



October 2016 Blueline Tilefish

Jason Didden
jdidden@mafmc.org

Intro

- The goal of this framework is to consider alternative recreational blueline tilefish seasons and trip limits to best meet the needs of the fishery given the constraining Annual Catch Limit (ACL).

Amendment Measures

Table 1. Recreational Alternatives in Blueline Tilefish Environmental Assessment.

12a - 7 fish per person -
emergency action

12b - 5 fish per person

12c - 9 fish per person

12d - 3 extra fish per person
for trips greater than 36
hours

12e - Differential 7-5-3 Limit
and May-Oct season
(preferred)

Possible Options

- Uniform trip limits of 3-7 fish per person;
- Longer seasons with lower bag/possession limits;
- Allow party boats to declare their season; May 1 - Oct 31 or Oct 1 - March 30;
- Use history to allow each for-hire vessel to fish a certain amount of trips per year or days at sea;

Possible Options

- Allow an additional 3 fish per person for trips lasting over 30 hours, especially if the bag limit is reduced to below 7 fish;
- Align the season with the black sea bass season;
- Keep waves 1 and 2 closed and close wave 5 but open wave 6 while keeping the bag limit at 7 fish for for-hire inspected vessels;
- Keep uninspected for-hire vessel and inspected for-hire vessel bag limit the same and consider a more moderate approach to the proposed bag limit for recreationally permitted vessels.

Tradeoffs

- Expanding access in one way (trip limit, season) will need to be offset some other way
- Very limited data = approximate evaluations

Task for Today

- Confirm the Council wants to proceed...
- Select several options for further analysis...

Example Options...

- 1. Amendment Preferred: differential 7-5-3 bag limits and May - Oct Season
- 2. Align blueline tilefish season with black sea bass season (modify differential bag limits if necessary)
- 3. May - Dec open season with reduced 3-5 fish uniform bag limit