



**Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass
Recreational Measures Framework
Draft Action Plan**
(updated 2/15/2018)

Management Measures Considered

This framework, and the complementary addendum being developed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), will consider: 1) allowing recreational conservation equivalency for black sea bass, 2) transit provisions for recreational vessels in Block Island Sound, and 3) allowing for the use of slot limits in recreational black sea bass and summer flounder fisheries.

Fishery Management Action Team

The Council formed a team of technical experts, known as a Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) to develop and analyze management alternatives for this framework. The FMAT is led by Council staff and includes management partners from the ASMFC, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO), and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). The FMAT will work with other experts to address specific issues, as needed.

FMAT Membership		
Name	Expertise	Agency
Julia Beaty (FMAT chair), Brandon Muffley, Kiley Dancy	Fisheries management	MAFMC
Caitlin Starks	Fisheries management	ASMFC
Emily Gilbert	Fisheries management	NMFS GARFO
Marianne Ferguson	NEPA	NMFS GARFO
Greg Ardini	Economics	NMFS NEFSC SSB

Affected Fisheries

This framework/addendum will affect recreational fisheries for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass in both state and federal waters.

Applicable Laws

Name of law	Applicable to this action?
Magnuson-Stevens Act	Yes
National Environmental Policy Act	Yes – will require an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement
Administrative Procedure Act	Yes
Regulatory Flexibility Act	Yes
Paperwork Reduction Act	Possibly; depends on data collection needs
Coastal Zone Management Act	Possibly; depends on effects of the action on the resources of the coastal states in the management unit
Endangered Species Act	Possibly; level of consultation will depend on the actions taken
E.O. 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review)	Yes
E.O. 12630 (Takings)	Possibly; legal review will confirm
E.O. 13123 (Federalism)	Possibly; legal review will confirm
Information Quality Act	Yes

Draft Timeline for Framework/Addendum Development and Implementation

Task Description	Date (all are subject to change)
Initiation	December 2017
Development of draft alternatives	Early 2018
Council and Board approval of draft alternatives	May 2018
Development of draft EA and draft ASMFC public hearing document	May – August 2018
AP meeting	June 2018
Council and Board review of draft alternatives and impacts analysis; Board approval of public hearing document	August 2018
ASMFC public hearings	Fall 2018
AP meeting (recommendations for final action)	November 2018
Council and Board final action	December 2018
Finalization of framework and addendum documents; submission of EA to NMFS	January/February 2019
If needed, EA revisions and resubmission to NMFS	March/April 2019
Proposed rule	Spring 2019
Final rule	Summer 2019