



NE Updates

Aug 2022

Overview

- Caveat
- Monkfish
- Winter Flounder/Longfin
- Sturgeon
- Great South Channel Habitat Management Area

Outcome: Mostly informational

Caveat

- Not the only things going on @ NE that can affect the Mid-Atlantic

- But several highlights...

Monkfish

- 2023-2025 Specifications
- Don't know if "assessment" will lead to higher or lower ABCs
- Possible changes to trip limits, days at sea measures, mesh size
- Discard focus – set aside, and reducing
- December actions by Councils
 - Councils must concur
- August 30 AP and Committee meetings
 - Hybrid, Boston-Logan, MA

Winter Flounder/Longfin

- Lower Winter Flounder catches, so percent of catch from “Squid” discards higher.
- Need to avoid ACL overages...
- NEFMC to MAFMC: “consult with us on establishing the AM for small mesh fisheries”
- Probably longfin squid, Trimester 2 based on some older MAFMC staff analyses
- Already consult via Committee and PDT...
 - More? September 15 Committee

Sturgeon

- Longer discussion @ NE about potential for upcoming actions
- Mid-Atlantic awaiting final Action Plan
 - 2023 action by Councils or NMFS...
 - May 2024 deadline (for what exactly?)
- ???: Recent Court invalidation of the 2021 Biological Opinion due to right whale issues

Great South Channel Habitat Management Area

- Nantucket Shoal and surfclam / ocean quahog issue.
 - Exempted Fishing Permit project #19066
- NEFMC's Habitat Committee will meet Thursday, August 18, 2022 to discuss
 - Hybrid access (Wakefield, MA)