



Black Sea Bass

2014 Recreational Management Measures

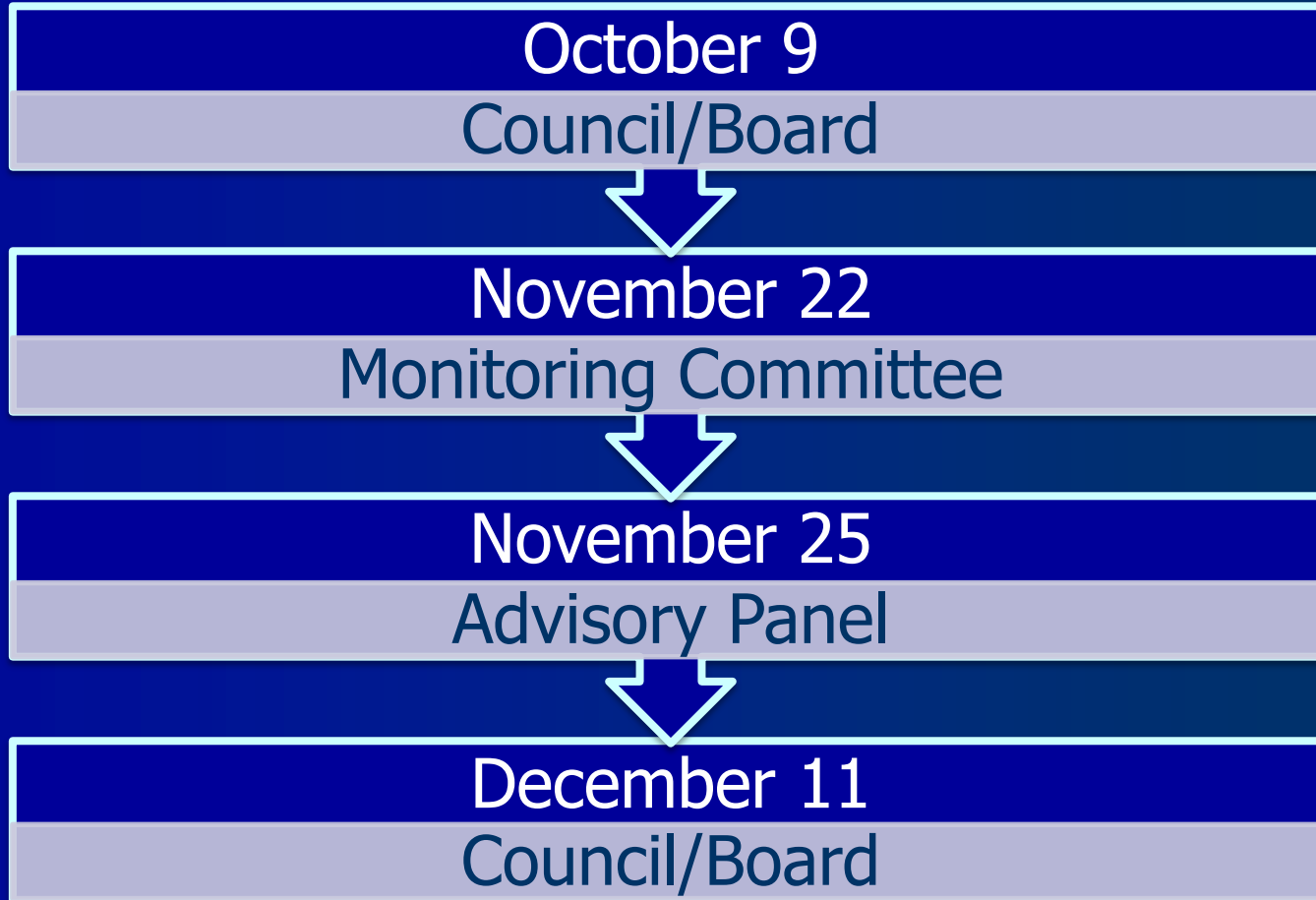


December 11, 2013

Today's Plan

1. Council staff presentation, part 1
2. ASMFC staff presentation on Addendum XXV (black sea bass elements)
3. Board action on Addendum XXV
4. Council staff presentation, part 2
5. Council and Board joint recommendations

2014 Recreational Measures Process



Today's Main Decision Points

1. Board approval of Addendum XXV for public hearings
2. Joint vote on recreational measures

Harvest Limits and Landings

- Harvest limits: low of 1.14 mil lb in 2009 to high of 4.13 mil lb in 2005
- Landings: recent low in 2011 at 1.3 mil lb; recent high of 3.3 mil lb in 2010
- 2012 RHL = 1.32 mil lb
- 2012 landings = 3.18 mil lb



Changes to Accountability Measures

- Omnibus Recreational Accountability Measures amendment partially approved
 - In-season closure authority eliminated
 - Paybacks tied to stock status & scaled relative to biomass
 - Disapproved: use of lower bound of estimate confidence interval

2012 Recreational Overage

- Implications for black sea bass overage:
 - Direct payback will not be required
 - Instead: adjustments to bag limit, size limit, season



Management Measures

- FMP requires coastwide measures for both state and federal waters
- Commission Addendums annually since 2011 for state-specific measures



2013 Federal Measures

12.5-inch TL minimum size



20 fish possession limit

May 19 - Oct. 14, and Nov. 1 - Dec. 31

Wave 1

- Timing of rulemaking in federal waters: wave 1 not affected until year following final rule
- Wave 1 was open Jan./Feb. 2013 due to decisions made in 2011
- Decision made in 2012 to close wave 1 will take effect Jan./Feb. 2014



2013 State Measures, MA-NY

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
Massachusetts (Private and For-hire)	14	4 fish	May 11- October 31
Massachusetts (For-hire with Letter of Authorization from MA DMF)	14	10 fish	May 11- June 14
		20 fish	July 1- August 11 and September 1- October 10
Rhode Island	13	3 fish	June 15- August 31
		7 fish	September 1- December 31
Connecticut (Private and Shore)	13	3 fish	June 15-August 31
		8 fish	September 1-October 29
Connecticut (For-hire)	13	8 fish	June 15-November 30
New York	13	8 fish	July 10-December 31

2013 State Measures, NJ-NC

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
New Jersey	12.5	20 fish	May 19-August 8, September 27-October 14, and November 1-December 31
Delaware	12.5	15 fish	January 1- February 28
		20 fish	May 19 - October 14 and November 1 - December 31
Maryland	12.5	15 fish	January 1 - February 28
		20 fish	May 19 - October 14 and November 1 - December 31
Virginia	12.5	15 fish	January 1 - February 28
		20 fish	May 19 - October 14 and November 1 - December 31
North Carolina (North of Cape Hatterass 35° 15'N Latitude)	12.5	15 fish	January 1 - February 28
		20 fish	May 19 - October 14 and November 1 - December 31

Comparing Landings to RHL

WITHOUT New Hampshire; ad-hoc post-strat. at Hatteras:

2013 RHL	2.26 mil lb
2013 Proj. Landings*	2.40 mil lb
2014 RHL	2.26 mil lb
2014 Coastwide reduction	6%

*Projected using % landings from waves 1-4 in 2012

Revised Landings vs. RHL

WITH New Hampshire; ad-hoc post-strat. at Hatteras:

2013 RHL	2.26 mil lb
2013 Proj. Landings*	2.43 mil lb
2014 RHL	2.26 mil lb
2014 Coastwide reduction	7%

*Projected using % landings from waves 1-4 in 2012

2012 Recreational Overage

- Monitoring Committee: recommended additional reduction to comply with new accountability measures
- Based on understanding that adjustments should be "in addition to any necessary adjustments needed to meet new catch limits"



2012 Recreational Overage

- However...
- Current process is both reactive and proactive
- Adjustments take into account performance of past measures and other fishery considerations



2012 Recreational Overage

- 7% reduction needed to meet 2014 harvest limit
- Bag, size, and season adjustments based on evaluation of performance of recent measures





Note on 2013 MRIP Data

- Prior to Monitoring Committee meeting, NMFS pulled preliminary 2013 waves 3 and 4 (May-Aug.) MRIP estimates for revision
- Specific recommendations in staff memo made using 2012 measures and landings as baseline



Note on 2013 MRIP Data

- Revised 2013 data posted during Monitoring Committee meeting (Nov. 22)
- Updated data in MC meeting summary (Tab 8)
- Wave 5 data not yet available



Comparing Landings to RHL

WITH New Hampshire; ad-hoc post-strat. at Hatteras:

2013 RHL	2.26 mil lb
2013 Proj. Landings*	2.42 mil lb
2014 RHL	2.26 mil lb
2014 Coastwide reduction	7%

*Projected using % landings from waves 1-4 in 2012

2014 Staff Recommendation

- Coastwide measures, to be implemented in both federal and state waters
 - Reduced complexity of regulations; conflict in shared waters
 - Use of more precise harvest estimates
 - Increased ability to analyze impacts of measures



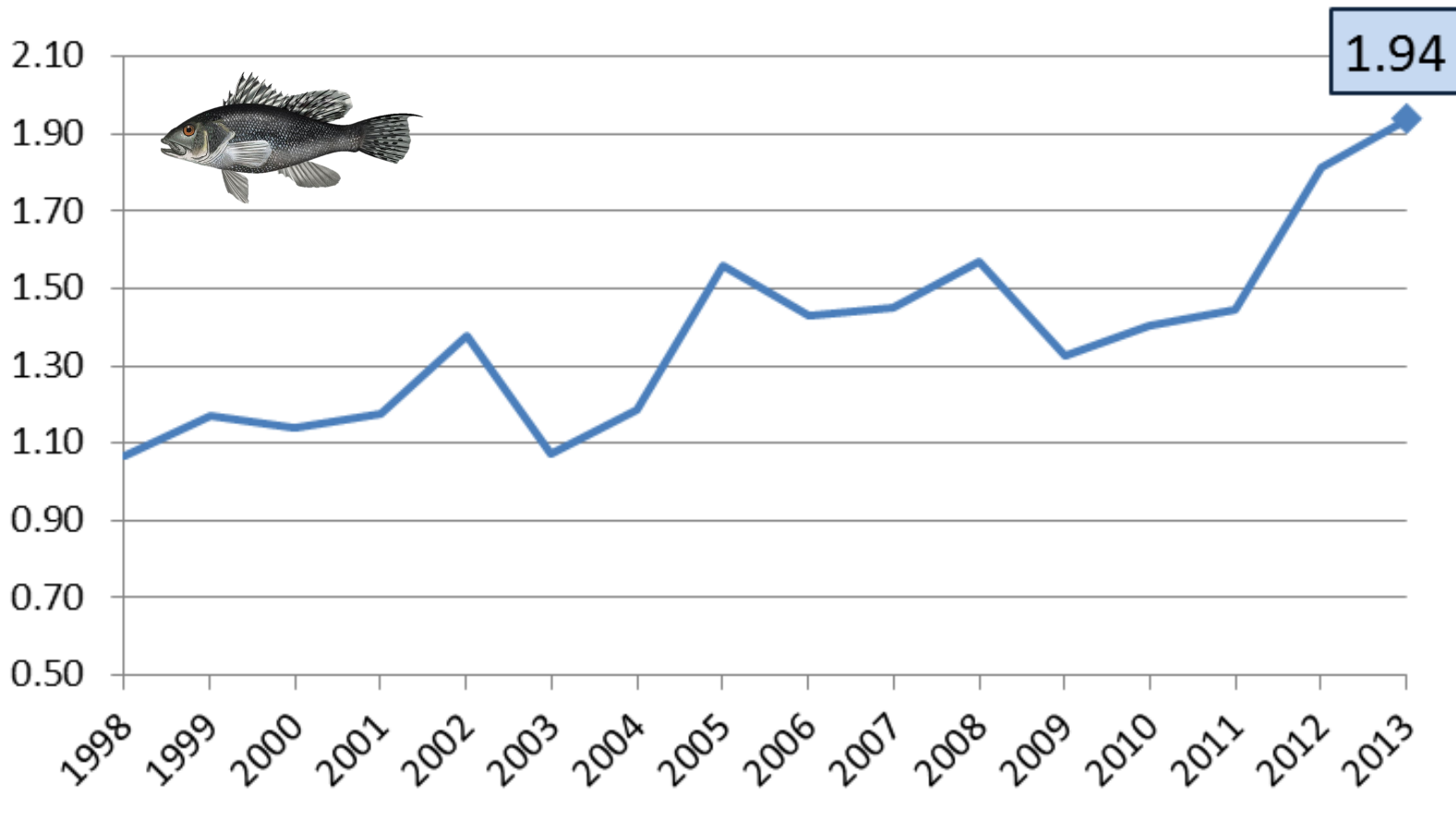
2014 Staff Recommendation

- Coastwide measures
- Previous staff recommendation based on 29% reduction from 2012 landings:
 - 12.5-inch TL min. size
 - 10 fish possession limit
 - May 19-September 10



2014 Staff Recommendation

Mean weight (lb), Waves 1-4



Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- Coastwide reduction of 9%
 - At least 6% required to keep landings to harvest limit
 - Additional reduction to comply with Council's accountability measures for 2012 recreational overage



Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- State-specific measures for northern states (NJ to MA)
- Southern state measures align with Federal measures



Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- Federal waters:
 - 12.5-inch TL minimum size
 - Seasonal reduction of 15 days in wave 5 (September/October)
 - 15 fish possession limit



Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- 12.5-inch TL minimum size
 - Do not recommend increases in minimum size for this species given unusual life history
 - Could result in skewed sex ratios



Monitoring Committee Recommendations

■ Season

- Wave 5 gets most reduction in fewest days (Table 5 in staff memo)
- May 19 start date is inflexible in federal regulations (at least for 2014)
- One suggestion: May 19 to August 31 and October 3 to December 31



Monitoring Committee Recommendations

■ Season

- Fishery should not be open during wave 1 (Jan./Feb.) given inadequate sampling
- Any changes to first half of season made this year would not apply until 2015



Monitoring Committee Recommendations

■ Possession limit

- Concern about high possession limits in recreational fisheries
- Especially given increases in mean weight
- 15 fish limit to comply with Council's accountability measures



Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- IF northern state/southern state approach is not adopted:
 - Recommend precautionary coastwide measures including a 13-inch TL minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, and season from June 1-September 30



Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Apparent health of fishery not reflected in catch limits
- Support status quo measures



Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Many prefer seasonal reduction in wave 3 instead of wave 5
 - MD advisor prefers wave 5
- Given necessary reduction, federal season of May 19-September 15 and October 18-December 31 acceptable for most



Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Concern with recommendations to lower possession limit
- But, reduced possession limit and/or increased size limit in July and August acceptable if it allows for longer season



Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Suggestion for cumulative length limit
- Others disagreed: unrealistic or unenforceable



Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Fishery should be open wave 1
 - VTR available for party/charter boats
 - Or, NMFS should produce wave 1 estimates



Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Support for regional approach to management
- However, state-by-state should be used in crisis situation, including for 2014

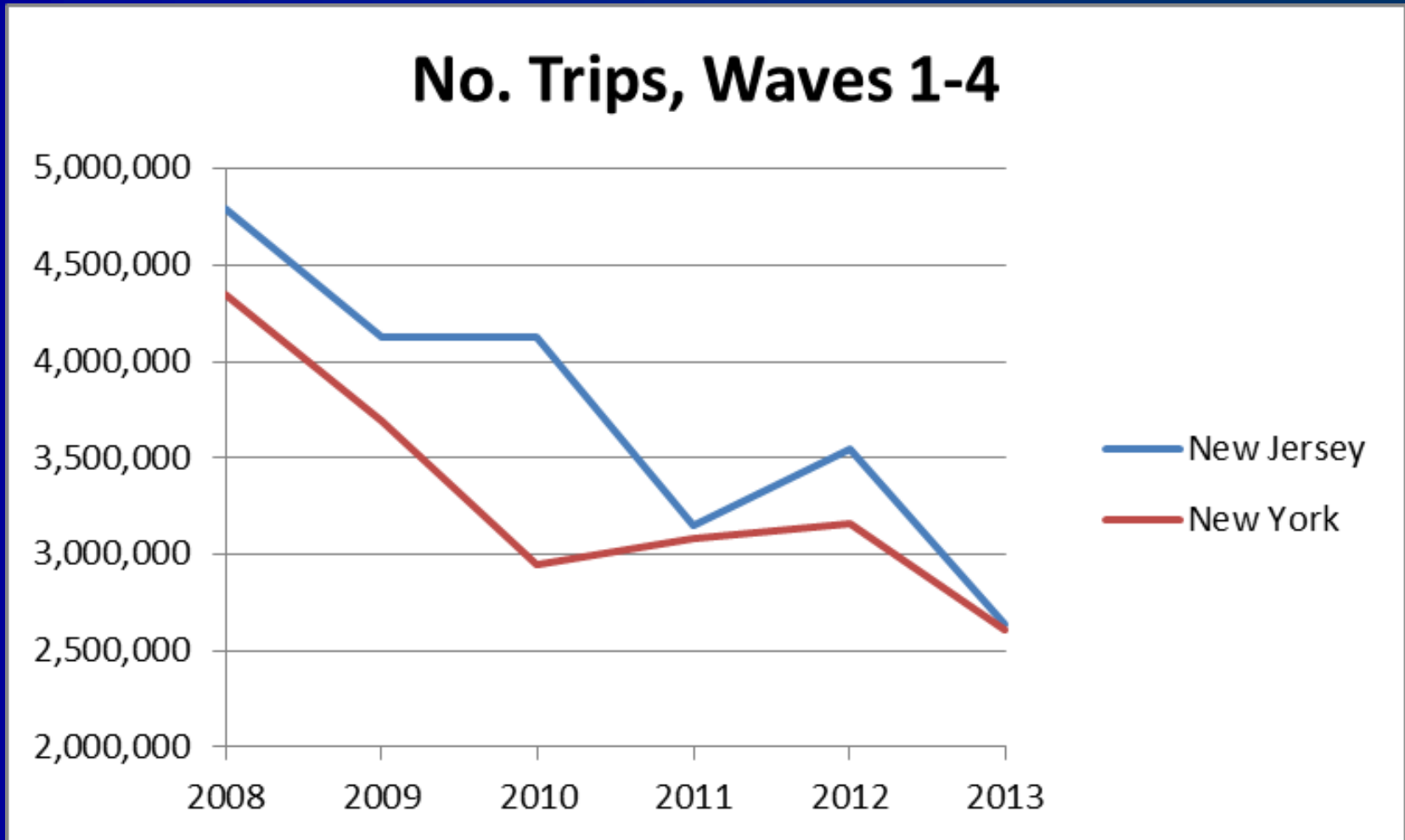


Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Concerns remain that MRIP effort estimation methodology has not captured reduction in effort in NJ/NY



MRIP Effort, Waves 1-4



Revised 2014 Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommendation revised based on:
 - Updated 2013 wave 1-4 data
 - Projections now including New Hampshire
- 7% reduction needed to constrain landings to RHL in 2014



Revised 2014 Staff Recommendation

- Coastwide measures, to be implemented in both federal and state waters:
 - 12.5-inch minimum size
 - 10 fish possession limit
 - May 19-September 18 and October 18-December 31



Questions?

