

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

June 2024 Council Meeting
April 9-11, 2024
Atlantic City, NJ

MOTIONS

April 10, 2024

Sturgeon Bycatch Framework

Dogfish

Move to adopt Alternative 5 with an exemption for both NJ and DE/MD/VA bycatch polygons for the use of gill net mesh less than 5.25-inches (e.g., In Delmarva, mesh < 5.25" mesh could do overnight soaks year-round; mesh \geq 5.25" could not do overnight soaks from November through March; In NJ, mesh < 5.25" mesh could do overnight soaks year-round; mesh \geq 5.25" could not do overnight soaks in May and November).

Gwin on behalf of the Committee

Motion to amend:

Move to amend to adopt Alternative 5 with an exemption for DE/MD/VA bycatch polygons for the use of gill net mesh less than 5.25-inches (e.g., In Delmarva, mesh < 5.25" mesh could do overnight soaks year-round; mesh \geq 5.25" could not do overnight soaks from November through March).

Batsavage/Pentony (19/1/0)

Motion carries

Main motion as amended:

Move to adopt Alternative 5 with an exemption for DE/MD/VA bycatch polygons for the use of gill net mesh less than 5.25-inches (e.g., In Delmarva, mesh < 5.25" could do overnight soaks year-round; mesh \geq 5.25" could not do overnight soaks from November through March).

Motion carries by consent

Monkfish

Move to adopt Alternative 5 (year-round low-profile gear requirement in NJ bycatch hotspot polygon) as the preferred alternative.

Hughes on behalf of the Committee

Motion carries by consent

Consensus statement

Move to write a letter to NOAA NEFSC observer program to develop and implement a carcass tagging program for dead sturgeon discards similar to sea turtles and marine mammals as well

as include a tagging program for live sturgeon discards. This would apply to any fishery where sturgeon are caught regardless of gear type, area, etc.

Hughes on behalf of the Committee

Motion carries by consent with one abstention from NMFS

Motion to submit

Move to submit this framework, with identification of the preferred alternatives, to NOAA Fisheries, after the NEFMC takes final action.

Hughes/Grist

Motion carries by consent with one abstention from NMFS

Golden Tilefish Catch Share Program Review

Move to submit the “Golden Tilefish IFQ Program Twelve-Year Review Package” to the NMFS.

Luisi/Grist

Motion carries by consent with one abstention

Move to write a letter to NOAA Fisheries encouraging them to evaluate the possibility of expanding the use of the Fish Online web portal to track golden tilefish IFQ allocation transfers and track current allocation to assist with quota and program management.

Hughes/Farnham

Motion carries by consent with one abstention

Summer Flounder Commercial Mesh Exemptions Framework

Joint meeting with the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

Move alternative 1B to “considered but rejected” in the document.

Board: Reid/Hasbrouck (10/1/1/0)

Council: Farnham/Hughes (Motion carries by consent)

Motion carries

Move alternative 2C to “considered but rejected” in the document.

Board: Reid/Hasbrouck (Motion carries by consent)

Council: Luisi/Grist (Motion carries by consent)

Motion carries

Council-only motion:

I move to adopt the draft range of alternatives for the summer flounder mesh exemptions framework, as modified today.

Luisi/Farnham

Motion carries by consent