

Re-consideration of a 2018 Wave 1 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery



Riverhead, New York
October 11, 2017

Background



- **Consideration to open Wave 1 fishery**
 - Feb 2017 – implementation through an EFP
 - May 2017 – development of an LOA program
 - June 2017 – specification setting
 - Aug 2017 – considered but not approved
 - Open Sat & Sun only; Open entire wave
 - Oct 2017 – reconsideration and decision
 - February 1 – 28, 2018; 15 fish possession; 12.5" minimum size

Potential Wave 1 Harvest



Scenario	Number of Vessels	Number of Trips / Vessel	Ave Number of Anglers / Trip	Avg. Harvest / Angler	Total Wave 1 For-Hire Harvest (lb)	Total Wave 1 Harvest (lb)	Total February Harvest (lb)
1	25	6	26	11.1	88,312	176,623	64,821
2	30	6	26	11.1	105,974	211,948	77,785
3	39	6	26	11.1	137,766	275,532	101,120
4	45	6	26	11.1	158,961	317,922	116,677
5	50	6	26	11.1	176,623	353,246	129,641
6	55	6	26	11.1	194,286	388,571	142,606

- Used for-hire sector estimates to scale total harvest
 - Evaluation of Wave 6 and Wave 2 catch as a proxy for Wave 1
- Proportion of Wave 1 harvest in Feb and avg. Feb harvest/day
- Application of 2013 VTR data to potential 2018 fishery
- Higher sea bass availability and high angler interest

Potential Wave 1 Harvest and Implications



Scenario	Projected Harvest (lb)	Reduction to Rest of Rec Fishery	Season Implications
1	64,821	1.7%	Coastwide: 3 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 2 days in Wv 3 or 2 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 1 day Wv 3 in MA; 1 day Wv 4 in NY; 1 day Wv 3 in NJ
2	77,785	2.1%	Coastwide: 4 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 3 days in Wv 3 or 6 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 1 day Wv 3 in MA; 2 days Wv 4 in NY; 1 day Wv 3 in NJ
3	101,120	2.8%	Coastwide: 5 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 4 days in Wv 3 or 3 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 2 days Wv 5 in MA; 2 days Wv 4 in NY; 2 days Wv 3 in NJ
4	116,677	3.2%	Coastwide: 5 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 4 days in Wv 3 or 4 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 2 days Wv 3 in MA; 2 days Wv 4 in NY; 2 days Wv 3 in NJ
5	129,641	3.5%	Coastwide: 6 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 5 days in Wv 3 or 4 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 2 days Wv 3 in MA; 3 days Wv 4 in NY; 2 days Wv 3 in NJ
6	142,606	3.9%	Coastwide: 7 days in either Wv 3 or Wv 5
			Federal/Southern Region: 5 days in Wv 3 or 5 days in Wv 5
			State Specific: 2 days Wv 3 in MA; 3 days Wv 4 in NY; 3 days Wv 3 in NJ

Preliminary 2017 Wave 3 Estimates & Projections



	2016		2017	
	# of Fish	Weight (lb)	# of Fish	Weight (lb)
MA	162,143	400,846	158,771	431,046
RI	7,477	14,136	51,852	101,605
CT	128,600	276,186	17,972	51,484
NY	0	0	1,297	2,184
NJ	140,641	206,937	460,334	631,460
DE	9,142	12,351	27,448	38,883
MD	14,743	19,865	18,210	26,703
VA	6,288	6,913	10,628	13,385
Total	469,034	937,234	746,512	1,296,750

- 2017 Wave estimates are 59% higher in number and 38% higher in weight
- Projected harvest for the rest of 2017 is estimated to be between 5.55 to 5.71 mill lbs
- 2017 projections would be approx. 52% higher than 2018 RHL of 3.66 mill lbs

2018 Wave 1

Considerations Review



- Harvest analysis caveats
- Implications for rest of season
 - ~2% - 4% of 2018 RHL
- Preliminary 2017 harvest estimates & projections
 - May necessitate season reductions in 2018 that could range from 30-50 days
 - Wave 1 “allocation” in addition to any necessary reductions
- Data collection – catch, effort information
- **2018 Wave 1 option for consideration:**
 - February 1 – 28 season, 15 fish possession, 12.5” minimum size

QUESTIONS?

