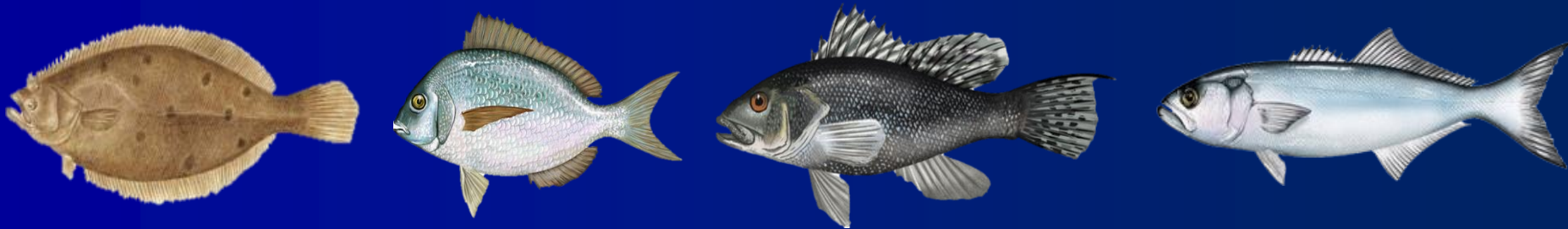




# Recreational Reform Initiative



Joint Council and ASMFC Policy Board Meeting  
February 1, 2021

# Presentation Outline

- Progress to date
- Goal of the Recreational Reform Initiative
- Prioritized topics
- Next steps
- Discussion

# Progress to Date

- **Spring 2018:** SFSBSB Board chair and vice chair Strategic Plan for Reforming Recreational Black Sea Bass Management
- **Spring 2019 - summer 2020:** Joint Steering Committee focusing on all 4 species
- **Fall 2020:** Council and Policy Board initiated a joint FW/addendum and amendment

# Initiative Goal

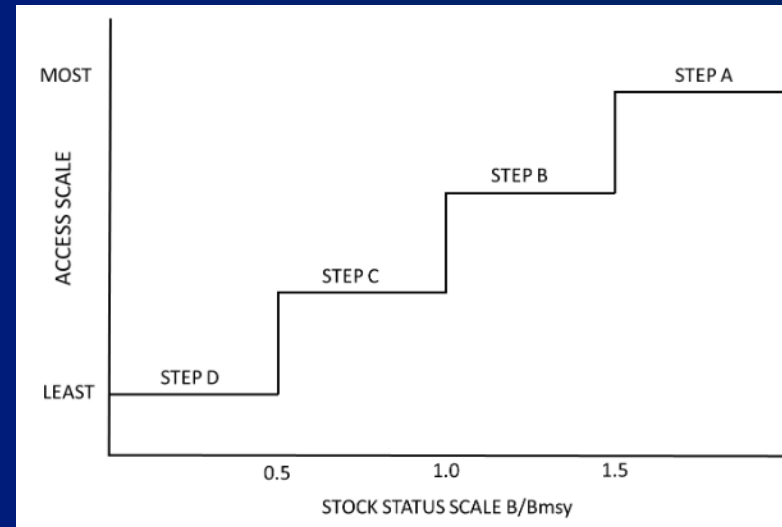
- **Stability** in rec. mgmt. measures (bag/size/season)
- **Flexibility** in the mgmt. process
- **Accessibility** aligned with availability/stock status\*



Technical Guidance Document	Framework/Addendum	Amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process for identifying and smoothing outlier MRIP estimates</li> <li>• Use of preliminary current year MRIP data</li> <li>• Guidelines for maintaining status quo measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvest Control Rule proposal put forward by 6 recreational organizations</li> <li>• Envelope of uncertainty approach for determining if changes to rec. management measures are needed</li> <li>• Multi-year recreational management measures</li> <li>• Changes to the timing of recommending federal waters measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rec. sector separation</li> <li>• Rec. catch accounting</li> </ul>

# Harvest Control Rule

- Proposed by 6 recreational organizations.
- Conceptual idea:
  - Range of pre-defined mgmt. measures.
  - Step used in any given year based on biomass.
  - Upper and lower bounds informed by stakeholder input.
    - Step A: most liberal set of measures preferred by anglers when biomass is high.
    - Step D: most restrictive set of measures that could be tolerated without major loss of businesses.



# Next Steps

- Example timeline in briefing materials, but highly dependent on prioritization
- Suggested immediate next step:
  - Council, Commission, and GARFO staff to work with additional NMFS staff with MSA expertise on feasibility of HCR under MSA requirements.

# Discussion

- Next steps
- Recommendation:
  - Council, Commission, and GARFO staff to work with additional NMFS staff with MSA expertise on feasibility of HCR under MSA requirements.



# Backup Slides

# Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into mgmt.

- Adopt a standardized process for **IDing and smoothing outliers** - for both high and low outliers.
- Use an **“envelope of uncertainty” approach** for determining if changes to measures are needed.
  - Define a range above and below the projected harvest estimate (e.g., based on PSE). If RHL falls within that range, no changes would be made to measures.
- Evaluate the **pros and cons of using preliminary current year data.**

# Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo measures

- Develop a process for considering harvest and multiple stock status metrics (biomass, fishing mortality, recruitment) when determining if measures should remain unchanged.



# Develop a process for setting multi-year measures

- **Set measures for 2 years at a time** with a commitment to making no changes in the interim year.
- Don't react to new data that would otherwise allow for liberalizations or require restrictions in the interim year.
- Synchronize changes with stock assessment updates.
- Further consideration of MSA requirements for annual ACL evaluation needed.

# Timing of federal waters measures recommendation

August

- Set or review next year's recreational catch and harvest limits

Mid-October to  
Mid-November

- Use MRIP current year data through Wave 4 (Jan-Aug) to project full year's recreational harvest
- Compare projection to next year's harvest limit
- Staff and Monitoring Committee make recommendations to Council and ASMFC Board

**Mid-December**

- Council and ASMFC Board approve federal rec. measures
- Agree on overall level of reduction or liberalization to be achieved by combined federal + state measures

January-April

- States develop, ASMFC reviews and approves state recreational measures

Spring/Early  
Summer

- Any changes to federal and state measures implemented

# Recreational Sector Separation

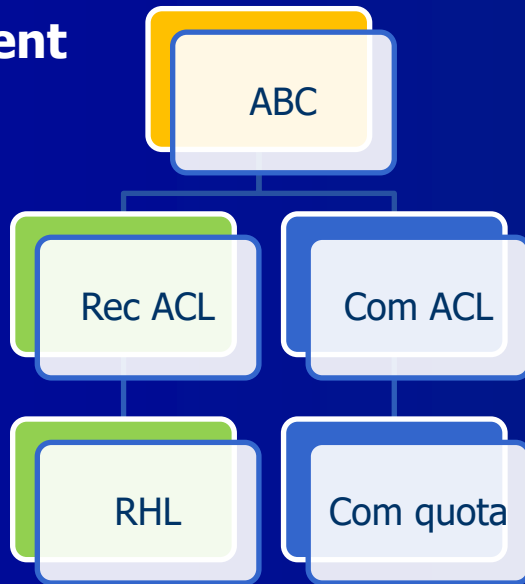
- Should the for-hire sector be managed separately from the private/rental and shore modes?
  - Separate allocations of catch/landings limits?
  - Separate management measures without separate allocations?
  - Data considerations: higher PSEs when MRIP data split by mode, only federally permitted vessels submit VTRs.
- Stakeholder interest (e.g., perception that for-hire MRIP data more certain than private/shore).

# Recreational catch accounting

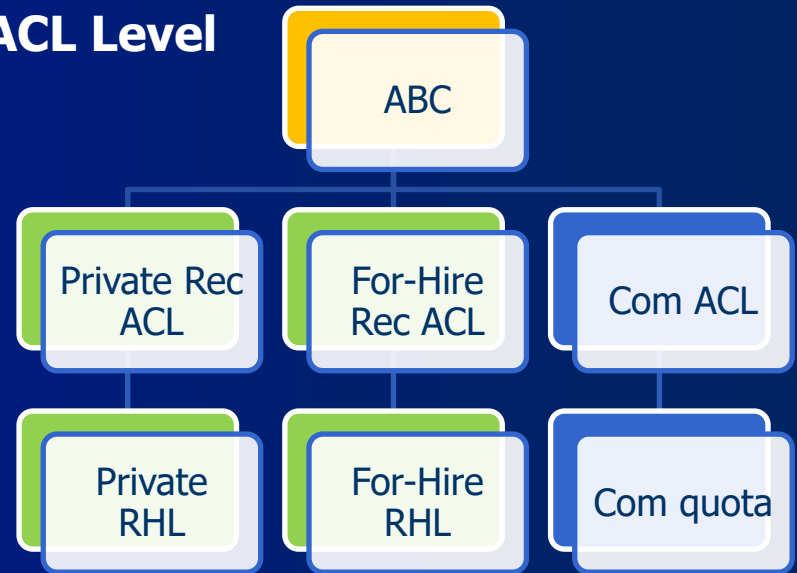
- Stakeholder suggestions: private angler reporting, manage harvest with tags, tournament reporting, enhanced VTR reporting.
- Consider for all recreational species?
- Lessons learned from initiatives and other regions.

# Example sector separation structures for SFSBSB

**A: Current**



**B: ACL Level**



**C: Sub-ACL Level**



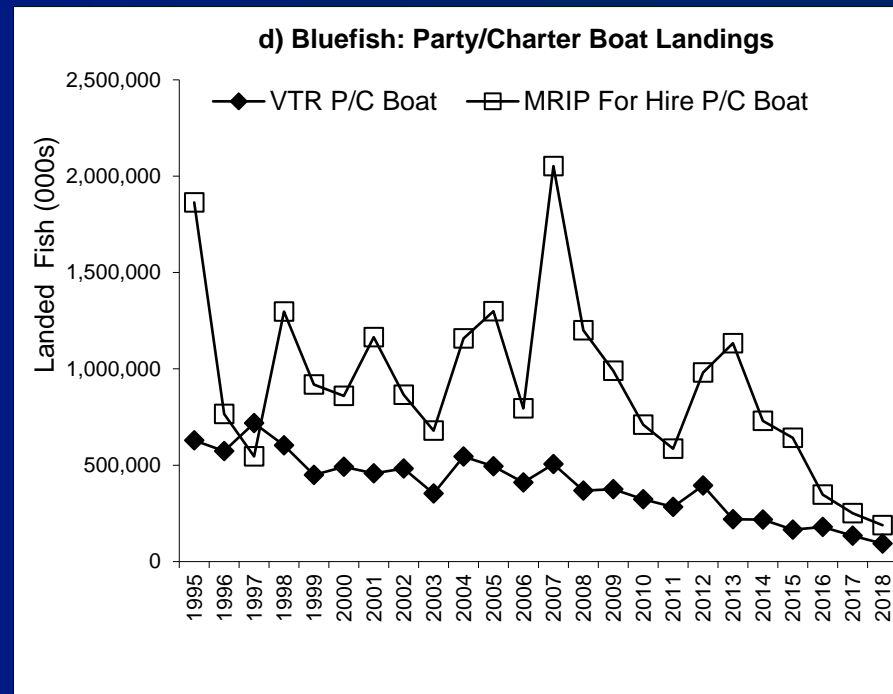
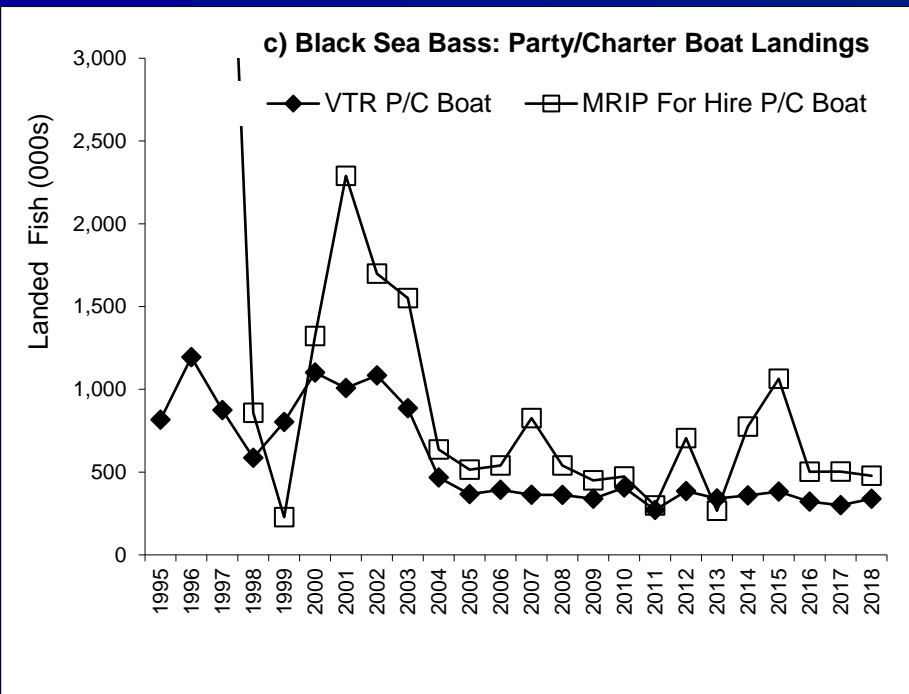
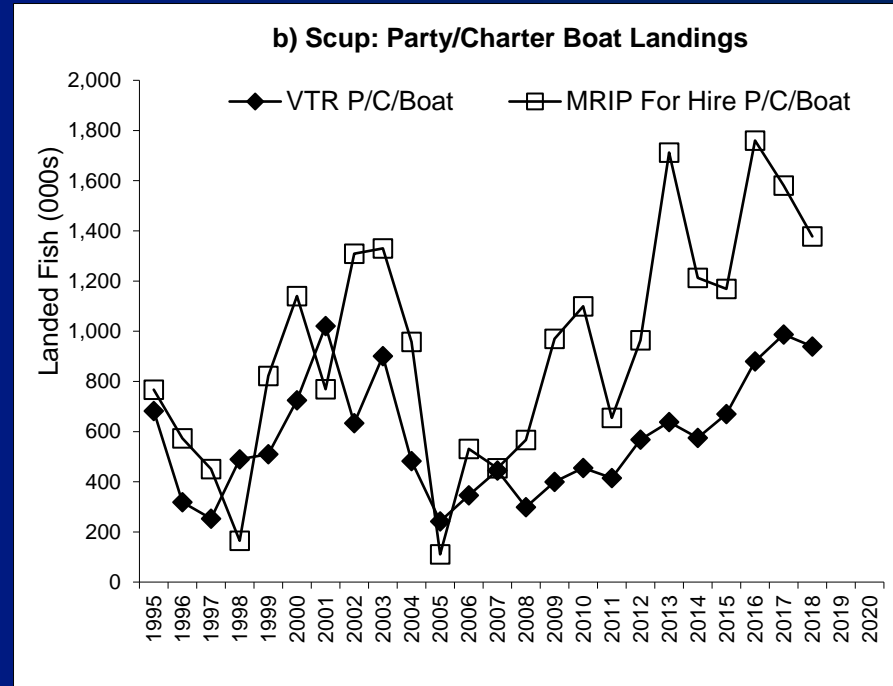
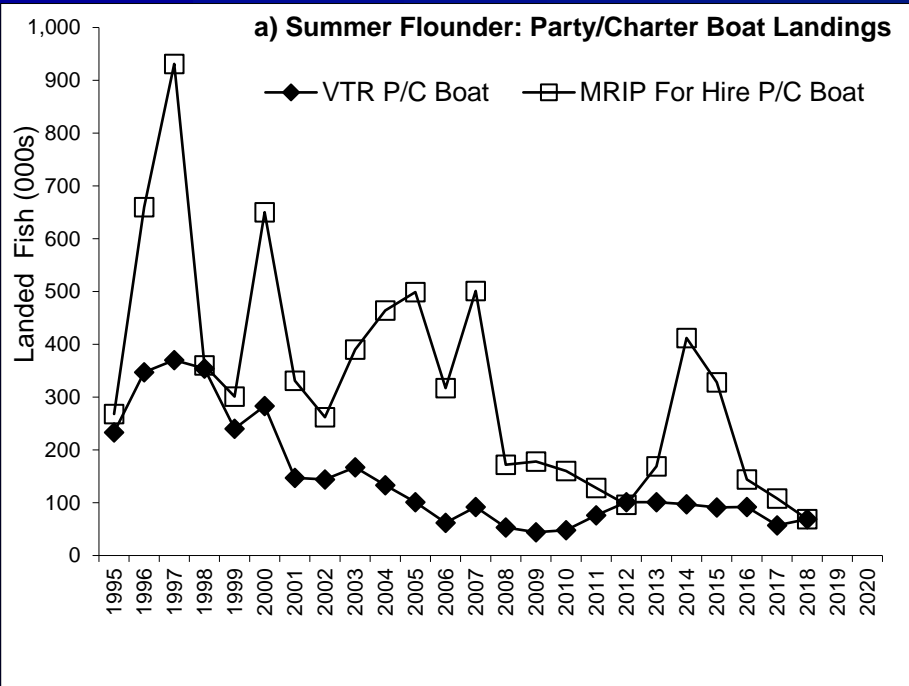
**D: RHL Level**





**Table 1:** Example approaches for calculating separate sub-allocations to private and for-hire sectors, based on harvest in numbers of fish.

Species	Years	Private	For-Hire
<b>Summer Flounder</b>	2014-2018 (5 years)	94%	6%
	2009-2018 (10 years)	95%	5%
	2004-2018 (15 years)	95%	5%
<b>Scup</b>	2014-2018 (5 years)	89%	11%
	2009-2018 (10 years)	88%	12%
	2004-2018 (15 years)	88%	12%
<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	2014-2018 (5 years)	86%	14%
	2009-2018 (10 years)	87%	13%
	2004-2018 (15 years)	82%	18%
<b>Bluefish</b>	2014-2018 (5 years)	97%	3%
	2009-2018 (10 years)	96%	4%
	2004-2018 (15 years)	95%	5%



# MRIP PSEs for total catch in numbers of fish, (ME-VA)

	Summer Flounder			Scup			Black Sea Bass		
	For-Hire	Private/ Shore	All modes	For-Hire	Private/ Shore	All modes	For-Hire	Private/ Shore	All modes
2004	13.8	5.9	5.7	28.4	15.4	14.4	19.7	16.3	14.2
2005	11.3	7.4	7.1	27.1	19.6	19.1	16.9	12.4	11.0
2006	16.8	8.0	7.7	18.1	16.1	15.4	15.3	11.1	9.8
2007	10.9	6.7	6.4	16.5	15.3	14.3	10.4	10.9	9.2
2008	10.1	6.5	6.3	16.8	11.6	10.5	9.5	15.7	14.4
2009	10.1	5.8	5.7	15.1	11.5	10.6	10.3	10.2	9.3
2010	12.6	6.8	6.7	24.8	10.4	9.8	12.0	23.2	21.8
2011	9.3	6.6	6.5	18.8	15.2	14.5	12.4	10.5	9.7
2012	9.9	11.3	11.1	16.4	12.3	11.3	10.1	9.7	9.1
2013	12.9	8.2	8.0	7.9	11.7	10.6	6.8	9.0	8.5
2014	18.2	8.6	8.2	17.8	10.5	9.7	13.5	8.4	7.6
2015	12.2	8.0	7.7	14.0	15.6	14.8	12.0	10.2	9.1
2016	8.5	8.0	7.8	10.6	10.5	10.0	7.1	8.5	7.9
2017	13.5	10.7	10.4	8.0	13.5	12.7	6.6	11.8	11.1
2018	8.7	6.6	6.4	9.2	8.6	8.1	9.6	6.3	5.7
2019	12.6	8.8	8.6	10.7	6.7	6.1	8.7	6.5	5.9
AVG	11.9	7.7	7.4	16.6	13.2	12.4	11.5	11.6	10.6

Legend

