

**April 2014 Council Meeting
Montauk Yacht Club, Montauk, NY
April 8-10, 2014**

Tilefish

Move to adopt for tilefish in 2015:

An OFL = 2.180 m lb. An ABC = ACL = ACT = 1.766 m lb. This results in a total TAL of 1.755 m lb (after reductions for discards). This results in a TAL allocated to the IFQ fishery of 1,667,136 lb and a TAL for the incidental fishery of 87,744 lb (assuming no RSA). For tilefish in 2016 and 2017: An ABC = ACL = ACT = 1.898 m lb. This results in a total TAL of 1.887 m lb (after reductions for discards). This results in a TAL allocated to the IFQ fishery of 1,792,799 lb and a TAL for the incidental fishery of 94,357 lb (assuming no RSA). The OFL in 2016 = 2.343 m lb. The OFL in 2017 = 2.405 m lb.

Council: Nolan/O'Reilly

(16/0/1/1) - **Recusal by Laurie Nolan**

Motion carries

Move that the recreational possession limit accounting process for tilefish onboard charter vessels (for-hire) mirror the possession limit accounting process for the for-hire vessels in the New England groundfish fishery.

DiLernia/Zeman

Motion withdrawn

Table motion until the next Council meeting

Heins/Anderson

Motion withdrawn

Move to initiate a Framework to refine the flowchart for tilefish catch and landings limits, in order to deduct discards after the ACT is divided between the IFQ and incidental categories as this would allow for commercial sector specific discard adjustments. Evaluate the recreational possession limit accounting process for tilefish onboard charter and party vessels (for-hire) to accommodate multiday trips.

Council: Heins/King (15/0/2/1) - **Recusal by Laurie Nolan**

Motion carries

Scup GRA (Framework 8) Update

Move that in order to turn regulatory discards into landings that the Council consider an increase in the incidental possession limit (e.g., to 1,000-1,500 lb) for scup within Framework 8.

Kaelin/Nolan

20/0/0

Motion Carries

Move to add the Hank Lackner proposed modified southern GRA, as drawn in Figure 1, to Framework 8 for consideration.

Nolan/Kaelin

19/0/0

Motion carries

Move to add for consideration the Hank Lackner proposed modification (Figure 1) to the southern GRA, with elimination of statistical area 632.

Nolan/Kaelin

Moved by consent

SBRM Omnibus

Move that the Council adopt the Northeast Region SBRM Omnibus Amendment as presented, with preferred alternatives as from the original SBRM Amendment (June 2006), with the following exceptions:

- Element 2, Analytical Techniques and Allocation of Observers:
 - Alternative 2.3 option C – Importance filters without grey cell filter
- Element 5, Framework Adjustment Provisions:
 - Alternative 5.4 – Frameworks and annual adjustments, excluding fishing modes;
- Element 6, Prioritization Process:
 - Funding Trigger Alternative 6.1.2 – Identify specific SBRM funding sources
 - Reallocation Alternative 6.2.3 – Penultimate cell approach
 - Less Than Minimum Pilot Coverage Alternative 6.3.3 – Remove fleets with high MPC to days absent ratio

Anderson/Bullard

(13/0/2)

Motion Carries

I move to read into the record of the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council our appreciation to George Darcy for his years of wise counsel to us. Over many years he has guided us with expert information and sage advice as we have made our decisions. And as we have faced the tough decisions together necessary to rebuild fish stocks, we have also felt the warmth of his friendship. We extend to him our warmest best wishes on his retirement with an open invitation to join us at all forthcoming "Happy Hours."

Anderson/Bullard

Passed by unanimous consent.

River Herring and Shad

RH/S Committee Terms of Reference

a. Develop approaches to recommending RH/S catch caps that are based on and appropriate for the abundance and/or population dynamics of RH/S rather than historic catch rates of RH/S.

-Part of understanding this question will likely involve investigating the relative effects of catch in federal fisheries on RH/S stock health compared to other sources of mortality (habitat issues, inshore catch, climate, predation, etc.)

-The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will be engaged for this term of reference.

b. Consider additional ways to cooperate with the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) on RH/S efforts by recommending catch caps interdependently, for example potentially aligning RH/S catch caps for the Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic herring fisheries in Mid-Atlantic and southern New England waters so as to appropriately address overall RH/S catch.

c. Develop RH/S cap recommendations for the Council and regularly evaluate the overall operation of any Mid-Atlantic (or joint) RH/S catch caps including: cap determination, monitoring, data needs, enforcement, data interpretation, etc.

d. Evaluate additional ways to align MAFMC activities with NOAA Fisheries, the ASMFC, the TEWG, state, and non-governmental activities regarding RH/S.

e. Develop "success criteria" to evaluate MAFMC efforts regarding RH/S given the Council's commitment to regularly evaluate progress (beginning in June of 2014) and to reconsider the overall decision whether or not to make RH/S "stocks in a fishery" under a MAFMC fishery management plan in October 2016. This would likely include consideration of factors such as: Are RH/S stocks improving? Has incidental catch in federal fisheries been limited and/or reduced? Has information about RH/S improved (life history, abundance, etc.)? Has coordination between the entities that are involved in RH/S management improved?

Move to accept above terms of reference.

Anderson from Committee

Approved by consent