

Kiley Dancy

From: Moore, Christopher
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:19 AM
To: TechStaff
Subject: FW: Summer Flounder..

fyi

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-----Original Message-----

From: Monty Hawkins <capt.montyhawkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 30, 2022 6:39 PM
To: Luisi, Michael <michael.luisi@maryland.gov>; Hare, Jon <jon.hare@noaa.gov>; Howell, Evan <evan.howell@noaa.gov>; Janet Coit Esq <janet.coit@noaa.gov>; Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>
Subject: Summer Flounder..

Greetings Ms Janet, Men,

Ocean City's sharpest fluke skippers have begun switching their clients to sea bass. Right now should be the beginning of prime time for fluke. If you only have a few people and a nice day it's possible to make truly spectacular catches of sea bass. Until this year that was also almost always also true for fluke/summer flounder.

In many instances my open boat clients haven't the skill their charter clients do. I've not been targeting fluke since sea bass began to surge post MD Wind Area recolonization. As I'd predicted, we're now catching fish from that surge which escaped effort - have grown a few years - are nice sized; but no longer many limits.

The use of MRIP's vastly inflated recreational catch estimates is creating a perfect storm - fluke & sea bass success shall now tighten incredibly.

If you'd make the c bass size limit 11 inches on reefs along DelMarVa inside 10 miles from shore, & do it now, we'd be into our next surge of spawning production before the collapse was obvious to all .. and before that collapse could be erroneously tied to wind power construction.

If you only selected one reef from MD & DE to try the smaller (same as commercial) limit with, it could at least demo its effectiveness. Make sea bass spawn at age one inshore and they'll flourish.

Make em spawn at age three and their numbers dwindle.

I promise you - including MRIP in stock assessment calculations has waylaid their validity - is ungluing past restorations progress at an amazing clip.

I'd hoped you would no longer ignore my plea for increased spawning production (going on since 2006) after I accurately predicted the splendid sea bass spawning surge in and near the MD WEA as it recolonized in 2016. Funny too how the survey boat decked out with new gear in 2021 did NOT affect sea bass at all - not even a tiny bit - almost as if the offending frequencies had been isolated and removed.. But of course that can't be - BOEM says there was no impact.

Fisheries are real life. Once you've accepted falsehoods into your thinking, keeping the appearance of truth becomes ever more difficult - very much like Ptolomy's geocentric model of our solar system..

How goes the quest for truth in MRIP, anyway? Any news?

Hope you're all having a fine summer. If you ever want to get some first hand/un-office fisheries experience I'd be glad to hide you along the rail - you could put on a straw hat and hide unknown.

Cheers

Monty

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