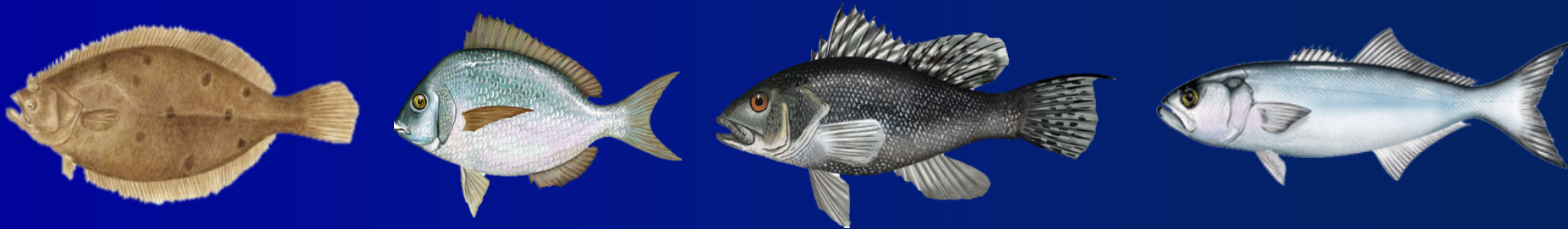




Previously Initiated Recreational Reform Initiative Actions



Council and ASMFC Policy Board
December 13, 2022

Objectives

- Review previously initiated Recreational Reform items:
 1. Technical Guidance Document
 2. Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment
- Discuss whether these are priorities for further development in 2023
- Discuss next steps

Recreational Reform Timeline

- **Spring 2019 - Summer 2020:** Joint Steering Committee focusing on all 4 species
- **Oct. 2020:** Council and Policy Board initiate joint FW/addendum and amendment
- **Dec 2020:** Staff recommend addressing some topics through a technical guidance document
- **Feb. 2021:** Council/Policy Board prioritized development of Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda
- **June 2022:** Final action on Harvest Control Rule FW/Addenda

Recreational Reform Initiative Goals

- **Stability** in rec. mgmt. measures (bag/size/season)
- **Flexibility** in the mgmt. process
- **Accessibility** aligned with availability/stock status



Rec. Reform Topics

Technical Guidance Document	Framework/Addendum	Amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for identifying and smoothing outlier MRIP estimates • Use of preliminary current year MRIP data • Guidelines for maintaining status quo measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Envelope of uncertainty approach for determining if changes to rec. management measures are needed* • Multi-year rec. measures* • Changes to the timing of recommending federal waters measures • Harvest Control Rule* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. sector separation • Rec. catch accounting

Harvest Control Rule FW/Addenda

- Percent Change Approach approved for use starting 2023 rec. measures for fluke, scup, and black sea bass.
- To be replaced with a new approach in time for 2026 measures.
- Details of new approach TBD.
 - Will require a new management action.
 - May include re-consideration of non-preferred Harvest Control Rule Alternatives (e.g., “binned” approaches).
 - Potential overlap between this action and previously identified technical guidance documents topics.

Technical Guidance Document

- Topics which may not require changes to the FMP
- **Previously identified topics for this document:**
 1. Guidelines for identifying and smoothing outlier MRIP estimates
 2. Evaluate pros and cons of using preliminary current year data
 3. Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo rec. measures
- **Additional topics can be considered:**
 - Topics partially developed through HCR (e.g., use of confidence intervals) may warrant further development through this effort
 - Guidelines for use of recreational fishery models

Technical Guidance Document

1. Guidelines for identifying and smoothing outlier MRIP estimates

- Three recent examples of black sea bass MRIP estimates identified as outliers and treated differently in management process
 - Method used to identify and modify outliers varied
 - How estimates were used in management process differed
- Council/Policy Board agreed it would be beneficial to adopt a more standardized approach
 - No process currently laid out in FMPs

Technical Guidance Document

2. Evaluate pros and cons of using preliminary current year data

- Previously, fluke, scup, black sea bass harvest was estimated using preliminary, current year data.
- Bluefish harvest estimated using previous year or multiple year average when considering rec. to commercial transfers.
- Methodologies based on MC recommendations.
- New modeling tools available.
- No process currently prescribed in FMPs.

Technical Guidance Document

3. Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo rec. measures

- Standardized guidelines for comparing harvest data and stock status metrics when considering measures.
 - Considered through several alternatives in HCR and partially incorporated into Percent Change Approach.
- Intent was to establish pre-determined, standardized checklist of metrics to evaluate if measures should remain unchanged, be restricted, or liberalized.

SECTOR SEPARATION AND CATCH ACCOUNTING AMENDMENT

Sector Separation

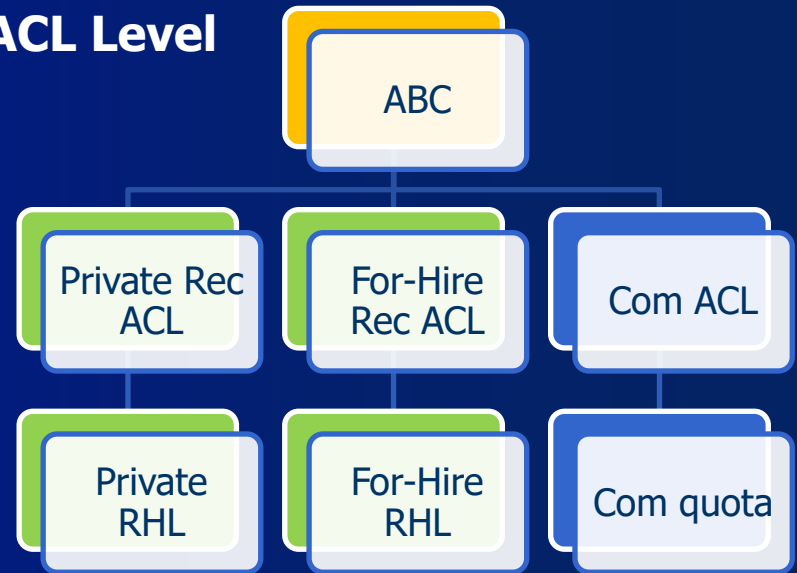
- During Com/Rec Allocation Amendment, several comments expressed interest in sector separation
- Manage rec. for-hire differently than private/shore
- Could be considered by:
 - Separate allocations
 - Separate measures

Sector Separation Using Separate Allocations

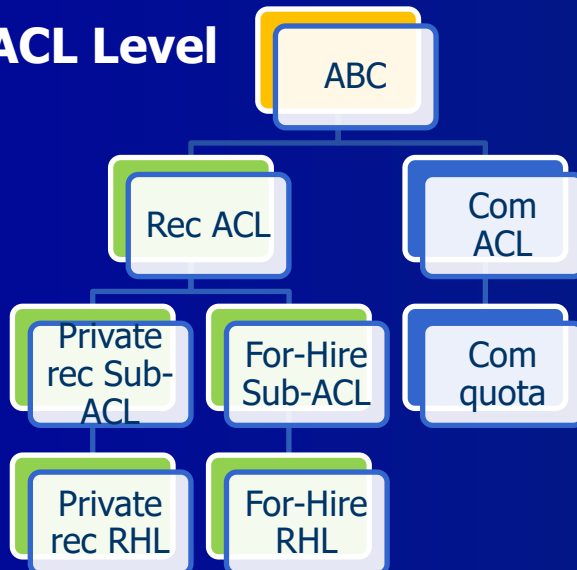
A: Current



B: ACL Level



C: Sub-ACL Level



D: RHL Level



Data Considerations for Separate Allocations

- Allocation considerations
 - Weight vs. number of fish
 - Catch vs. harvest
 - Data broken down by sector is more uncertain
 - Appropriate base years or other methods
- Use of VTR data
 - A lot of interest in making better use of VTR data
 - Only available in numbers of fish
 - Concerns about accuracy of self-reported data
 - Most state-only permitted vessels do not submit VTRs

Sector Separation Using Separate Measures

- Rather than separate allocations, could consider different management measures
 - Already used for bluefish in state and federal waters and for scup and black sea bass in some states
- Might not require an amendment
- Could be helpful to develop a consistent policy for:
 - How to develop and adjust measures
 - Accountability by sector
 - Clarifying process for stakeholders and managers

Catch Accounting

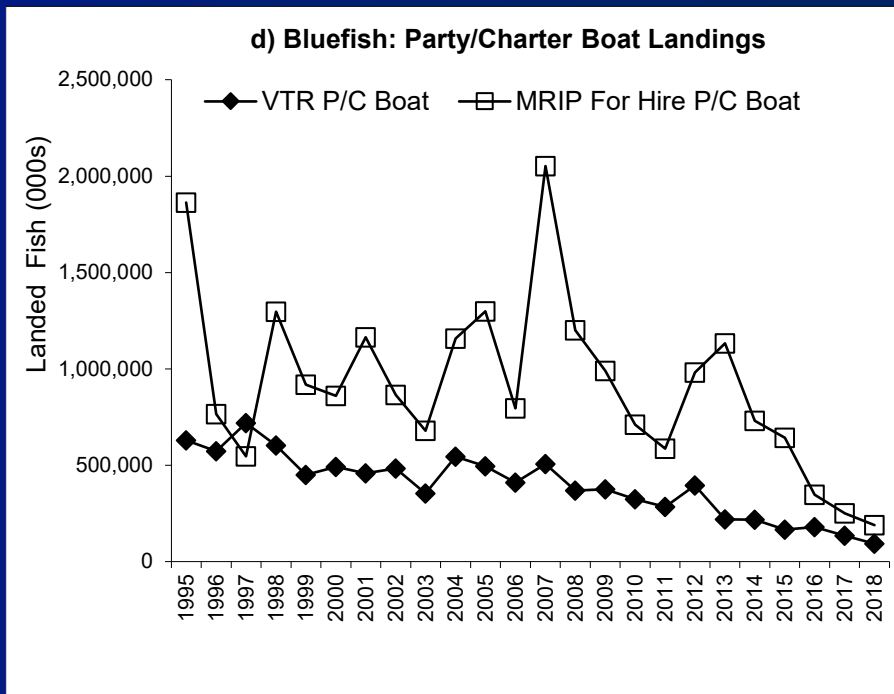
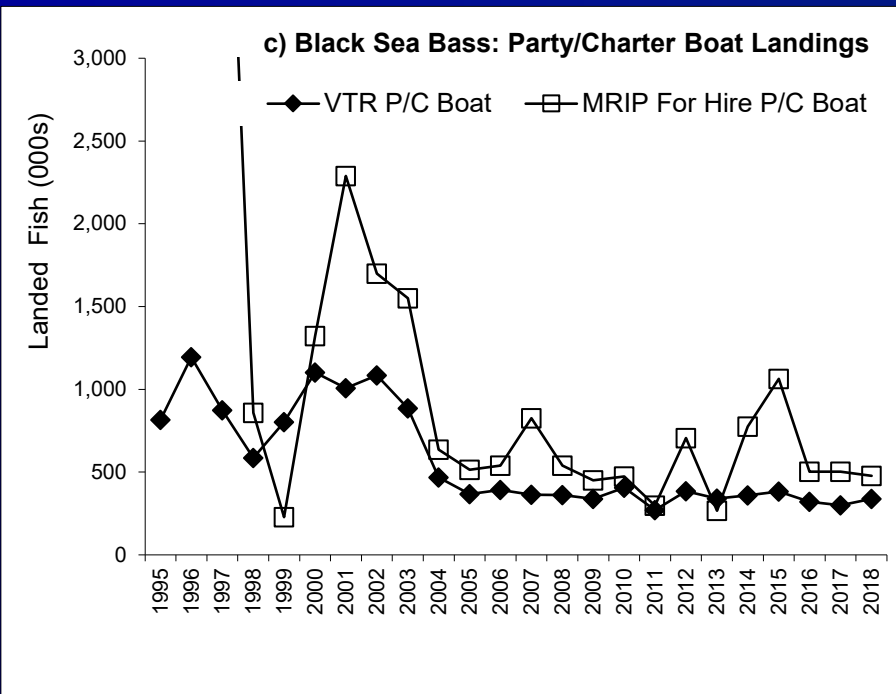
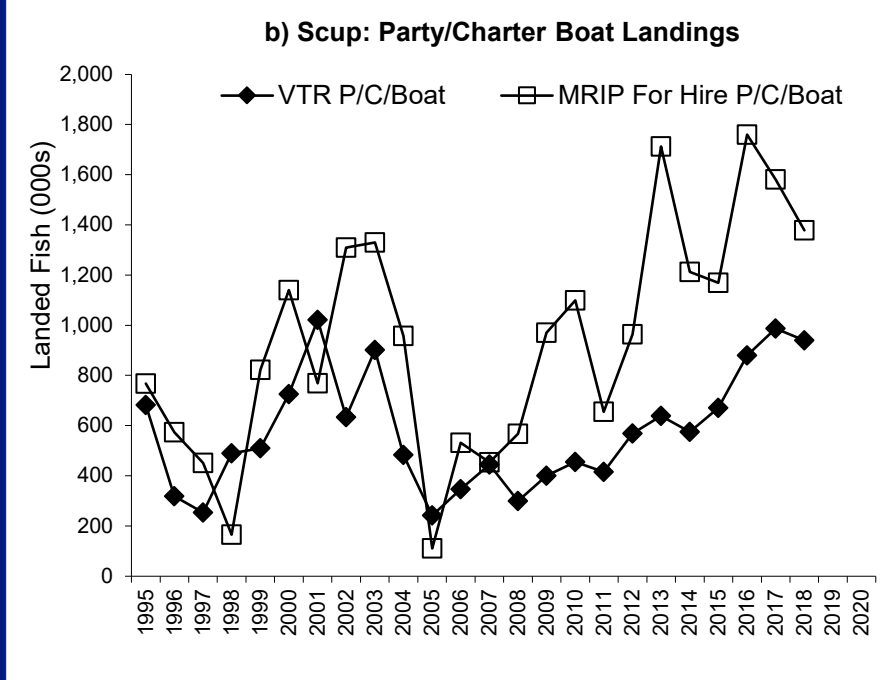
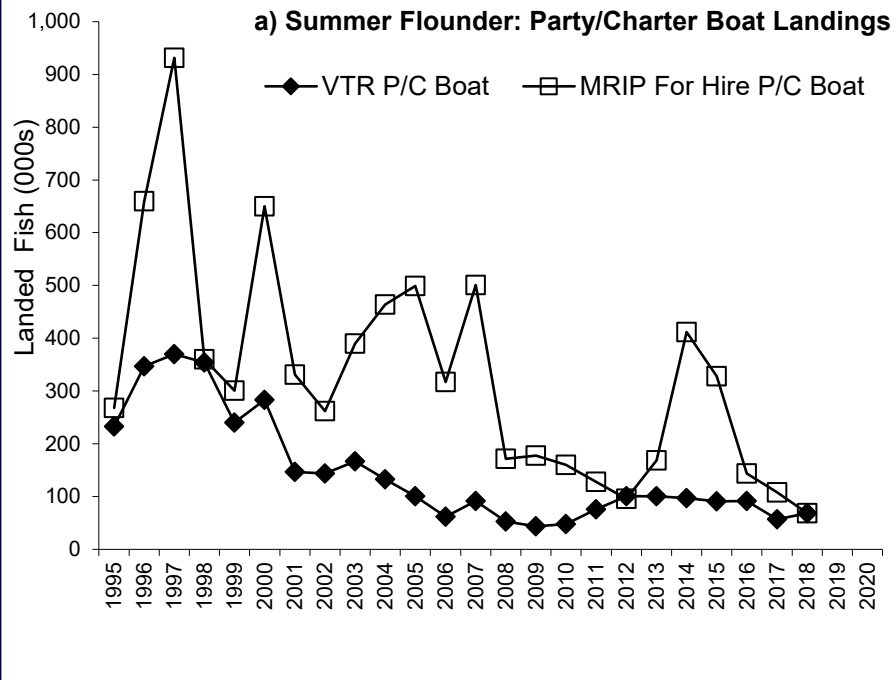
Examples of potential approaches suggested during scoping for com/rec allocation amendment:

- Explore feasibility of private angler reporting
- Tagging programs
 - Issue tags for a specific number of fish
- Mandatory tournament reporting
- Enhanced VTR requirements
 - Require VTRs for for-hire vessels that do not have federal permits
 - Reinstate “did not fish” reports

Discussion

- Do these items remain a priority for continued development in 2023?
- Are issues within each action still appropriate?

Backup Slides



MRIP PSEs for total catch in numbers of fish, (ME-VA)

	Summer Flounder			Scup			Black Sea Bass		
	For-Hire	Private/ Shore	All modes	For-Hire	Private/ Shore	All modes	For-Hire	Private/ Shore	All modes
2004	13.8	5.9	5.7	28.4	15.4	14.4	19.7	16.3	14.2
2005	11.3	7.4	7.1	27.1	19.6	19.1	16.9	12.4	11.0
2006	16.8	8.0	7.7	18.1	16.1	15.4	15.3	11.1	9.8
2007	10.9	6.7	6.4	16.5	15.3	14.3	10.4	10.9	9.2
2008	10.1	6.5	6.3	16.8	11.6	10.5	9.5	15.7	14.4
2009	10.1	5.8	5.7	15.1	11.5	10.6	10.3	10.2	9.3
2010	12.6	6.8	6.7	24.8	10.4	9.8	12.0	23.2	21.8
2011	9.3	6.6	6.5	18.8	15.2	14.5	12.4	10.5	9.7
2012	9.9	11.3	11.1	16.4	12.3	11.3	10.1	9.7	9.1
2013	12.9	8.2	8.0	7.9	11.7	10.6	6.8	9.0	8.5
2014	18.2	8.6	8.2	17.8	10.5	9.7	13.5	8.4	7.6
2015	12.2	8.0	7.7	14.0	15.6	14.8	12.0	10.2	9.1
2016	8.5	8.0	7.8	10.6	10.5	10.0	7.1	8.5	7.9
2017	13.5	10.7	10.4	8.0	13.5	12.7	6.6	11.8	11.1
2018	8.7	6.6	6.4	9.2	8.6	8.1	9.6	6.3	5.7
2019	12.6	8.8	8.6	10.7	6.7	6.1	8.7	6.5	5.9
AVG	11.9	7.7	7.4	16.6	13.2	12.4	11.5	11.6	10.6

Legend

