



# Recreational Wave 1 black sea bass fishery – 2019 and beyond



*Joint MAFMC and ASMFC Board Meeting  
August 14, 2018*

# 2018 Wave 1 Review



- February 1 – 28 season, 15 fish possession limit, 12.5 inch minimum size
- 100,000 pounds allocated to 2018 fishery
  - Total estimated harvest from fishery accounted for and evaluated against RHL
- Adjustments to management measures in rest of season – only apply to participating states
- State allocation based on historical Wave 1 catch
- 2 of 9 states participated: VA & NC

State	Proportion of Wave 1 Catch	Allocation of Wave 1 100,000 lb
RI	0.29%	288
CT	0.06%	57
NY	9.41%	9,410
NJ	82.85%	82,850
DE	1.30%	1,297
MD	0.54%	541
VA	5.50%	5,496
NC	0.06%	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100,000</b>

# 2018 Wave 1 Review



- Total Harvest: VA – 6,015 – 6,902 pounds; NC – 0 pounds
- No seasonal adjustments made – Addendum XXX
- Evaluation to 2013 Wave 1 fishery and Wave 1 projections
  - Private vessels – 71% of all trips; 3 anglers/vessel
  - For-hire vessels – 67% of participation; 33 anglers/vessel; 67% of harvest
  - High average CPA and relatively low discard ratio
    - Slightly different from 2013; similar to historical wave 1 fishery
    - Very different than fishery in rest of year

Sector	# of Trips	Total Anglers*	Harvest (# of fish)	Discards* (# of fish)	Total Catch (# of fish)	Average Catch Per Angler
For-Hire	17	199	1,996	675	2,671	12.6
Private	44	96	1,140	334	1,474	10.0
Unknown	1		30		30	
Total	62	295	3,166	1,009	4,175	10.4

# Possible 2019 Wave 1 Implementation



- From February 2018 Council meeting
  - Move to 1) refer the black sea bass 2020 Wave 1 LOA implementation provisions to Committee; 2) **provide for a 2019 Wave 1 fishery under the specifications as implemented in 2018***
- Same measures and management structure as in 2018
- Data available suggests high catch and harvest rates likely in 2019
- Council and Board recommendation results in a 11% decline in 2019 RHL
  - 100,000 pound wave 1 allocation equates to 3.1% of 2019 RHL

# Future Direction of Wave 1 Fishery



## LOA Program

- Data collection on fishery and biological samples
- Increased accountability & monitoring
  - Minimize overages and consequences to fishery
- Cost/Benefit:  
High/Limited(?)

## Specification Process

- Maximum participation with minimal requirements
- States participating accountable
- Lower costs - \$ and admin.
- Data & sampling possible
- No monitoring and less accountability

- 2018 fishery concerns remain:
  - Allocation, Equity, Accountability, Benefits
- 2019 recreational priorities

# Decision Items for August



1. Decide on whether to open the 2019 wave 1 fishery through specifications
  
2. Decide on goals of fishery and the one specific approach to open fishery in future
  - Need to account for wave 1 catch/harvest
  - Benefits and trade-offs associated with both options
  - If continuation of LOA, develop a simplified program with minimum requirements