



Joint Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission ISFMP Policy Board

October 21, 2021

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) met jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (Commission) Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (Policy Board) on October 21, 2021. The purpose of this meeting was to receive an update on the development of the Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addendum. Presentations, briefing materials, and webinar recordings are available on the [meeting page](#).

A joint Council Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) and Commission Plan Development Team (PDT) have been working on the Harvest Control Rule Addendum/Framework as part of the Recreational Reform Initiative. Staff presented updates to the proposed options, including refinements to the metrics used in each option and accountability measures, as well as a summary of the peer review of two recreational fishery models which could be used to inform the setting of management measures under the options. Staff also reviewed recommendations from the PDT/FMAT for next steps for the Policy Board and Council to consider.

Given the scope of work required on the document's full range of options, the Policy Board and Council deferred approving the Draft Addendum/Framework for public comment, and instead will revisit the draft in either December 2021 or early 2022 to provide the FMAT/PDT more time to complete the document. In addition, the FMAT/PDT will continue to assess how the recreational fishery models should be used for developing measures for each of the harvest control rule options. Once approved, the Draft Framework/Addendum will be released for public comment and presented through public hearings. As a result of the revised timeline, the harvest control rule will not be ready for use in developing 2022 recreational measures for bluefish, summer flounder, black sea bass, and scup. Recreational specifications for all four species will be discussed at the December meeting of the Council and relevant Commission species management boards.

For more information the harvest control rule, please contact:

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