



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 28, 2020
To: Council and Board
From: Julia Beaty (MAFMC staff) and Caitlin Starks (ASMFC staff)
Subject: Black Sea Bass Commercial Allocation Amendment

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will meet jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board to consider the Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment/Draft Addendum XXXIII for public comment. Behind this memo is a meeting overview provided by the ASMFC. Please note that the overview includes information pertaining to this topic as well as the Recreational Reform Initiative (Tab 3) and the Massachusetts 2020 Black Sea Bass Recreational Proposal (Tab 4).

The Draft Amendment/Addendum XXXIII document for public comment will be posted as a supplemental document on the meeting page (<https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/august-6-2020>) on Wednesday, July 29.

MEETING OVERVIEW

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Webinar
August 6, 2020
11:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Chair: Adam Nowalsky (NJ) Assumed Chairmanship: 12/19	Technical Committee Chair: Greg Wojcik (CT)	Law Enforcement Committee Representative: Snellbaker (MD)
Vice Chair: Justin Davis (CT)	Advisory Panel Chair: Vacant	Previous Board Meeting: May 6, 2020
Voting Members: MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, PRFC, VA, NC, NMFS, USFWS (12 votes)		

2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from May 2020

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time should use the webinar raise your hand function and the Board Chair will let you know when to speak. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance, the Board Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Consider Draft Addendum XXXIII for Public Comment (11:30-2:25 p.m.) Action

Background

- In October 2019, the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) initiated development of Draft Addendum XXXIII to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass. The Draft Addendum considers modifications to the black sea bass commercial state allocations. In December 2019, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) initiated a complementary amendment to make this a joint action between the Board and Council. The amendment would consider including the state specific commercial allocations in the Council FMP.
- The goal of this action is to “consider adjusting the current commercial black sea bass allocations using current distribution and abundance of black sea bass as one of several adjustment factors to achieve more balanced access to the resource. These adjustment factors will be identified as the development process moves forward.”
- Draft Addendum XXXIII proposes various management options for modifying the commercial state allocations, including an approach to increase Connecticut’s current 1% quota to 5%, an approach using dynamic regional allocation adjustments, trigger-based approaches, and allocating a certain percentage of the coastwide quota based on historical allocations.

Several options incorporate current (**Briefing Materials**). The document also includes management options for including the commercial state shares in the Council FMP.

- If the draft addendum is approved for public comment in August, public hearings could take place in late summer/fall 2020, and the Board and Council could consider final action in December.

Presentations

- Overview of Draft Addendum XXXIII by C. Starks

Board Actions for Consideration

- Approve Draft Addendum XXXIII for public comment

5. Lunch Break (12:00-1:00 p.m.)

6. Consider Draft Addendum XXXIII for Public Comment, *continued*

7. Update on Recreational Reform Initiative (2:25-3:10 p.m.) Possible Action

Board Discussion

- The Recreational Reform Initiative is an ongoing joint effort of the Commission and Council, which aims to propose and develop strategies to increase recreational management flexibility and stability for jointly managed species (summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish).
- At their June joint meeting, the Council and Board reviewed a draft outline of topics under consideration through the Recreational Reform Initiative and Monitoring Committee discussion on the initiative (**Briefing Materials**). After considering the topics currently under consideration, as well as items removed from further consideration through the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment, the Council and Board tasked staff with determining which items could be addressed through a joint framework/addendum and which changes would require an amendment (**Supplemental Materials**).

Presentations

- Update on Recreational Reform Initiative by J. Beaty

Board Actions for Consideration

- Consider initiating a framework/addendum or amendment to address any management options considered through the Recreational Reform Initiative

8. Review and Consider Approval of Massachusetts 2020 Black Sea Bass Recreational Proposal (3:10-3:40 p.m.) Final Action

Board Discussion

- Massachusetts submitted a proposal for recreational black sea bass conservation equivalency to extend the end of the state's for-hire recreational black sea bass season in 2020 to account for days closed to for-hire fishing at the beginning of the season due to the COVID-19 pandemic (**Briefing Materials**).
- The Technical Committee reviewed the proposal in May, and provided recommendations on the data that should be used to calculate the daily harvest rate and resulting season modification to achieve conservation equivalency (**Briefing Materials**).

- Comments on the Massachusetts proposal were also provided by the Advisory Panel and Law Enforcement Committee by email.

Presentations

- Overview of Massachusetts conservation equivalency proposal by N. Meserve
- Technical Committee recommendations and AP and LEC comments on Massachusetts conservation equivalency proposal by C. Starks

Board Actions for Consideration

- Approve Massachusetts conservation equivalency proposal

9. Other Business (3:40-3:45 p.m.)

10. Adjourn