



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2015

To: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
From: Kirby Rootes-Murdy, FMP Coordinator
RE: ASMFC Management Process for 2016 Recreational Fishery Specifications for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

The following outlines the Commission's process for setting Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass recreational management measures in 2016.

Summer Flounder 2016 Recreational Measures

2016 Process if Draft Addendum XXVII is approved for public comment

December 2015

- Joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) to determine tool (coastwide, state-by-state, regional) to manage the 2016 recreational fishery.
- Board approves Draft Addendum XXVII for public comment (similar regional approach as 2015 but includes an option which allows for different regulations on the New Jersey side of Delaware Bay).
- The Technical Committee (TC) meets via conference call to start evaluating management measures (size limit, possession limit and season days) which will achieve the 2016 Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) for options contained in Draft Addendum XXVII.
- Commission Staff (Staff) finalizes the draft addendum for public comment and releases draft document for public comment.

January 2016

- Staff conducts public hearings and public comment is collected and summarized for Board consideration in February.
- The TC meets to finalize analysis of management measures (size limit, possession limit and season days) which will achieve the 2016 RHL for options contained in the Draft Addendum XXVII for Public Comment.

February 2016

- Board meets to review public comment and finalize Draft Addendum XXVII.
- TC reviews measures for the final addendum option chosen by the Board which will achieve the 2016 RHL. If the state-by-state option is chosen an additional TC meeting and Board meeting will be necessary to draft individual state proposals which meet the 2016 state target and for the Board to approve state proposals. The Board would meet via

conference call approximately 3 weeks after the February Board meeting to approve proposals.

February-May 2016

- States conduct their administrative process to promulgate regulations approved by the Board. This process varies by state in both steps and the length of time to complete the process (eg. Some states take a few weeks to approve measures other take 3-5 months).
- Once states complete their administrative process, the state's final 2016 recreational management measures are communicated to the Commission.

April-May 2016

- Once all states have communicated final measures, the Commission sends a letter to NOAA Fisheries detailing state measures and their conservation equivalency to a coastwide measure in order to achieve the 2016 RHL.

2016 Process if Draft Addendum XXVII is not approved for public comment

December 2015

- Joint meeting with the Council to determine tool (coastwide, state-by-state, regional) to manage the 2016 recreational fishery.
- The TC meets via conference call to start evaluating management measures (size limit, possession limit bag and season days) which will achieve the 2016 RHL for the management tool (coastwide, state-by-state or region) approved at the December 2015 joint meeting. If the state-by-state option is chosen, the TC will draft individual state proposals which meet the 2016 state target and for the Board to approve state proposals.

January 2016

- The TC meets to finalize proposals (size limit, possession limit and season days) which will achieve the 2016 RHL for board review.

February 2016

- The Board meets to review and approve state proposals (size limit, possession limit and season days) which will achieve the 2016 RHL.

February-May 2016

- State's conduct their administrative process to promulgate regulations approved by the Board. This process varies by state in both steps and the length of time to complete the process (eg. Some states take a few weeks to approve measures other take 3-5 months).
- Once states complete their administrative process, the state's final 2016 recreational management measures are communicated to the Commission.

April-May 2016

- Once all states have communicated final measures, the Commission sends a letter to NOAA Fisheries detailing state measures and their conservation equivalency to a coastwide measure in order to achieve the 2016 RHL.

Scup 2016 Recreational Measures

December 2015

- Joint meeting with Council to determine tool (coastwide or regional approach) to manage the 2016 recreational fishery.
- TC meets via conference call to start evaluating management measures (size limit, possession limit bag and season days) which will achieve the 2016 RHL for the management tool (coastwide or regional approach) approved at the December 2015 joint meeting.

January 2016

- The TC meets via conference call to finalize proposed management measures (size limit, possession limit and season days) which will achieve the 2016 RHL for board review.

February 2016

- Board meets to review and approve management measures (size limit, possession limit and season days) which will achieve the 2016 RHL.

February-May 2016

- State's conduct their administrative process to promulgate regulations approved by the Board. This process varies by state in both steps and the length of time to complete the process (eg. Some states take a few weeks to approve measures other take 3-5 months).
- Once states complete their administrative process, the state's final 2016 recreational management measures are communicated to the Commission.

April-May 2016

- Once all states have communicated final measures, the Commission sends a letter to NOAA Fisheries detailing state measures and their conservation equivalency to a coastwide measure in order to achieve the 2016 RHL.

Black Sea Bass 2016 Recreational Measures

2016 Process if Draft Addendum XXVII is approved for public comment

December 2015

- Joint meeting with the Council to determine tool (coastwide or ad hoc regional) to manage the 2016 recreational fishery

- Board approves Draft Addendum XXVII for public comment (similar ad hoc regional approach as 2014 and 2015).
- TC meets via conference call to start working on individual northern state proposals (size limit, possession limit and season days) which will achieve the 2016 RHL for options contained in the Draft Addendum XXVII.
- Staff finalizes the draft addendum for public comment and releases draft for public comment.

January 2016

- Staff conducts public hearings and public comment is collected and summarized for Board consideration in February.
- The TC meets to finalize northern state proposals (size limit, possession limit and season days) which will achieve the 2016 RHL for options contained in the draft Addendum for Board review.

February 2016

- The Board meets to review public comment and finalize addendum.
- The TC reviews measures for the final addendum option chosen by the Board which will achieve the 2016 RHL. Given the timing of and available most recent MRIP data from the previous year, the consideration of specific management measures may be delayed until after the February Board. The Board would meet via conference call approximately 3 weeks after the February Board meeting to approve proposals.

February-May 2016

- State's conduct their administrative process to promulgate regulations approved by the Board. This process varies by state in both steps and the length of time to complete the process (eg. Some states take a few weeks to approve measures other take 3-5 months).
- Once states complete their administrative process, the state's final 2016 recreational management measures are communicated to the Commission.

April-May 2016

- Once all states have communicated final measures, the Commission sends a letter to NOAA Fisheries detailing state measures to achieve the 2016 RHL.

2016 Process if Draft Addendum XXVII is not approved for public comment

December 2015

- Joint meeting with MAFMC to determine tool (coastwide or ad-hoc regional) to manage the 2016 recreational fishery.
- Coastwide management measures are set for 2016 fishery.