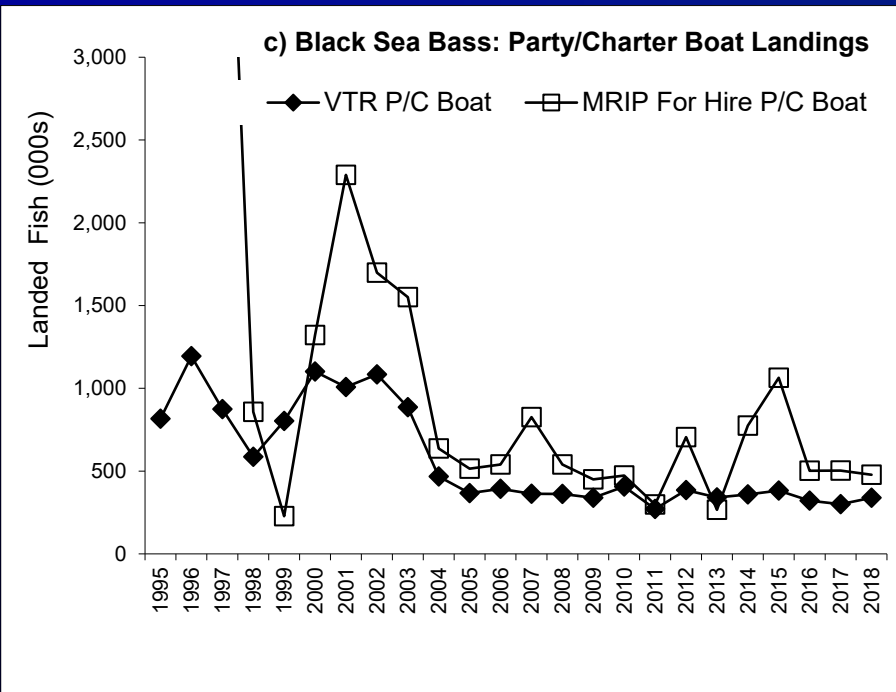
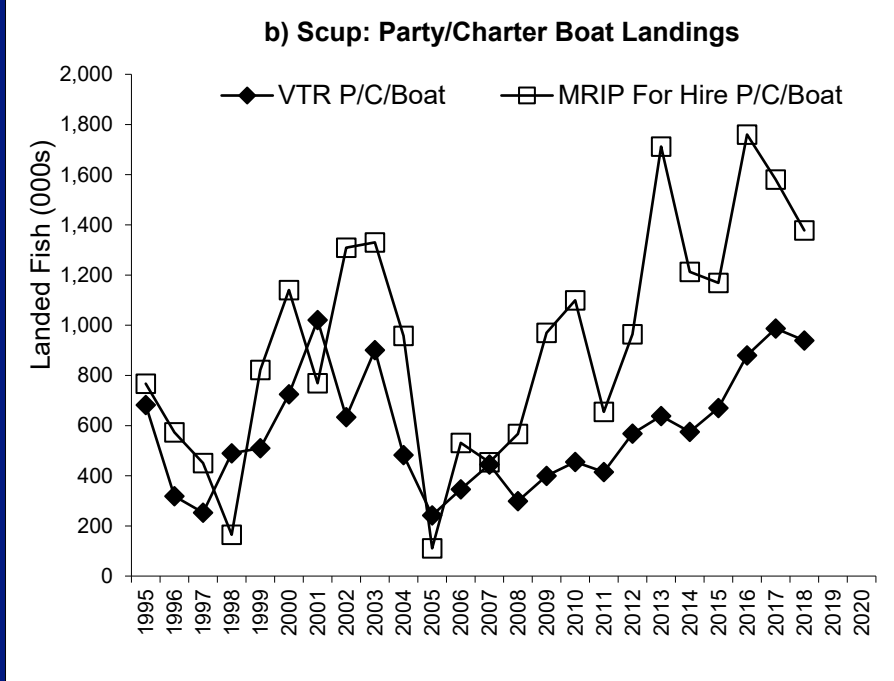
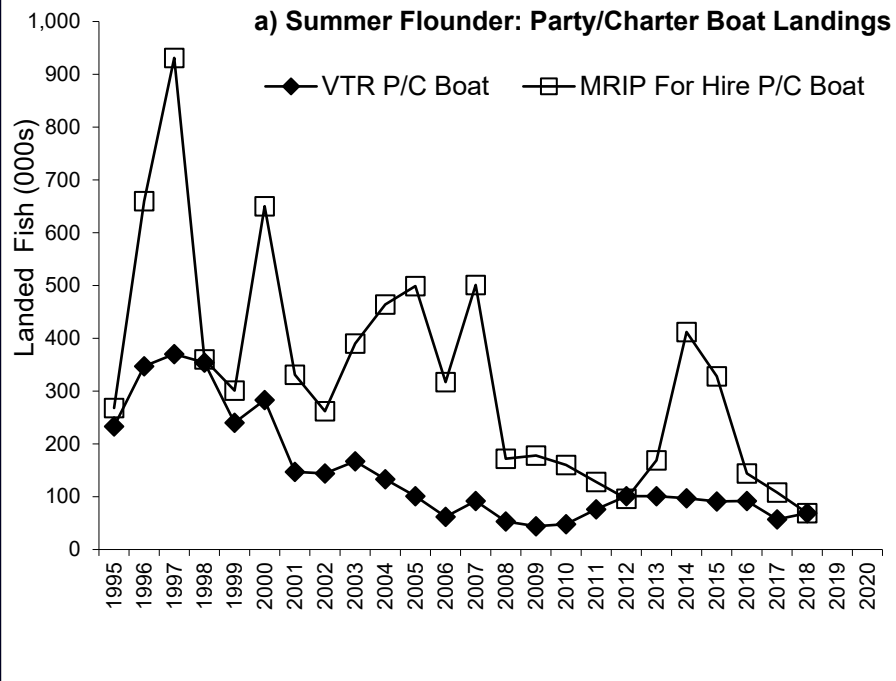


**D: RHL Level**



**Table 1:** Example approaches for calculating separate sub-allocations to private and for-hire sectors, based on harvest in numbers of fish.

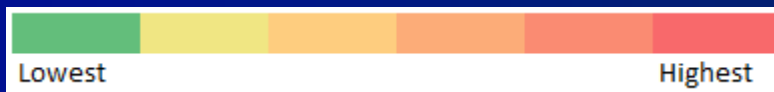
Species	Years	Private	For-Hire
<b>Summer Flounder</b>	2014-2018 (5 years)	94%	6%
	2009-2018 (10 years)	95%	5%
	2004-2018 (15 years)	95%	5%
<b>Scup</b>	2014-2018 (5 years)	89%	11%
	2009-2018 (10 years)	88%	12%
	2004-2018 (15 years)	88%	12%
<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	2014-2018 (5 years)	86%	14%
	2009-2018 (10 years)	87%	13%
	2004-2018 (15 years)	82%	18%
<b>Bluefish</b>	2014-2018 (5 years)	97%	3%
	2009-2018 (10 years)	96%	4%
	2004-2018 (15 years)	95%	5%



# MRIP PSEs for total catch in numbers of fish, (ME-VA)

	Summer Flounder			Scup			Black Sea Bass		
	For-Hire	Private/ Shore	All modes	For-Hire	Private/ Shore	All modes	For-Hire	Private/ Shore	All modes
2004	13.8	5.9	5.7	28.4	15.4	14.4	19.7	16.3	14.2
2005	11.3	7.4	7.1	27.1	19.6	19.1	16.9	12.4	11.0
2006	16.8	8.0	7.7	18.1	16.1	15.4	15.3	11.1	9.8
2007	10.9	6.7	6.4	16.5	15.3	14.3	10.4	10.9	9.2
2008	10.1	6.5	6.3	16.8	11.6	10.5	9.5	15.7	14.4
2009	10.1	5.8	5.7	15.1	11.5	10.6	10.3	10.2	9.3
2010	12.6	6.8	6.7	24.8	10.4	9.8	12.0	23.2	21.8
2011	9.3	6.6	6.5	18.8	15.2	14.5	12.4	10.5	9.7
2012	9.9	11.3	11.1	16.4	12.3	11.3	10.1	9.7	9.1
2013	12.9	8.2	8.0	7.9	11.7	10.6	6.8	9.0	8.5
2014	18.2	8.6	8.2	17.8	10.5	9.7	13.5	8.4	7.6
2015	12.2	8.0	7.7	14.0	15.6	14.8	12.0	10.2	9.1
2016	8.5	8.0	7.8	10.6	10.5	10.0	7.1	8.5	7.9
2017	13.5	10.7	10.4	8.0	13.5	12.7	6.6	11.8	11.1
2018	8.7	6.6	6.4	9.2	8.6	8.1	9.6	6.3	5.7
2019	12.6	8.8	8.6	10.7	6.7	6.1	8.7	6.5	5.9
AVG	11.9	7.7	7.4	16.6	13.2	12.4	11.5	11.6	10.6

Legend



# Motion from June 2020 Joint Mtg

Amended motion become main motion:

Move that the Council and Board accept all the FMAT's recommendations for this amendment. The Council and Board will consider initiating an action by the end of 2020 to develop a recreational accountability and accounting joint action.

Council: 16/2/0

Board: 10/1/0/0

Motion carries