

From: [Jeff Kaelin](#)
To: [Coutre, Karson](#)
Cc: [Moore, Christopher](#)
Subject: Monday's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel Meeting
Date: Friday, June 18, 2021 12:00:50 PM

Good morning Karson. I hope this note finds you (and Chris) well.

Although we had discussed that any changes to scup management would be taken up at the July 27 monitoring committee meeting, I see that the final agenda item for Monday's AP meeting concerns recommendations for regulatory changes for the 2022 and 2023 fishing year.

Unfortunately, I am not an AP member (and will have family here Monday so won't be able to call in) so I am hoping that this email can be used to identify our interest in having the monitoring committee consider two changes in scup management when they meet next month.

First, we ask that the monitoring committee analyze increasing the Winter I possession limit, to 100,000 pounds, and analyze eliminating it entirely. This change would help us to continue to build our frozen markets for scup.

Also, we ask that the monitoring committee analyze decreasing the commercial minimum fish size, from 9 inches to 8 inches, which would further support our developing these frozen markets, with value added domestic scup products becoming more widely available to consumers at the retail outlets where they shop.

I recall from the last time changing the minimum fish size was considered, that most 8" scup are sexually mature and, at that time, there were concerns about negative effects on the fresh market so that no changes were made.

Since markets have changed and developed since that time, we hope that the monitoring committee can evaluate the maturity issue and also identify the strength of those age classes in the coast wide stock. Also, if the data is available, evaluate whether or not 8" fish might be a significant portion of discards in the fishery.

Thank you for your consideration and for identifying our interest in these management changes in FYs 2022 & 2023 to the AP Monday.

With best regards,
Jeff

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