



Summer Flounder Goals and Objectives



Council and Board Perspectives and
FMAT Recommendations

December 8, 2015

Interview Feedback

Feedback generally fell into 4 categories:

1. Ensuring biological sustainability
2. Effective coordination between the Council and Commission
3. Providing reasonable access to the fishery
4. Considering stakeholder needs and priorities

Discussion Approach

- Review & discuss each of these categories, including:
 - Issue description & interview feedback
 - FMAT recommendation and basis
- Goal: Approve draft revisions for further consideration, and/or provide guidance to FMAT for further development

Discussion Questions (1 of 2)

- Longevity and time horizon: Meaningful short-term and long-term guidance, under a range of possible scenarios?
- Achievability: Achievable and actionable?
- Governance, roles and responsibilities: Meaningful guidance to each management partner involved in supporting, developing, implementing, and enforcing management measures?
- Wording: Appropriate and consistent with the Council and Board's intent? What are the key "action" words (e.g. support, promote, maintain), and how could they be interpreted?

Discussion Questions (2 of 2)

- Inclusiveness and coverage: Encompass the full range of values and priorities for summer flounder management?
- Interactions among goals and objectives: Do they complement one another? Are any of them in conflict? Where may the Council and Board need to find a balance between different goals and objectives?
- Amendment timeline: Should any be revisited later in the amendment process? Which are likely to intersect with other decision points and specific management strategies considered as part of the amendment process?

FMAT Recommendations Summary

Goal 1. Ensure the biological sustainability of the summer flounder resource in order to maintain a sustainable summer flounder fishery.

- Objective 1.1: Achieve and maintain a sustainable spawning stock biomass.
- Objective 1.2: Achieve and maintain a sustainable rate of fishing mortality.

Goal 2. Maintain effective coordination between the Council, Commission, and member states to support the development and implementation of management measures.

- Objective 2.1. Promote compliance and the effective enforcement of regulations.
- Objective 2.2. Promote science, monitoring, and data collection that support and enhance effective management of the summer flounder resource.

Goal 3. Provide reasonable access to the fishery throughout the management unit.

Goal 4. Balance the needs and priorities of different user groups, and optimize utilization of the summer flounder resource.

Goal 1: Biological Sustainability

- Themes of discussion (Fisheries Forum)
 - Sustainability is the starting point.
 - Sustainability is a long-term goal.
 - Summer flounder is a rebuilding success story.

Original FMP objectives related to biological sustainability:

- 1. Reduce fishing mortality in the summer flounder fishery to assure that overfishing does not occur.*
- 2. Reduce fishing mortality on immature summer flounder to increase spawning stock biomass.*
- 3. Improve the yield from the fishery.*

Goal 1: Biological Sustainability

FMAT Recommendation

- Combine and update first 3 existing objectives into a single goal statement
- Two associated objectives for fishing mortality and biomass
- Focus on “achieving and maintaining” rather than “reducing”

Goal 1: Biological Sustainability

FMAT Recommendation

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Objective 1.1: Achieve and maintain a sustainable spawning stock biomass.

Objective 1.2: Achieve and maintain a sustainable rate of fishing mortality.

Goal 1: Biological Sustainability

Issues not included in FMAT recommendation: “yield” or discards

- Biological aspects of yield seen as expected result of maintaining sustainable F and SSB
- Biological impact of discards is part of fishing mortality
- Economic yield and priorities for reducing discards/waste may be best addressed through other goal categories and/or specific management strategies

Goal 2: Effective Council-Commission coordination (5 related issues)

- 3 issues from current FMP objectives
 - State-Federal compatibility
 - Enforcement
 - Minimizing regulations

Original FMP objectives related to Council-Commission coordination:

4. Promote compatible regulations between State and Federal jurisdictions.

5. Promote uniform and effective enforcement of regulations.

6. Minimize regulations to achieve the objectives stated above.

Goal 2: Effective Council-Commission coordination (5 related issues)

- 3 issues from current FMP objectives
 - State-Federal compatibility
 - Enforcement
 - Minimizing regulations
- 2 additional issues identified:
 - Science, monitoring, and data collection
 - Council and Commission interactions

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 - State-Federal compatibility: Compatibility refers to effective coordination.

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 - Science, monitoring, and data collection: Fishery-specific priorities for improvement.

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 - State-Federal compatibility: Compatibility refers to effective coordination.
 - Enforcement: Effectiveness is critical, uniformity is challenging.
 - Minimizing regulations: Conflict with efforts to provide flexibility.
 - Science, monitoring, and data collection: Fishery-specific priorities for improvement.
 - Council and Commission interactions: Fair representation of values and interests is important.

Goal 2: Effective Council-Commission coordination (5 related issues)

*Issue: State-federal compatibility (existing objective 4:
Promote compatible regulations between State and Federal
jurisdictions)*

FMAT Recommendation:

Reframe as broader goal statement recognizing the importance of effective coordination:

Goal 2: Promote and maintain effective coordination between the Council, Commission, and member states to support the development and implementation of management measures.

Goal 2: Effective Council-Commission coordination (5 related issues)

*Issue: Enforcement (existing objective 5: *Promote uniform and effective enforcement of regulations*)*

FMAT Recommendation

Include objective for enforcement and compliance:

Goal 2: Promote and maintain effective coordination between the Council, Commission, and member states to support the development and implementation of management measures.

Objective 2.1: Promote compliance and the effective enforcement of regulations.

Goal 2: Effective Council-Commission coordination (5 related issues)

Issue: Minimizing Regulations (existing objective 6:
Minimize regulations to achieve the objectives stated above)

FMAT Recommendation

- Draft contains no reference to minimizing regulations
- Tension between minimizing regulations and recent approaches to providing flexibility
- Could change focus from “minimize” to “clarify” and/or “simplify”
- Additional discussion needed

Goal 2: Effective Council-Commission coordination (5 related issues)

Issue: Science, Monitoring, and Data

FMAT Recommendation:

Include objective for science/data/monitoring:

Goal 2: Promote and maintain effective coordination between the Council, Commission, and member states to support the development and implementation of management measures.

Objective 2.1: Promote compliance and the effective enforcement of regulations.

Objective 2.2: Promote science, monitoring, and data collection that support and enhance effective management of the summer flounder resource.

Goal 2: Effective Council-Commission coordination (5 related issues)

Issue: Council-Commission Interactions

FMAT Recommendation

- Draft contains no reference to Council-Commission interactions
- Concerns partially captured in goal statement
- Other concerns would need to be addressed at legislative level
- FMAT recommends additional discussion

Goal 2: Effective Council/Commission coordination

FMAT Recommendation - Goal 2 Summary:

Goal 2: Promote and maintain effective coordination between the Council, Commission, and member states to support the development and implementation of management measures.

Objective 2.1: Promote compliance and the effective enforcement of regulations.

Objective 2.2: Promote science, monitoring, and data collection that support and enhance effective management of the summer flounder resource.

Issues not included: Council/Commission interactions, minimizing regulations

Goal 3: Reasonable access

- Themes of discussion (Fisheries Forum):
- *Key words: flexibility, resilience, responsiveness, stability, fairness, equity, benefits to stakeholders*
- Access and opportunity are the drivers.
- Responsiveness is important.
- Stability and historical participation are important.
- Balance is important!
- “How” is a matter of specific objectives and/or strategies.

Goal 3: Reasonable Access

FMAT Recommendation

- Include a high level/inclusive goal statement such as:

Goal 3: Provide reasonable access to the fishery throughout the management unit.

- Difficult to identify more specific objectives at this point without discussion of tradeoffs
- May wish to revisit this later in amendment process

Goal 4: Stakeholder values

- General themes of discussion (Fisheries Forum):
 - Diverse user groups have different needs and values.
 - Social and economic considerations could be more prominent.

Goal 4: Stakeholder values

- User group specific themes of discussion (Fisheries Forum):
 - Commercial fishery: Improve performance, recognize participation and investments.
 - Recreational fishery: Consider multiple factors that affect opportunity and satisfaction. (Discards, data, stability, regional management).

Goal 4: Stakeholder Values

FMAT Recommendation

- Include goal statement to recognize stakeholder priorities:

Goal 4: Balance the needs and priorities of different user groups, and optimize utilization of the summer flounder resource.

- Reference to “optimizing utilization” reflects concerns about waste and discards
- User group-specific goals or objectives: FMAT recommends further discussion

Other Issues and FMAT Discussion

- Responding to new information
 - e.g., response to 2015 assessment update
 - These responses are largely determined by legal requirements and the Council's risk policy
 - Outside the scope of what should be addressed through goals and objectives

Other Issues and FMAT Discussion

- Ecosystem considerations
 - Some feedback on ecosystem role, habitat, and forage
 - FMAT did not provide a recommendation as this was not a focus of feedback
 - Ecosystem considerations may be addressed through other Council and Commission actions and guidance
 - Within or outside this amendment
 - Or, could be included under goals and objectives

FMAT Recommendations Summary

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