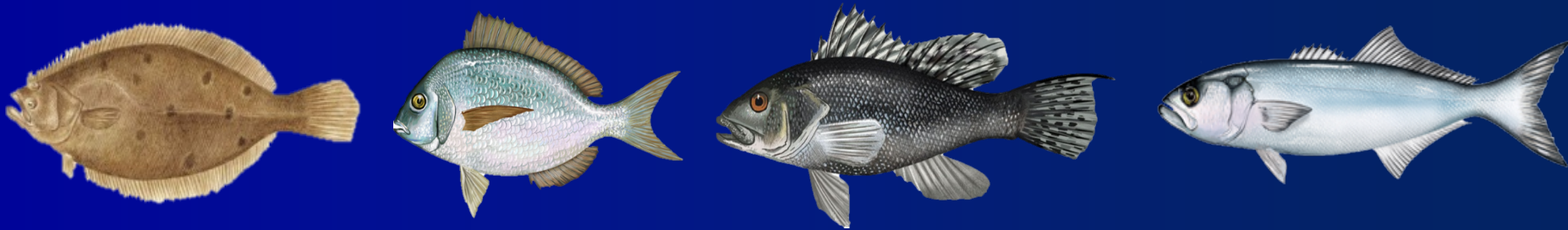




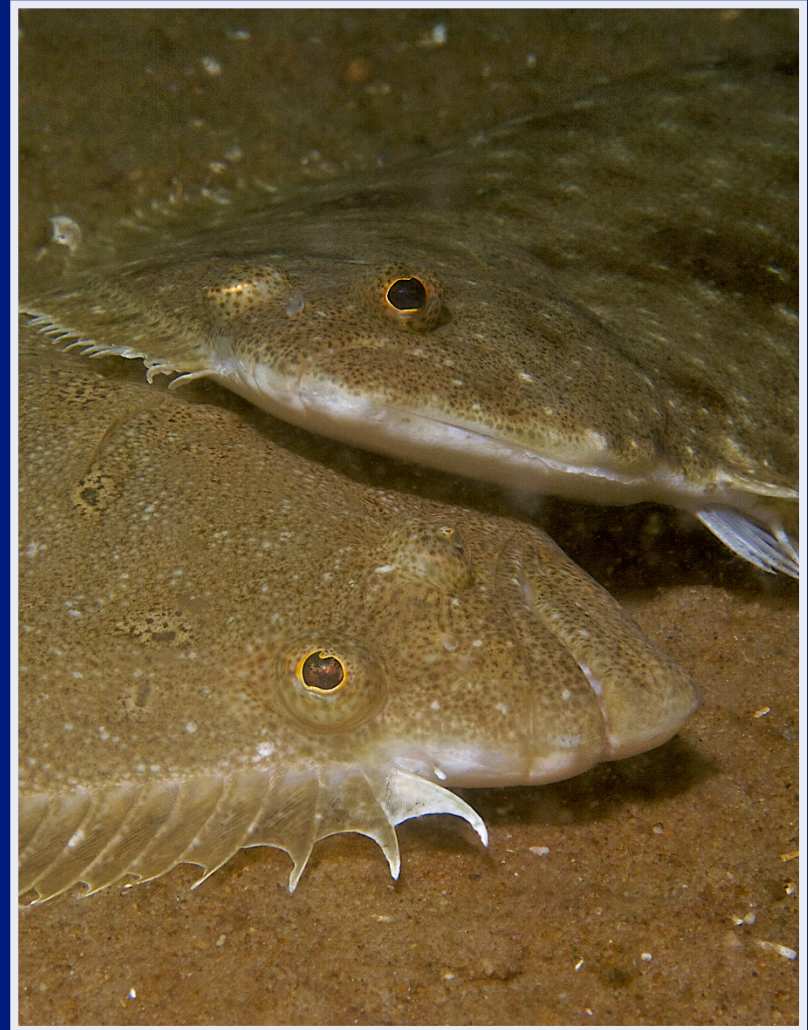
Recreational Reform Initiative



Joint Council and ASMFC Policy Board Meeting
June 8, 2021

Presentation Outline

- Goal of Rec. Reform Initiative
- Progress made to date
- Harvest Control Rule
 - Staff working group discussions
 - Plans for further development by FMAT/PDT



Initiative Goal

- **Stability** in rec. mgmt. measures (bag/size/season)
- **Flexibility** in the mgmt. process
- **Accessibility** aligned with availability/stock status*



Progress to Date

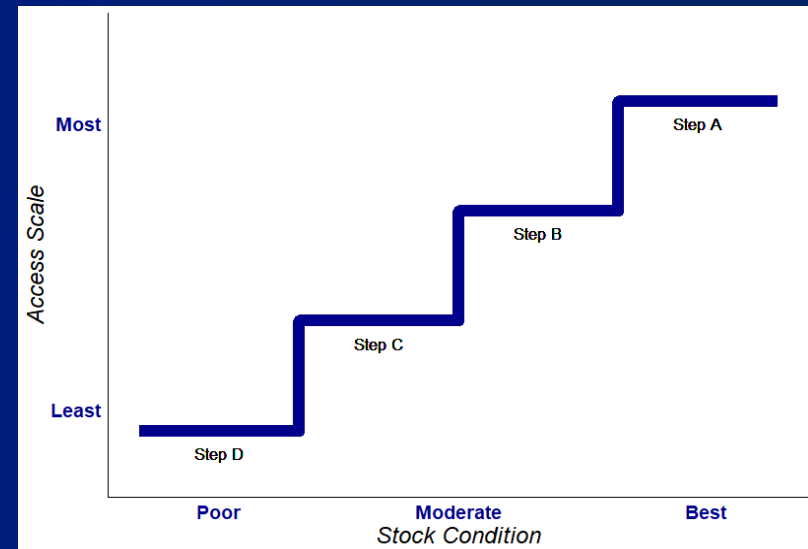
- **2019 – 2020:** Steering Committee
 - Developed goal statement, provided guidance on topics to include.
- **October 2020:** Council and Policy Board initiated mgmt. actions for 9 topics.
- **February 2021:** Council and Policy Board prioritized further development of Harvest Control Rule (HCR) as immediate next step.
- **February 2021 – May 2021:** Informal staff working group further developed HCR.
- **June 2021 and beyond:** FMAT/PDT continues
4 HCR development.

Technical Guidance Document	Framework/Addendum	Amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for identifying and smoothing outlier MRIP estimates • Use of preliminary current year MRIP data • Guidelines for maintaining status quo measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest Control Rule • Envelope of uncertainty approach for determining if changes to rec. management measures are needed • Multi-year recreational management measures • Changes to the timing of recommending federal waters measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. sector separation • Rec. catch accounting

Harvest Control Rule

Conceptual idea:

- Range of pre-defined mgmt. measure “steps.”
- Step used in any given year based in large part on stock status indicators and trends (not just expected harvest compared to RHL).
- Least restrictive step: most liberal measures anglers feel they would need.
- Most restrictive step: promote conservation, while allowing some access and preventing loss of businesses.



Staff Working Group

- Staff working group discussed many aspects of the Harvest Control Rule
- Transitioning to a PDT/FMAT
 - Met for the first time this week as PDT/FMAT to begin in depth discussions

Stock Status Indicators

- Selection of appropriate mgmt. measure step should be based on multiple stock status indicators.
 - Potential indicators: biomass compared to target level, recruitment trends, harvest.
- Decision tree approach could be used to select measures based on multiple indicators.

Number of and Boundaries Between Steps

- Should use a limited number of management measure steps.
- Clearly defined boundaries between the steps.
- Informed by data considerations.



Determining Mgmt Measures

- Quantitative analysis required to determine and evaluate measures for each step.
- Existing model to emulate a fishery response to regulation changes.
 - Developed for summer flounder.
 - Black sea bass version in development.
 - Incorporates uncertainty.
 - Will be peer reviewed by sub-group of SSC.



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Topics for FMAT/PDT

- Which stock status indicators are recommended?
- What is the appropriate number of steps?
- How to define the boundaries between steps?
- How to best use the empirical model in conjunction with manager and stakeholder input?
- Can the HCR be used for stocks under a rebuilding plan?
- How might accountability measures need to be modified?
- Appropriate use of data, especially at state/wave/mode level.

Draft Timeline

June

- FMAT/PDT further develops HCR (will continue through Dec)
- Assessment peer reviews for all 4 species

July

- SSC, MC, and AP meetings to develop recommendations for 2022-2023 catch and landings limits for all 4 species

August

- Council/Board recommend 2022-2023 catch and landings limits
- Council and Policy Board review progress on HCR
- SSC sub-group peer review of empirical model (tentative)

Sept-Oct

- Workshops and/or other methods to gather stakeholder input on HCR

November

- MC and AP meetings on 2022 recreational measures

December

- Target date for near complete development of the HCR by FMAT/PDT
- Council/Board adopt 2022 fed waters rec measures
- Final action on the SFSBSB Allocation Amendment

Discussion

Backup Slides

FMAT/PDT Membership

Name	Agency	Role/Expertise
Julia Beaty	MAFMC	FMAT/PDT Co-Chair
Savannah Lewis	ASMFC	FMAT/PDT Co-Chair
Mike Celestino	NJ DEP	Technical analysis and state mgmt
Dustin Colson Leaning	ASMFC	FMP coordinator for summer flounder, scup, and bluefish
Emily Keiley	GARFO	Fisheries policy and legal requirements
John Maniscalco	NY DEC	Technical analysis and state mgmt
Scott Steinback	NEFSC	Recreational fisheries economist
Greg Wojcik	CT DEEP	Technical analysis and state mgmt
Anthony Wood	NEFSC	Stock assessment