



**Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee
July 27, 2020 - DRAFT Summary Recommendation Tables for July 29 Advisory Panel
Discussion**

A summary of the Monitoring Committee's July 27 webinar meeting is under development and will be posted on the August Council/Board meeting page on the Council's website once available (<https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/august-2020>). To inform the Advisory Panel's discussions on the July 29 webinar, updated catch and landings limits tables are provided below that reflect the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Monitoring Committee recommendations.

For all three species, the SSC recommended revised Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) limits based on the Council's revisions to their risk policy in December 2019.¹ The Monitoring Committee revised their recommendations for sector-specific catch and landings limits accordingly as described in the tables below.

Two options are shown in Table 3 for revisions to the black sea bass catch and landings limits because the Monitoring Committee agreed that the staff recommendation for projected discards better predicts total discards in 2021 than the previous method, but may over-estimate commercial discards, while under-estimating recreational discards. They also agreed that the previously used discard method (see columns labeled "revisions based only on P* change) likely under-estimates total discards, but may more appropriately split total discards among the commercial and recreational sectors.

¹ See description previously provided to the Advisory Panel at https://www.mafmc.org/s/ABC_change_memo_6-22-20.pdf.

Summer Flounder 2021 Specifications

Table 1: Currently implemented 2021 specifications, and SSC/Monitoring Committee recommended revisions for summer flounder. Numbers may not add precisely due to unit conversions and rounding.

Measure	2021 Previously Approved			2021 SSC/MC Recommended Revisions		
	mil lb	mt	Basis	mil lb	mt	Basis
OFL	31.67	14,367	Stock projections	31.67	14,367	Same as previous
ABC	25.03	11,354	Prior SSC recommendation; 3-year averaged approach w/ projections sampling from recent 7-year recruitment series	27.11	12,297	SSC revised recommendation as of July 2020 using Council's Dec. 2019 risk policy revisions
ABC Landings Portion	19.21	8,715	Stock projections	20.81	9,439	Same proportion of ABC as previously projected
ABC Discards Portion	5.82	2,639	Stock projections	6.30	2,858	Same proportion of ABC as previously projected
Expected Commercial Discards	2.00	907	34% of ABC discards portion, based on 2015-2017 average % discards by sector (revised MRIP data)	2.14	972	Same as previous; 34% of ABC discards portion
Expected Recreational Discards	3.82	1,732	66% of ABC discards portion, based on 2015-2017 average % discards by sector (revised MRIP data)	4.16	1,886	Same as previous; 66% of ABC discards portion
Commercial ACL	13.53	6,136	60% of ABC landings portion (FMP allocation) + expected commercial discards	14.63	6,635	60% of ABC landings portion (FMP allocation) + expected commercial discards
Commercial ACT	13.53	6,136	No deduction from ACL for management uncertainty	14.63	6,635	MC recommendation: No deduction from ACL for management uncertainty
Commercial Quota	11.53	5,229	Commercial ACT, minus expected commercial discards	12.49	5,663	Commercial ACT, minus expected commercial discards
Recreational ACL	11.51	5,218	40% of ABC landings portion (FMP allocation) + expected recreational discards	12.48	5,662	40% of ABC landings portion (FMP allocation) + expected recreational discards
Recreational ACT	11.51	5,218	No deduction from ACL for management uncertainty	12.48	5,662	MC recommendation: No deduction from ACL for management uncertainty
RHL	7.69	3,486	Recreational ACT, minus expected recreational discards	8.32	3,776	Recreational ACT, minus expected recreational discards

Scup 2021 Specifications

Table 2: Currently implemented 2021 specifications, and SSC/Monitoring Committee recommended revisions for scup. Numbers may not add precisely due to unit conversions and rounding.

Measure	2021 Previously Approved			2021 SSC/MC Recommended Revisions		
	mil lb	mt	Basis	mil lb	mt	Basis
OFL	35.30	16,012	Assessment projections	35.30	16,012	Assessment projections
ABC	30.67	13,913	Assessment projections & risk policy	34.81	15,791	Assessment projections & revised risk policy
ABC discards	7.26	3,295	Assessment projections	7.26	3,295	Proportion from assessment projections applied to revised ABC
Commercial ACL	23.92	10,852	78% of ABC (per FMP)	27.15	12,317	78% of ABC (per FMP)
Commercial ACT	23.92	10,852	Set equal to commercial ACL (staff recommendation)	27.15	12,317	Set equal to commercial ACL (staff recommendation)
Projected commercial discards	5.86	2,659	80.7% of ABC discards (avg. % of dead discards from commercial fishery, 2016-2018)	6.65	3,018	80.7% of ABC discards (avg. % of dead discards from commercial fishery, 2016-2018)
Commercial quota	18.06	8,194	Commercial ACT minus discards	20.50	9,299	Commercial ACT minus discards
Rec. ACL	6.75	3,061	22% of ABC (per FMP)	7.66	3,474	22% of ABC (per FMP)
Rec. ACT	6.75	3,061	Set equal to recreational ACL (staff recommendation)	7.66	3,474	Set equal to recreational ACL (staff recommendation)
Projected rec. discards	1.40	636	19.3% of the ABC discards (avg. % of dead discards from rec. fishery, 2016-2018)	1.59	722	19.3% of the ABC discards (avg. % of dead discards from rec. fishery, 2016-2018)
RHL	5.34	2,424	Recreational ACT minus discards	6.07	2,752	Recreational ACT minus discards

Black Sea Bass 2021 Specifications

Table 3: Currently implemented 2021 specifications, and SSC/Monitoring Committee recommended revisions for black sea bass. Numbers may not add precisely due to unit conversions and rounding. See page 1 for an explanation of why two options for revisions are shown.

Measure	2021 Previously approved			Staff recommended revision			Revision based only on P* change		
	mil lb	mt	Basis	mil lb	mt	Basis	mil lb	mt	Basis
OFL	17.68	8,021	2019 operational stock assessment projections	17.68	8,021	No change	17.68	8,021	No change
ABC	15.07	6,835	Assessment projections & risk policy	17.45	7,916	Assessment projections & revised risk policy	17.45	7,916	Assessment projections & revised risk policy
ABC discards	3.68	1,671	24% of ABC, based on avg. 2016-2018 discards as % of catch	5.01	2,275	Sector-specific disc. described below combined with required landings allocation of 49% com./ 51% rec.	4.19	1,900	Same basis as previously approved values. Updated based on revised ABC only.
Projected com. discards	1.40	637	38% of ABC disc., based on avg. 2016-2018 % of disc. by sector	3.43	1,556	Calculated based on assumption that com. disc. would be 36% of com. catch (2016-2018 avg.)	1.59	722	
Projected rec. discards	1.40	637	62% of ABC disc., based on avg. 2016-2018 % of disc. by sector	1.58	719	Calculated based on assumption that rec. disc. would be 20% of rec. catch (2016-2018 avg.)	2.60	1,178	
Com. ACL	6.98	3,167	49% of ABC landings portion (per FMP) + projected com. discards	9.52	4,320	49% of ABC landings portion (per FMP) + projected com. discards	8.09	3,670	
Com. ACT	6.98	3,167	Com. ACL, with no deduction for mgmt. uncertainty	9.52	4,320	Com. ACL, with no deduction for mgmt. uncertainty	8.09	3,670	
Com. quota	5.58	2,530	Com. ACT minus projected com. discards	6.09	2,764	Com. ACT minus projected com. discards	6.50	2,948	
Rec. ACL	8.09	3,668	51% of ABC landings portion (per FMP) + projected rec. discards	7.93	3,596	51% of ABC landings portion (per FMP) + projected rec. discards	9.36	4,246	
Rec. ACT	8.09	3,668	Rec. ACL, with no deduction for mgmt. uncertainty	7.93	3,596	Rec. ACL, with no deduction for mgmt. uncertainty	9.36	4,246	
RHL	5.81	2,634	Rec. ACT minus projected rec. discards	6.34	2,877	Rec. ACT minus projected rec. discards	6.76	3,068	