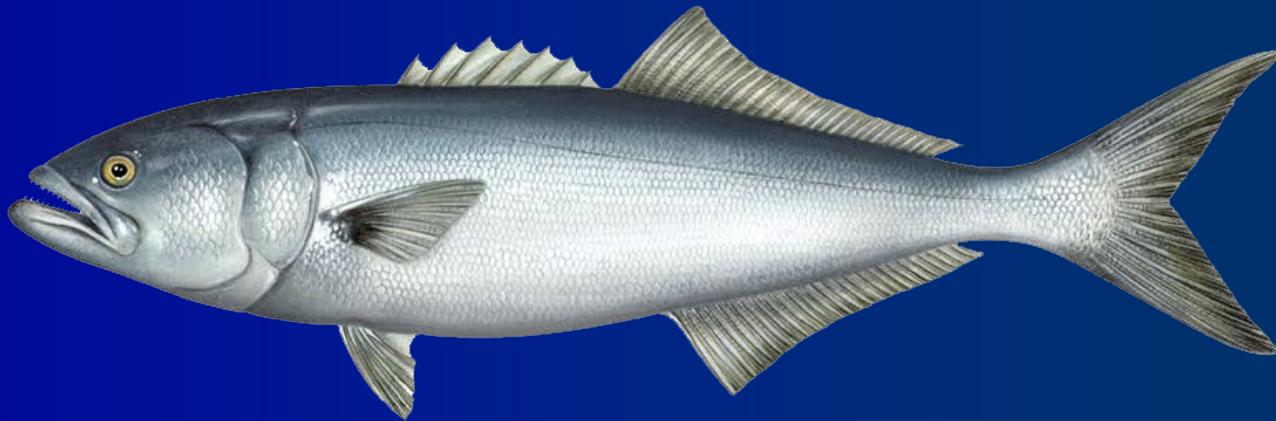


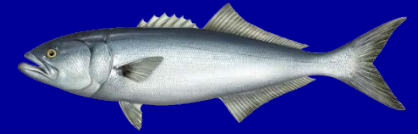


Bluefish Allocation Amendment



Council Meeting
August 15, 2018

Meeting Outline



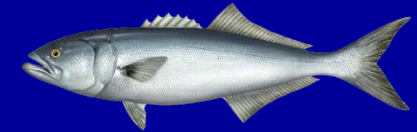
- Scoping hearings
- Comments on the issues
- Other issues
- Timeline
- Action needed

Scoping Hearings



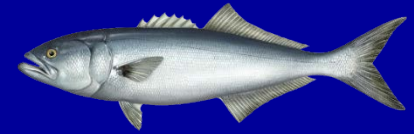
Date	Time	Location	Attendees
Wednesday, June 20, 2018	6:00 PM	Manteo, North Carolina	6
Thursday, June 21, 2018	6:00 PM	Morehead City, North Carolina	2
Thursday, June 21, 2018	6:00 PM	Dover, Delaware	2
Tuesday, June 26, 2018	6:30 PM	East Setauket, New York	19+
Tuesday, June 26, 2018	6:00 PM	Berlin, Maryland	6
Wednesday, June 27, 2018	6:00 PM	Ocean City, New Jersey	23
Thursday, June 28, 2018	6:00 PM	Toms River, New Jersey	30
Thursday, June 28, 2018	6:00 PM	Titusville, Florida	6
Tuesday, July 10, 2018	7:00 PM	Old Lyme, Connecticut	8
Wednesday, July 11, 2018	6:00 PM	Plymouth, Massachusetts	8
Thursday, July 12, 2018	6:00 PM	Narragansett, Rhode Island	1
Monday, July 16, 2018	6:00 PM	Internet webinar	3

Five Issues



Issue	Number of written comments received	Number of hearing comments received
FMP Goals and Objectives		
Supports status quo	1	3
Goals and objectives should be re-evaluated and/or revised	2	0
Supports maintaining one or more of the current objectives	0	1
Commercial/Recreational Allocation		
Supports status quo	19	31
Increase commercial allocation	0	2
Decrease commercial allocation	1	0
Increase recreational allocation	0	0
Decrease recreational allocation	0	1
Update data for reallocation	1	6
Commercial Allocations to the States		
Supports status quo	3	14
Alter commercial allocations to the states	4	7
Quota Transfer Processes		
Supports status quo transfer from recreational to commercial sector	5	24
Do not allow transfer from recreational to commercial sector	6	0
Supports status quo state-to-state transfers	2	0
Do not allow state-to-state transfers	0	1
Do not allow any transfers	1	1
New transfer suggestion	1	1
Other Issues		
Status quo bag limit	0	5
Increase bag limit	0	4
Decrease bag limit	4	19
Other	10	0

FMP Goals and Objectives

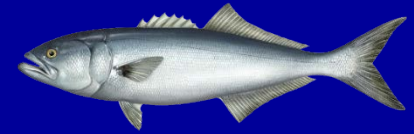


1. **Increase understanding** of the stock and of the fishery
2. **Provide the highest availability** of bluefish to U.S. fishermen while maintaining, within limits, traditional uses of bluefish (defined as the commercial fishery not exceeding 20% of the total catch).
3. **Provide for cooperation** among the coastal states, the various regional marine fishery management councils, and federal agencies involved along the coast to enhance the management of bluefish throughout its range.
4. **Promote compatible management** regulations between State and Federal jurisdictions.
5. **Prevent recruitment overfishing.**
6. **Reduce the waste** in both the commercial and recreational fisheries.

Comments:

- Recreational management should focus on maximizing abundance over landings.
- Consider the economic and intrinsic value of bluefish to the recreational fishery.

Comm/Rec Allocations



Observed trends in comments

- Majority of commenters want status quo allocations
- Very few comments were in favor of altering the commercial allocations
- Many in favor of updating allocations with more recent catch histories

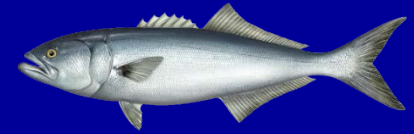
Commercial (ACT)

17% (3.71 million lbs)

Recreational (ACT)

83% (18.11 million lbs)

Comm Allocations to the States

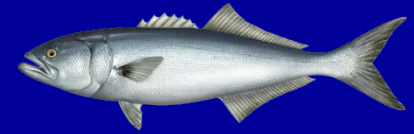


Observed trends in comments

- Majority of commenters want status quo allocations
 - ~ 60% status quo
 - ~ 40% alter allocations
 - Northern states
- Use more recent catch histories
- Many commenters linked this issue with the ability to transfer quota between states

State	Share (%)	2018 Comm. Quota (lbs)
ME	0.67	48,424
NH	0.41	30,025
MA	6.72	486,539
RI	6.81	493,160
CT	1.27	91,727
NY	10.38	752,268
NJ	14.82	1,073,245
DE	1.88	136,052
MD	3.00	217,442
VA	11.88	860,518
NC	32.06	2,322,397
SC	0.04	2,550
GA	0.01	668
FL	10.06	728,697
Total	100.01	7,243,726

Transfers



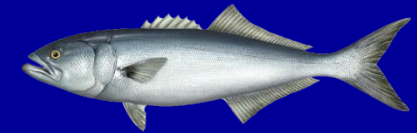
Observed trends in comments

Commercial state-to-state	Recreational to Commercial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most commenters support state-to-state transfers• If allocations do not change, keep the option to transfer quota• Most states are okay with transfers because they do not have to be granted• Concerns with transferring quota from southern states to northern states	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfers from rec to comm are supported when available• Many (private recreational) anglers want released fish not to be transferred

Other Issues

- Recreational management should focus on maximizing abundance over landings
 - Amendment: Future goals and objectives
- Consider the economic and intrinsic value of bluefish to the rec fishery
 - Amendment: Future goals and objectives
- Update all data and indices with new MRIP estimates
 - Operational assessment in 2019 and a future benchmark assessment
- Review/revise the 15-fish federal bag limit
 - Monitoring Committee when setting specifications
- Identify shifts in bluefish habitat and abundance
 - Reviewed by the Council and SSC for potential incorporation into the Council's 5-year research plan
- Hold recreational sector accountable for overages
 - New MRIP estimates will not be able to be compared to old recreational harvest limits
 - Both sectors are subject to accountability measures detailed in the FMP

Timeline



Task Description	Tentative Dates
Initiation and request of FMAT participants	December 2017
Formation of FMAT	January 2018
Council meeting - discuss timeline	February 2018
Initial FMAT discussion	March 2018
Council Meeting - review scoping plan and document	April 2018
Scoping hearings/scoping comment period	June - July 2018
Review scoping comments – determine issues for public hearing document	August 2018
FMAT Meeting – develop draft alternatives	September 2018
Advisory Panel Meeting – receive input on draft alternatives	September/October 2018
Committee Meeting – recommend draft alternatives	October 2018
FMAT Meeting – refine draft alternatives (if necessary)	October/November 2018
Joint Council/Board Meeting – update on progress relative to alternatives for public hearing document	December 2018

Action Needed

- Select issues for further development of alternatives:
 - 1) FMP Goals and objectives
 - 2) Allocations
 - 3) Commercial allocations to the states
 - 4) Transfers

Questions?



Motion

- Move that the Council/Board approve Issues 1-4 to be used to develop draft alternatives for a bluefish allocation amendment public hearing document
 - Council:
 - Board: