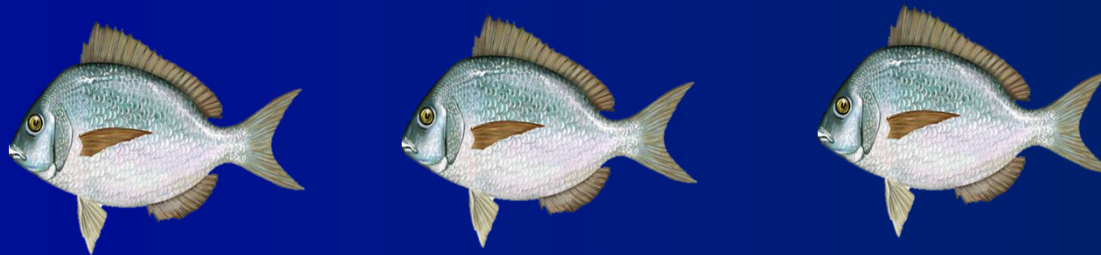




Scup 2024-2025 Recreational Measures



Advisory Panel
December 4, 2023

Meeting Objectives

- Review recent recreational fishery performance
- Review Monitoring Committee recommendation for 2024-2025 recreational measures
- Provide input to Council and Board on 2024-2025 recreational measures

2023 Federal Recreational Measures



Possession
limit

- 40 scup

Updated
in 2023

Size limit

- 10 inches total length

Season

- May 1-December 31

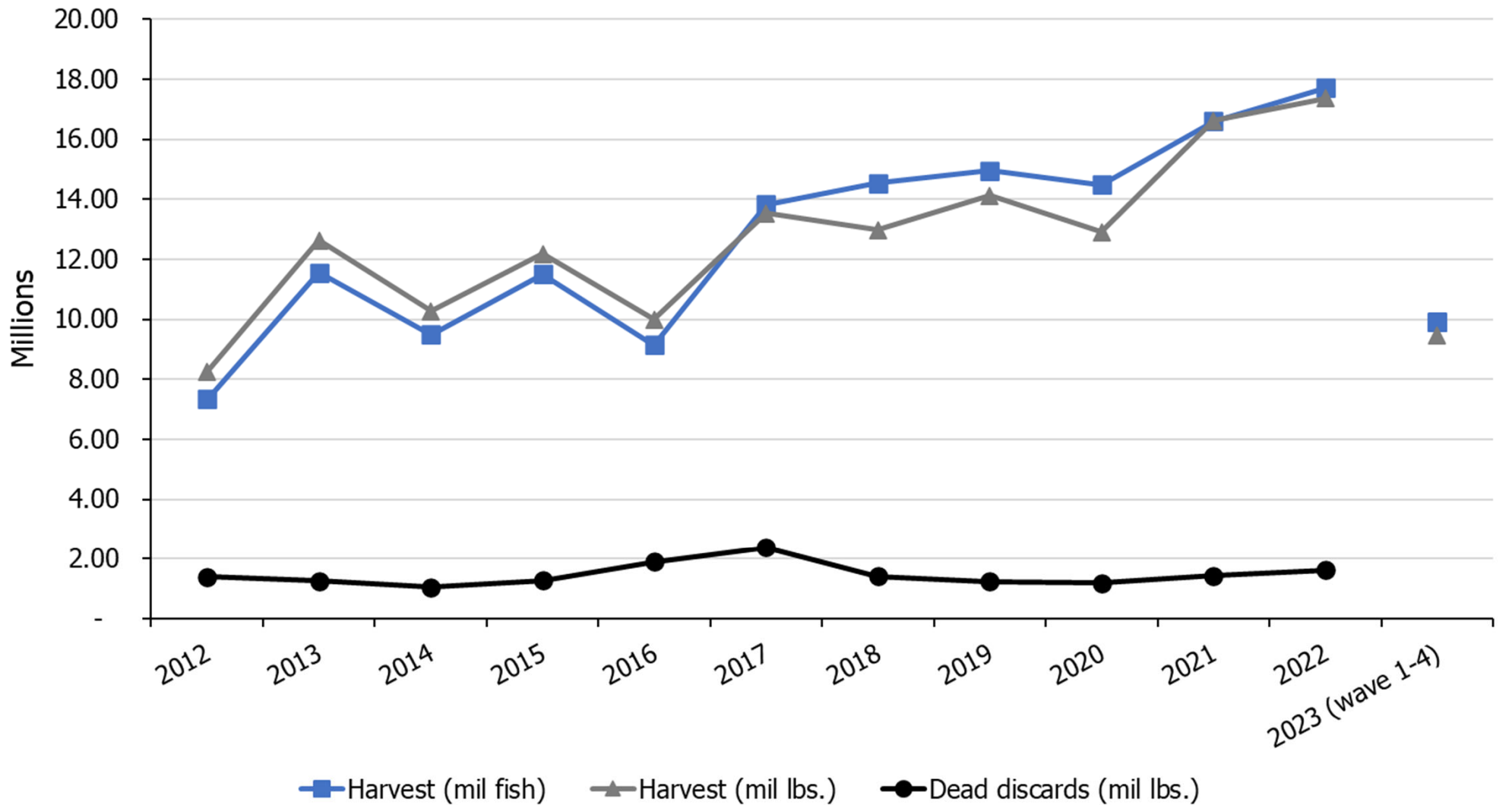
Updated
in 2023

2023 State Recreational Measures

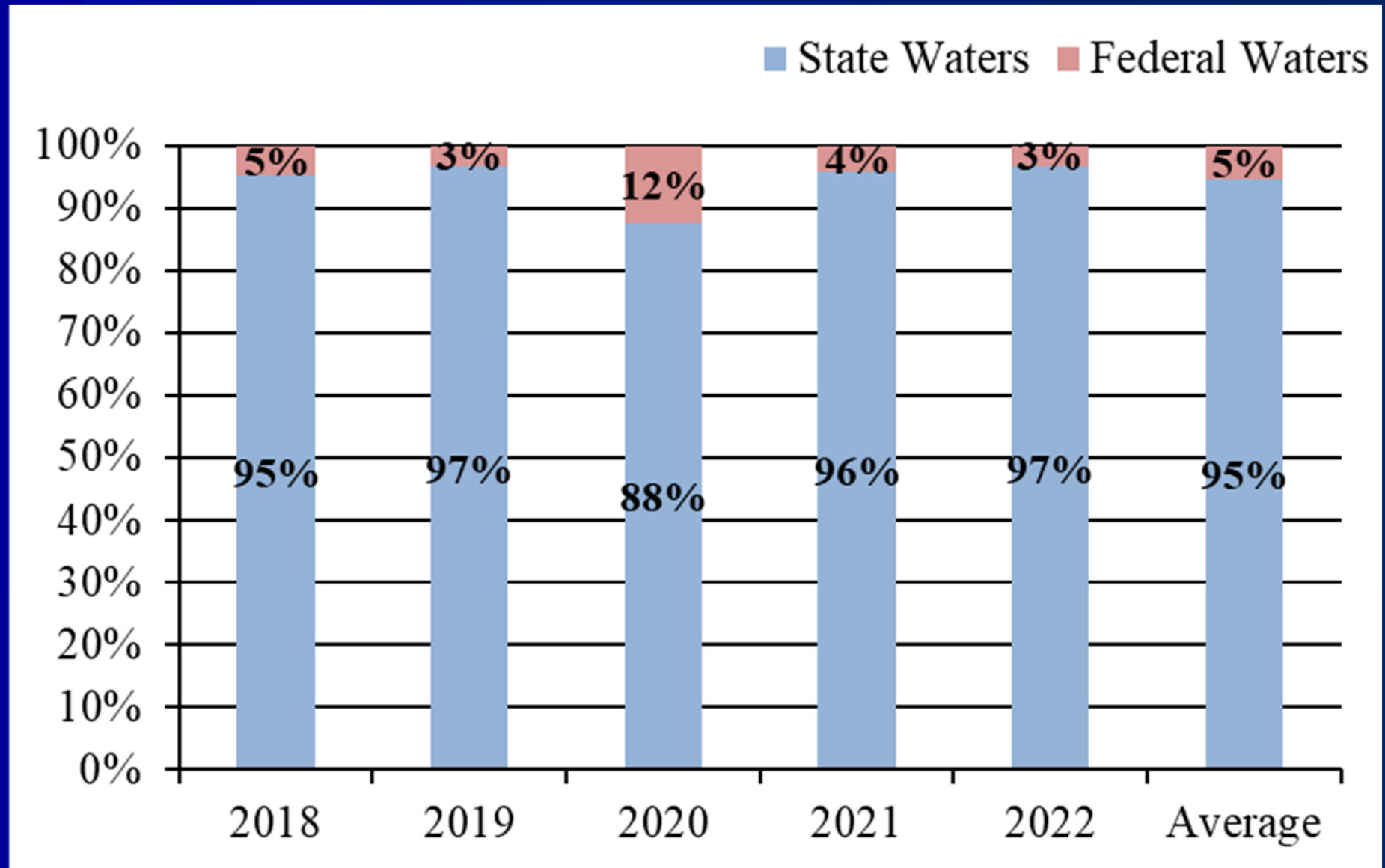
State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
MA (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec 31
MA (shore)	9.5		
MA (party/charter)	10.5	40 fish	May 1 – June 30
		30 fish	July 1 – Dec 31
RI (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec 31
RI (shore)	9.5		
RI (party/charter)	10.5"	30 fish	May 1 – Aug 31; Nov 1 – Dec 31
		40 fish	Sept 1 – Oct 31
CT (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec 31
CT (shore)	9.5		
CT (Auth For-Hire Mon. Program Vessels)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Aug 31; Nov 1 – Dec 31
		40 fish	Sept 1 – Oct 31
NY (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec 31
NY (shore)	9.5		
NY (party/charter)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Aug 31; Nov 1 – Dec 31
		40 fish	Sept 1 – Oct 31
NJ	10	30 fish	Aug 1 – Dec 31
DE	9	40 fish	Jan 1 – Dec 31
MD			
VA		30 fish	
NC, North of Cape Hatteras		40 fish	

Recreational Landing Trends

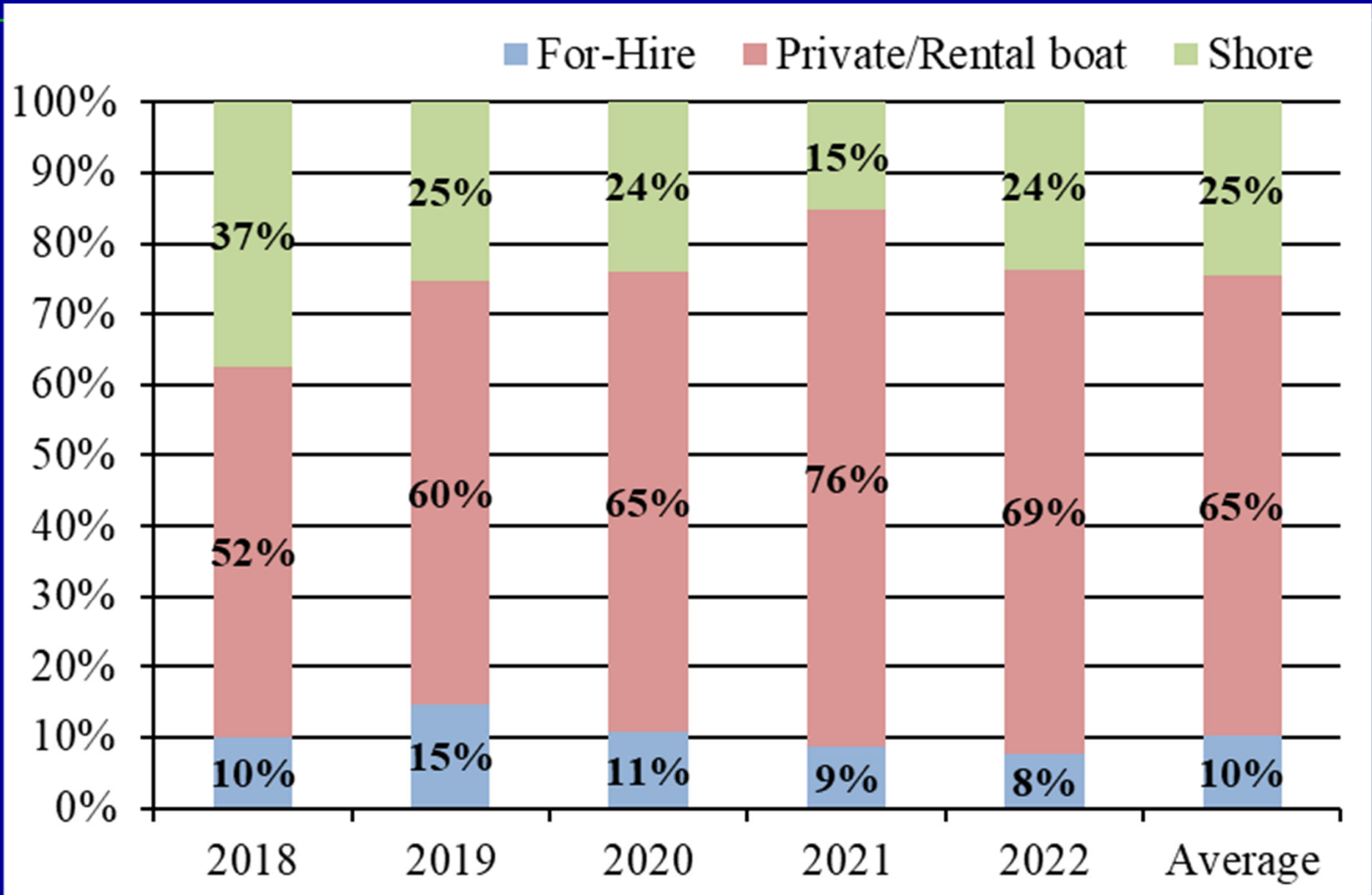
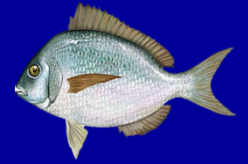
With 2023 Waves 1-4



Harvest in Federal and State Waters



Harvest By Mode



<i>Column 1</i> Ave. 2024-2025 RHL vs expected harvest under 2023 measures	<i>Column 2</i> Biomass compared to target level (SSB/SSB_{MSY})	<i>Column 3</i> Change in Harvest
RHL greater than upper bound of expected harvest CI (RHL underage expected)	Very high greater than 150% of target	Liberalization % = difference between harvest estimate and 2023 RHL, not to exceed 40%
	High at least target, but no higher than 150% of target	Liberalization % = difference between harvest estimate and 2023 RHL, not to exceed 20%
	Low below target stock size	Liberalization: 10%
RHL within expected harvest CI (harvest expected to be close to RHL)	Very high greater than 150% of target	Liberalization: 10%
	High at least target, but no higher than 150% of target	No liberalization or reduction: 0%
	Low below target stock size	Reduction: 10%
RHL less than lower bound of expected harvest CI (RHL overage expected)	Very high greater than 150% of target	Reduction: 10%
	High at least target, but no higher than 150% of target	Reduction % = difference between harvest estimate and 2023 RHL, not to exceed 20%
	Low below target stock size	Reduction % = difference between harvest estimate and 2023 RHL, not to exceed 40%

Recreation Demand Model (RDM)

- Rec. measures process now informed by harvest projections generated by NEFSC Recreation Demand Model (RDM)
 - Used for the first time to set 2023 measures
- See overview document at:
https://www.mafmc.org/s/Tab02_RDM-Overview_2023-12.pdf
- Council/Board will receive refresher on RDM before discussing rec. measures, Tues 12/12 at 1pm

Percent Change in Harvest Needed for 2024-2025



<i>Column 1</i> 2024-25 RHL vs expected harvest under 2023 measures
RHL greater than upper bound of expected harvest CI (RHL underage expected)
RHL within expected harvest CI (harvest expected to be close to RHL)
RHL less than lower bound of expected harvest CI (RHL overage expected)

- **Percent Change Approach Step 1:** Compare 2024-2025 average RHL to 80% confidence interval around expected 2024-2025 harvest under current (2023) measures

	Median (mil lbs.)	80% CI	2024-2025 Ave. RHL
RDM	15.29	16.29 – 14.07	12.51

Average RHL is less than the lower bound of the CI

Percent Change Approach Step 2 &3



<i>Column 1</i> Ave. 2024-2025 RHL vs expected harvest under 2023 measures	<i>Column 2</i> Biomass compared to target level (SSB/SSB_{MSY})	<i>Column 3</i> Change in Harvest
RHL greater than upper bound of expected harvest CI (RHL underage expected)	Very high greater than 150% of target	Liberalization % = difference between harvest estimate and 2023 RHL, not to exceed 40%
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Rec. Accountability Measures



3. If biomass is above the target: Adjustments to measures will be made, taking into account the performance of the measures and conditions that precipitated the overage

Year	Rec. Harvest (mil lbs.)	Rec. Dead Discards (mil lbs.)	Total Dead Rec. Catch (mil lbs.)	Rec. ACL (mil lbs.)	% Over/Under ACL
2020	12.91	1.15	14.06	7.87	+79%
2021	16.62	1.36	17.98	7.66	+135%
2022	17.36	1.63	18.99	7.06	+169%
Average	15.63	1.42	17.05	7.53	+126%

2020 recreational estimates were developed using imputation methods

- GARFO letter indicated no additional action is required in 2024 to address recent overages, given 2023 10% reduction adopted and the improvements made to RDM

Resulting 2024-2025 Harvest Target

- Federal and state measures should collectively achieve the **10% reduction** required by Percent Change Approach
 - RDM median estimate of 15.29 million pounds results in a harvest target of **13.76 million pounds**



2024 Fed. Waters Recreational Season

- Joint Dec. 2022 meeting, the Council/Board agreed to:
 - Reduce possession limit to 40 fish
 - **Shorten the federal waters season to May 1 – Dec. 31**
 - Maintain the 10-inch min. size adopted in 2021
- Throughout 2023, the May 1 – Dec. 31 season (i.e., Jan. 1 – April 31 closure) has come up at several Board and Council meetings
 - Concern about season disproportionately impacting some states, specifically southern states like NJ expressed importance of wave 1 and 2 to the for-hire industry
 - Northern states expressed need for season given those states took the bulk of the required 2023 reduction and desire for consistency between state/federal regs
 - Some concern with accuracy of wave 1 & 2 MRIP data



2024 Fed. Waters Recreational Season Continued

- When this topic came up at the joint August 2023 meeting
 - GARFO indicated that if the forthcoming rec. management measures setting process indicates the May 1 – Dec. 31 federal season is no longer needed; NOAA could publish a rule by the end of 2023 to modify the federal season for 2024
- **MC Feedback:**
 - Overall supportive of removing the federal waters season as it provides greater flexibility for states when setting measures
 - Limited data available to assess Wave 1&2 rec. harvest
 - Could consider mandatory permit or reporting requirements in the future during that time of year (like Feb. BSB fishery)
 - However, this would need to be discussed in depth with consideration of what would be best for the scup fishery
 - Requested analysis of VTR



Jan – April Catch Estimate Using VTR Data



Month	Total number of trips	Avg. number anglers per trip	Avg. # fish harvested per angler	Ave. annual harvested fish reported on VTRs (# fish)	Ave. annual for-hire harvest (lbs.) ^a	Estimated annual for-hire and private harvest in all waters (lbs.) ^b	Estimated annual for-hire and private harvest in federal waters only (lbs.) ^c
Jan	24	27	10	269	253	1,407	70
Feb	14	35	16	558	525	2,915	146
March	15	28	4	110	103	575	29
April	16	26	11	298	280	1,555	78
Jan – April	69	29	10	1,235	1,161	6,452	323

^a Represent total harvested fish as reported on VTRs multiplied by the average MRIP-estimated weight of landed fish for all modes in 2018-2022 (i.e., 0.94 pounds).

^b Values were calculated based on an assumption that total harvest was 18% for-hire, 82% private based on average wave 6 (November-December) MRIP data for 2018-2022.

^c Values were calculated based on an assumption that 5% of total harvest came from federal waters based on average MRIP data for 2018-2022.

The MC will meet on Dec. 7 to finalize their recommendation related to the current Jan – April federal waters closure

MC Recommendations – *as of November*

- Supported the use of the RDM for estimating scup 2024-2025 harvest under 2023 measures and use of an 80% CI
 - Results in a required 10% reduction in harvest
- Recommended maintaining federal waters measures, with the exemption of the current federal waters Jan – April closure, and adjustments to state waters made through to Commission process to achieve the full 10% reduction
 - Federal waters measures would consist of a year-round (Jan – Dec) open season, 40 fish possession limit, and 10-inch size limit

