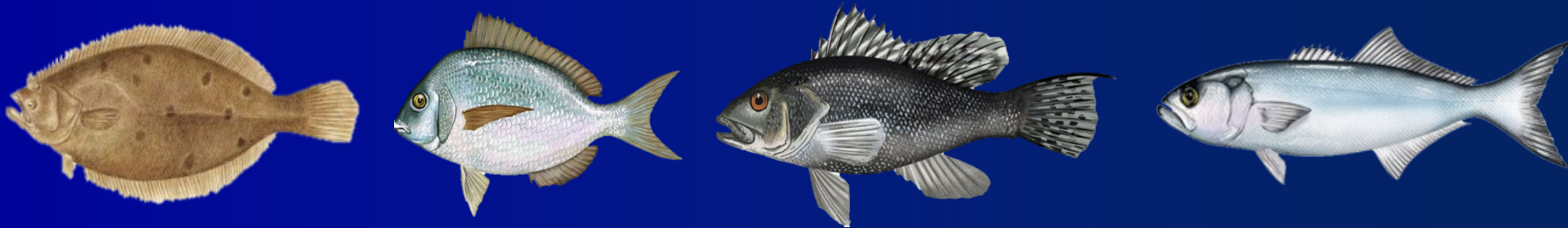




# Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda



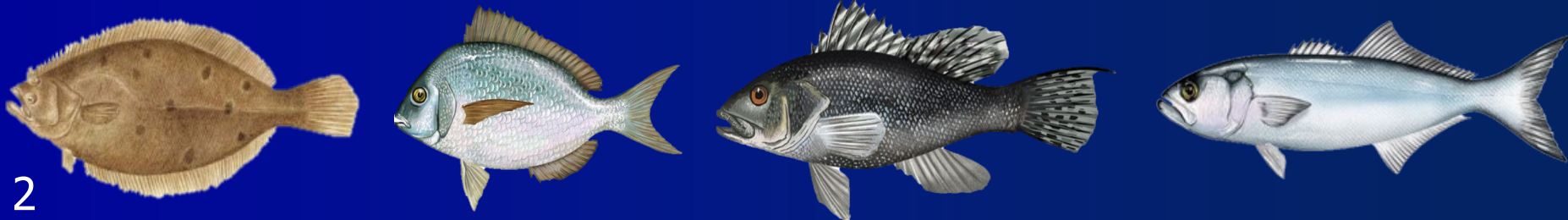
SSC Meeting  
July 26, 2022

# Harvest Control Rule FW/Addenda

## Goal Statement

Establish process for setting rec bag/size/season limits (i.e., measures) that:

- Prevents overfishing,
- Is reflective of stock status,
- Appropriately accounts for uncertainty in the recreational data,
- Takes into consideration angler preferences, and
- Provides an appropriate level of stability and predictability in changes from year to year.



# SSC Review

- Council requested that the SSC provide a qualitative evaluation of the alternatives.
- SSC sub-committee with full SSC review.
- SSC input considered by Council and Policy Board prior final action.



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# Percent Change Approach

①



RHL compared to harvest estimate

Determine if upcoming 2-year average RHL is **above, below, or within** a confidence interval around an estimate of harvest under status quo measures.



②



Compare biomass to target level

Three categories:

- **Very high:** Greater than 150% of target level
- **High:** At least the target level, but no higher than 150% of target level
- **Low:** Below target level



③



Determine percent change in harvest

Steps 1 and 2 determine the appropriate percent change in harvest needed (if any).



④

Set management measures

Management measures are either liberalized, restricted, or maintained at status quo to achieve the percent change determined through step 3. Measures are set for 2 years at a time.



| Future RHL vs Harvest Estimate   | Biomass vs. target level   | Change in Harvest  |
|--|--|--|
| Future 2-year avg RHL <b>greater than</b> upper bound of harvest estimate CI (harvest expected to be lower than RHL) | <b>Very high</b><br>(above 150% of target)                         | Liberalization % equal to difference between harvest estimate and 2-year average RHL, <u>not to exceed 40%</u> |
|  | <b>High</b><br>(at least target but no higher than 150% of target) | Liberalization % equal to difference between harvest estimate and 2-year average RHL, <u>not to exceed 20%</u> |
|  | <b>Low</b><br>(below target)                                       | Liberalization: 10%  |
| Future 2-year avg RHL <b>within</b> harvest estimate CI (harvest expected to be close to RHL)                        | <b>Very high</b><br>(above 150% of target)                         | Liberalization: 10%  |
|  | <b>High</b><br>(at least target but no higher than 150% of target) | No change: 0%  |
|  | <b>Low</b><br>(below target)                                       | Reduction: 10%   |
| Future 2-year avg RHL <b>less than</b> lower bound of harvest estimate CI (harvest expected to exceed RHL)           | <b>Very high</b><br>(above 150% of target)                         | Reduction: 10%   |
|  | <b>High</b><br>(at least target but no higher than 150% of target) | Reduction % equal to difference between harvest estimate and 2-year average RHL, <u>not to exceed 20%</u>      |
|  | <b>Low</b><br>(below target)                                       | Reduction % equal to difference between harvest estimate and 2-year average RHL, <u>not to exceed 40%</u>      |

# Next Steps

- Percent Change Approach will be used starting with 2023 measures for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass.
  - Bluefish will still be subject to rebuilding plan measures until it is rebuilt.
- Will sunset no later than the end of 2025 with the goal of implementing an improved method by 2026.
- Alternatives to replace this method by 2026 will be further developed starting in 2023.