

# **Black Sea Bass Wave 1/ May Opening Framework**

## Purpose/Need 1

- Closing Wave 1 (Jan-Feb) to black sea bass fishing means that one of the few recreational fisheries that could be available in January-February is not.

## Purpose/Need 2

- Opening the black sea bass fishery on May 1 versus the middle of May could be important for private and for-hire fishermen alike, as well as the businesses that service those potential fishermen.

# Alternative Approaches (1)

- Open Wave 1 for for-hire operators that agree to submit electronic logbooks on a weekly basis via one of the electronic logbook packages that are approved by NMFS.

## Alternative Approaches (2)

- Open Black Sea Bass fishing in federal waters on May 1, 2015.

## Key Issues

- Accounting for increased catch in one period means reducing catch somehow in another period
- NMFS still thinking about data collection issues