



Summer Flounder

2014 Recreational Management Measures



December 11, 2013

Today's Plan

1. Council staff presentation, part 1
2. George Lapointe paper presentation
3. ASMFC staff presentation on Addendum XXV (summer flounder elements)
4. Board action on Addendum XXV
5. Council staff presentation, part 2
6. Council and Board joint recommendations

2014 Recreational Measures Process

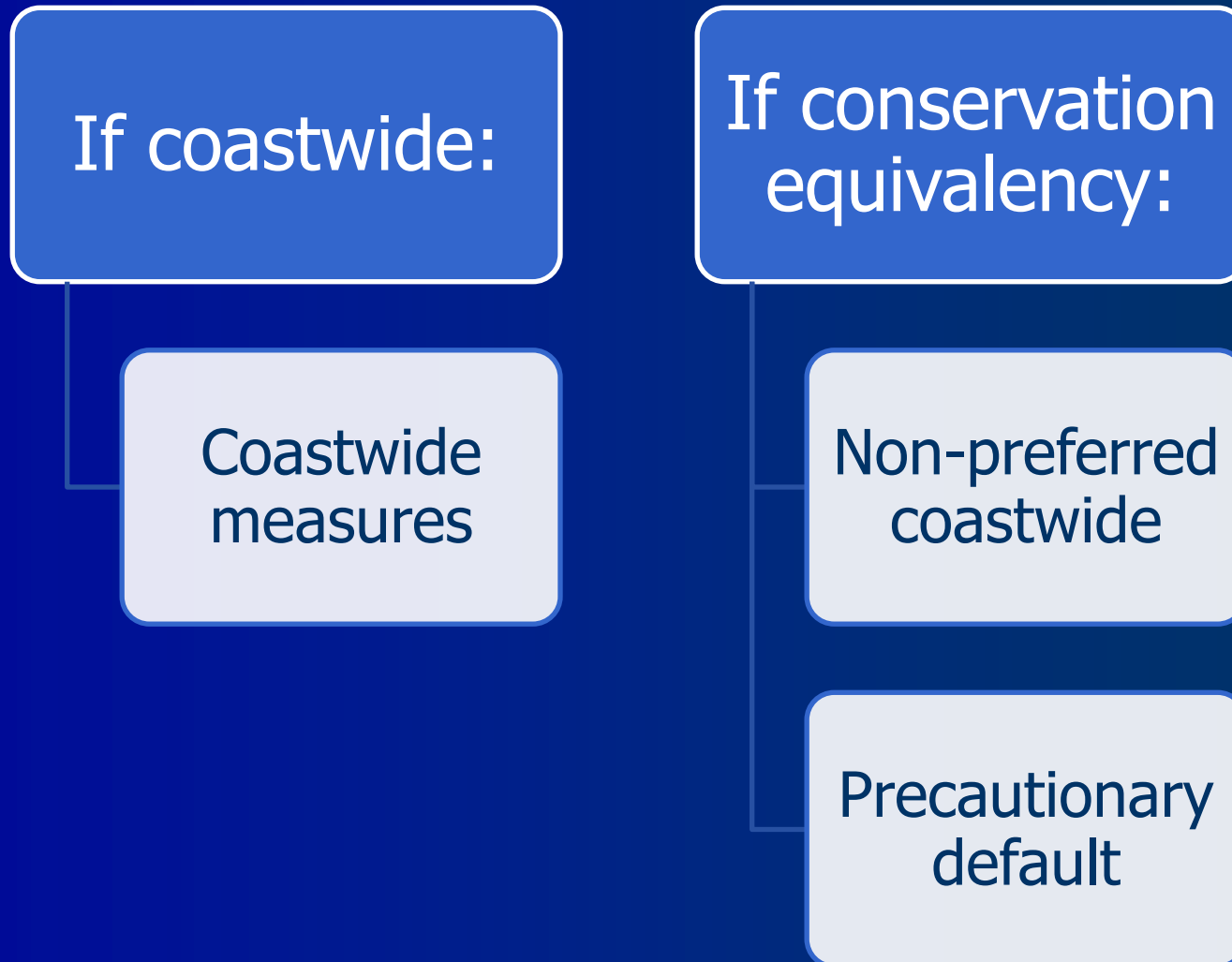


Today's Main Decision Points

1. Board approval of Addendum XXV for public hearings
2. Conservation equivalency vs. coastwide measures
3. Joint vote on associated measures (next slide)



Today's Main Decision Points



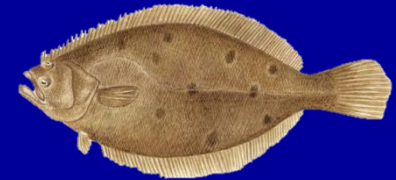
Harvest Limits and Landings

- Harvest limits: low of 6.22 mil lb in 2008 to high of 11.98 mil lb in 2005
- Landings: recent low in 2010 at 5.11 mil lb; recent high of 11.64 mil lb in 2003
- 2012 RHL = 8.49 mil lb
- 2012 landings = 6.51 mil lb



2013 Federal Measures

Conservation Equivalency (CE)



Non-preferred Coastwide: 18 inch TL minimum size;
4 fish possession limit; May 1 to September 30

Precautionary Default: 20 inch TL minimum size; 2
fish possession limit; May 1 to September 30

2013 Recreational Measures

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
Massachusetts	16	5 fish	May 22-September 30
Rhode Island	18	8 fish	May 1-December 31
Connecticut*	17.5	5 fish	May 15-October 31
*At 46 designated Shore sites in CT	16		
New York	19	4 fish	May 1-September 29
New Jersey	17.5	5 fish	May 18-September 16
Delaware	17	4 fish	All year
Maryland	16	4 fish	March 28-December 31
Virginia	16	4 fish	All year
North Carolina	15	6 fish	All year

Comparing Landings to RHL

2013 RHL	7.63 mil lb
2013 Proj. Landings*	6.87 mil lb
2014 RHL	7.01 mil lb
2014 Coastwide reduction	0%

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

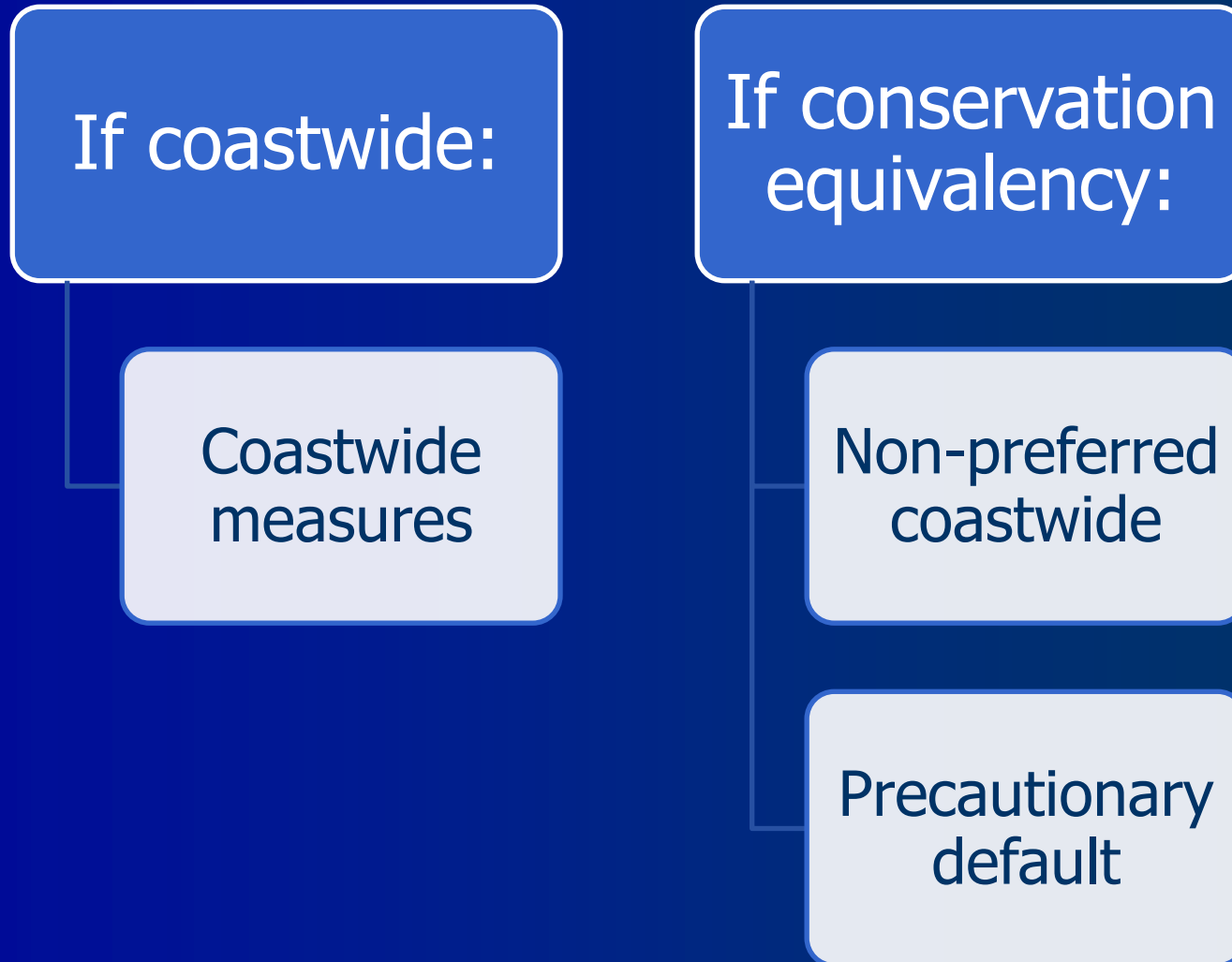
2013 Landings vs. Targets

State	1998	2013 Target	2013 Proj. Landings ^a	% Overage/ Underage
MA	383	137	27	-80%
RI	395	142	114	-20%
CT	261	94	262	+179%
NY	1,230	592 ^b	432	-27%
NJ	2,728	1066 ^b	1,261	+18%
DE	219	79	43	-46%
MD	206	74	32	-57%
VA	1,165	418	197	-53%
NC	391	140	49	-65%

^a Projected using % landings from waves 1-4 in 2012

^b Adjusted per ASMFC Addendum XXIV

Today's Main Decision Points





MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Note on 2013 MRIP Data

- Prior to Monitoring Committee meeting, NMFS pulled preliminary 2013 waves 3 and 4 (May-Aug.) MRIP estimates for revision
- Recommendations in staff memos were 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 7)
- Wave 5 data not yet available

Comparing Landings to RHL

2013 RHL	7.63 mil lb
2013 Proj. Landings*	6.87 mil lb
2014 RHL	7.01 mil lb
2014 Coastwide reduction	0%

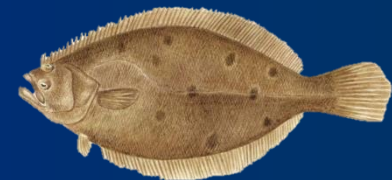
*Projected using % landings from waves 1-4 in 2012

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; new baseline data

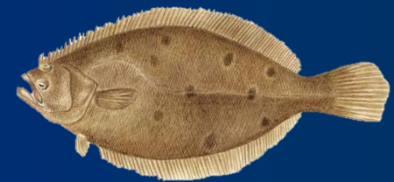
2014 Staff Recommendation

- Coastwide measures, to be implemented in both federal and state waters:
 - 17.5-inch minimum size
 - 4 fish possession limit
 - May 15-October 15



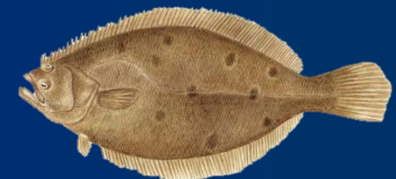
2014 Staff Recommendation

- 17.5-inch TL minimum size:
 - Average of 2012 state regulations, weighted by state landings



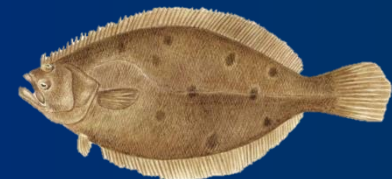
2014 Staff Recommendation

- 4 fish possession limit:
 - Consistent with many states, most others are at 5 fish
 - Would partially offset expected increase in landings from reduced size limit in some states



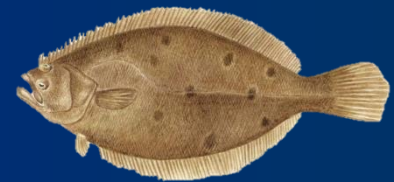
2014 Staff Recommendation

No. caught per trip	Frequency	Fish Landed	New catch per trip with 4 fish possession limit	New Fish Landed	
1	22	22	1	22	
2	300	600	2	600	
3	18	54	3	54	
4	76	304	4	304	
5	4	20	4	16	
6	23	138	4	92	
7	2	14	4	8	
8	9	72	4	36	
10	4	40	4	16	
12	4	48	4	16	% Reduction
	462	1312		1164	11%



2014 Staff Recommendation

- May 15-October 15 season:
 - Consistent with core season and availability for most states
 - Balance spring vs. fall fisheries in different states



If Conservation Equivalency...

Non-preferred coastwide

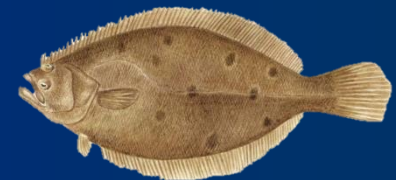
- Same as staff-recommended coastwide
- 17.5-inch TL minimum size, 4 fish, May 15-October 15

Precautionary default

- 20-inch TL minimum size, 2 fish, May 1-September 30

Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- Given current information, support for conservation equivalency over coastwide measures in 2014



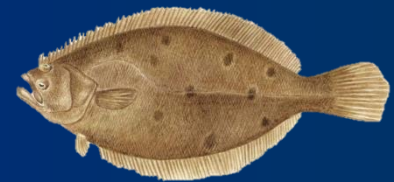
Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- Non-preferred coastwide:
 - Not confident that staff-recommended coastwide measures would constrain harvest to RHL
 - Combination of 17.5-in TL-min. size and staff-recommended season would increase harvest NY and NJ



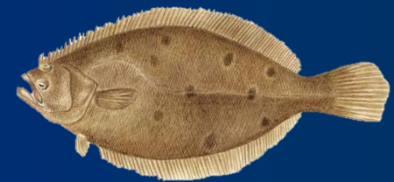
Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- Non-preferred coastwide:
 - 18-inch TL minimum size
 - 4 fish possession limit
 - May 1-September 30 or May 15-October 15



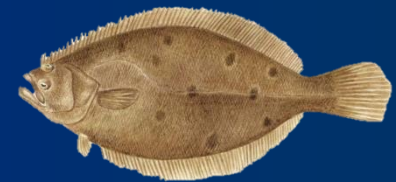
Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- Precautionary default:
 - 20-inch TL minimum size
 - 2 fish possession limit
 - May 1-September 30



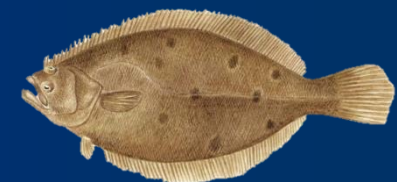
Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Opinions split on coastwide vs. state-by-state or regional measures
- State-by-state provides increased flexibility
- But, coastwide or regional reduces complexity and conflict; increases precision in estimates



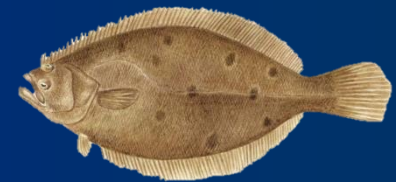
Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Some suggestions for voluntary regions:
 - [NC] - [MD to VA] - [DE to CT] - [RI to MA]
 - Make Long Island Sound its own region, or otherwise split New York
 - MD and VA should be in same region
 - MA has little overlap with other fisheries



Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Concern with high discards/wasted fish
- High size limits lead to targeting large females
- Suggestion for 60-inch per person cumulative total length limit



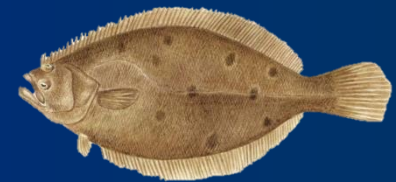
Advisory Panel Recommendations

- On Monitoring Committee non-preferred coastwide recommendation:
 - Most prefer May 1-September 30 season over May 15-October 15
 - Suggestion for season April 15-October 15, with 3 fish possession limit and 18-in TL minimum size

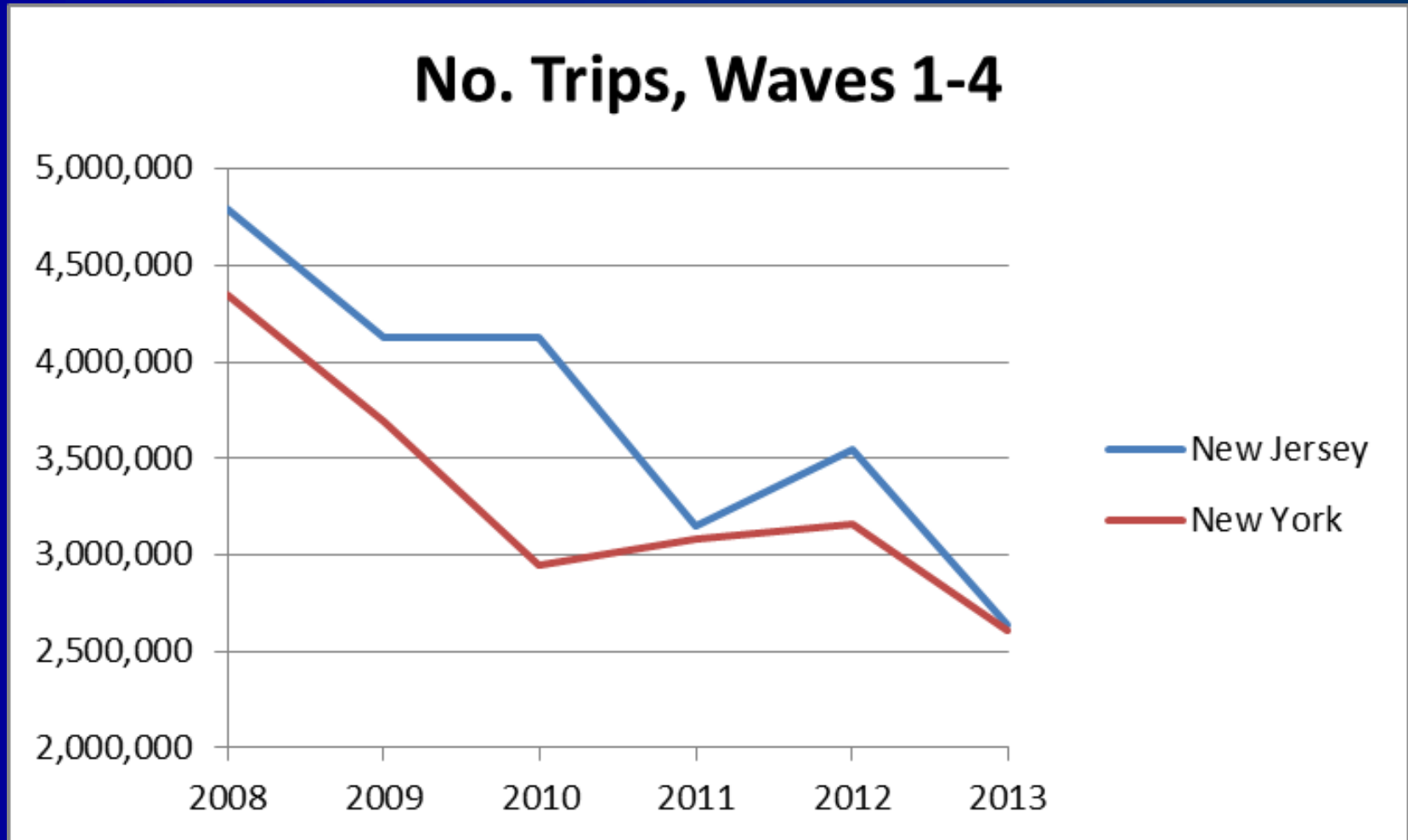


Advisory Panel Recommendations

- Concern with MRIP effort estimation methodology
- Not picking up NY and NJ decrease in effort due to Superstorm Sandy



MRIP Effort, Waves 1-4



Questions?



