

# Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

August 8-11, 2023  
Annapolis, MD

## MOTIONS

### Tuesday, August 8, 2023

#### **Summer Flounder 2024-2025 Specifications**

Move to adopt the following specifications for summer flounder based on the constant ABC approach:

- For 2024 and 2025, the recreational ACL=ACT=8.69 mil lb, and the RHL = 6.35 mil lb. The commercial ACL = ACT = 10.62 mil lb, and the commercial quota = 8.79 mil lb.

Board: Meserve/Reid (Motion carries by consent)

Council: Batsavage/Neill (19/0/0)

Motion carries

#### **Scup 2024-2025 Specifications**

Move to adopt the following specifications for scup based on the varying ABC approach:

- For 2024, the recreational ACL = ACT = 15.34 mil lbs., with an RHL of 13.18 mil lbs. The commercial ACL = ACT = 28.48 mil lbs., with a commercial quota of 21.15 mil lbs.
- For 2025, the recreational ACL = ACT = 13.91 mil lbs., with an RHL of 11.84 mil lbs. The commercial ACL = ACT = 25.83 mil lbs., with a commercial quota of 18.80 mil lbs.

Council: Nowalsky/Townsend (Motion carries by consent)

Board: Nowalsky/Hasbrouck (Motion carries by consent)

Motion carries

#### **Scup discards:**

##### *Council Only Motion:*

Move to task the SSC to review and provide feedback on the scup discard report and GRA analysis and provide input on potential future analysis or modeling approaches that could examine the predictability of scup bycatch using environmental data or any other alternative approaches to reduce scup discards.

Duval/Clark

Motion carries by consent

##### *Board only motion:*

Move to recommend Commission add to the 2024 action plan under Goal 1 for scup - Monitor management and research activities of MAFMC including, but not limited to, scup discards and GRA analysis.

Nowalsky/Clark

Motion carries by consent

Move to initiate an addendum/framework to add a bi-directional quota transfer provision between the commercial and recreational sectors to the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass FMP. The FMAT/PDT should consider sub-options to cap the amount of a transfer and revise the accountability measures.

Board: Meserve/Nowalsky  
Council: Nowalsky/Clark (9/9/0)  
Motion fails for lack of Council majority

### **Black Sea Bass 2024 Specifications**

Move that the 2024 recreational ACL = ACT = 9.16 mil lbs and the RHL is 6.27 mil lbs. The 2024 commercial ACL = ACT = 7.50 mil lbs and the commercial quota is 6.00 mil lbs. The commercial in-season closure buffer is 5%.

Council: Clark/Cimino  
Board: Clark/Cimino

Move to amend to replace 6.27 with 6.57 for the RHL.

Board: Meserve/Miller (5/7/0/0)  
Council: Nowalsky/Neill  
Motion to amend fails for lack of Board majority

#### *Back to the main motion:*

Move that the 2024 recreational ACL = ACT = 9.16 mil lbs and the RHL is 6.27 mil lbs. The 2024 commercial ACL = ACT = 7.50 mil lbs and the commercial quota is 6.00 mil lbs. The commercial in-season closure buffer is 5%.

Council: 18/1/0  
Board: 12/0/0/0  
Motion carries

### **Wednesday, August 9, 2023**

#### **Bluefish Specifications:**

Move to adopt the following specifications for bluefish based on the Council's rebuilding plan and SSC recommended ABCs:

- For 2024, the recreational ACL = ACT = 15.03 mil lb and the RHL = 11.96 mil lb. The commercial ACL = ACT = 2.45 mil lb and the commercial quota = 2.42 mil lb.
- For 2025, the recreational ACL = ACT = 18.78 mil lb and the RHL = 15.70 mil lb. The commercial ACL = ACT = 3.06 mil lb and the commercial quota = 3.03 mil lb.

Council: Gwin/Clark (motion carries by consent)  
Board: Davis/Clark (motion carries by consent)

*Board only:*

Move to maintain status quo state and federal waters recreational measures for bluefish in 2024, including a 3-fish and 5-fish bag limit for private and for-hire anglers, respectively. This includes conservation equivalency measures for Georgia state waters, which includes a 15 fish bag limit, minimum size of 12 inches, and a closed season of March 1st through April 30th.

Reid/Geer

Motion carries by consent

## **Thursday, August 10, 2023**

### **Atlantic Mackerel**

Pending future (late 2023) SSC advice, I move to set the following for 2024/2025 Atlantic mackerel specifications:

**2024** ABC = 2,726 mt, Canadian Catch = 74 mt, US ABC = ACL = 2,652 mt,  
Recreational set-aside = 2,143 mt, Commercial Discard set aside = 115 MT  
DAH = 394 mt = DAP; JVP = 0, TALFF = 0.

**2025** ABC = 3,900 mt, Canadian Catch = 74 mt, US ABC = ACL = 3,826 mt,  
Recreational set-aside = 2,143 mt, Commercial Discard set aside = 115 MT  
DAH = 1,568 mt = DAP; JVP = 0, TALFF = 0.

Hughes/Duval

Motion carries by consent

For 2024/2025 trip limits, I move to set an initial trip limit of 20,000 pounds for limited access permits and 1,000 pounds for open access permits, and at 80% of the quota, the trip limits would change to 5,000 pounds for limited access permits and 1,000 pounds for open access permits.

Hughes/Gwin

Motion carries by consent

I move for the Council to request that NMFS takes emergency action to limit directed mackerel fishing with trips limits of 20,000 pounds for limited access permits and 5,000 pounds for open access permits until 2024 specifications are implemented.

Hughes/Feller

Motion carries with one no vote from NMFS (consensus otherwise)

I move to request that in October 2023 the SSC consider 2024/2025 ABCs that are consistent, near an averaged result, and would still rebuild mackerel with a 61% probability by 2032.

Hughes/Gwin

Motion carries by consent

## **River Herring and Shad**

I move that the Council adopt an 89 MT RH/S cap.

Winslow for Committee

I move to substitute to a status-quo RH/S cap of 129 MT.

Hughes/Cimino

Motion to substitute carries by consent

*Substitute motion becomes the main motion:*

I move to adopt a status-quo RH/S cap of 129 MT for 2024/2025.

Motion carries by consent

I move to recommend that the Council include in 2024 priorities discussion particular consideration of exploration of modeling for shad and river herring bycatch avoidance approaches.

Winslow for Committee

Motion carries by consent

## **Longfin Squid**

I move that the 2024-2026 longfin squid ABCs be set at 23,400 MT, and for the Initial Optimum Yield (IOY)/Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH)/ Domestic Annual Processing (DAP) to be set at 22,893.7 MT.

Hughes/Farnham

Motion carries by consent

## **///ex Hold Framework**

If a permit in CPH happened to have an existing volumetric hold measurement that met the measurement certification requirements, that hold measurement would be used to establish a vessel hold baseline.

Hughes for Committee

I move to amend to change “would” to “could.”

Pentony/Hughes

Motion to amend carries by consent.

*Amended motion becomes the main motion:*

If a permit in CPH happened to have an existing volumetric hold measurement that met the measurement certification requirements, that hold measurement could be used to establish a vessel hold baseline.

Motion carries by consent.

I move to include an alternative 2B where previous surveys could not be used.

Pentony/Hughes

Motion carries by consent

I move that the Council proceed with FW development with the modifications recommended by the Committee on June 1, 2023

Hughes for Committee

I move to amend to indicate with the modifications and instructions provided by the Council on August 10, 2023

Hughes/Feller

Motion to amend carries by consent

*Amended motion becomes the main motion:*

I move that the Council proceed with FW development with the modifications and instructions provided by the Council on August 10, 2023

Motion carries by consent