



## Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Performance Report June 2022

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council's) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel (AP) met jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (Commission's) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass AP on June 16, 2022 to review the Fishery Information Documents and develop the following Fishery Performance Report for all three species. The primary purpose of this report is to contextualize catch histories for the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) by providing information about fishing effort, market trends, environmental changes, and other factors.

Please note: Advisor comments described below are not necessarily consensus or majority statements.

Additional comments provided by advisors via email are attached to this document.

**Council Advisory Panel members present:** Katie Almeida (MA), Frank Blount (RI)\*, Bonnie Brady (NY), Greg DiDomenico (NJ)\*, Jeff Deem (VA), Joseph Devito (NY), James Fletcher (NC), Jeremy Hancher (PA), Victor Hartley (NJ), Greg Hueth (NJ), Mike Plaia (CT)\*, Bob Pride (VA), Mike Waine (NC), Harvey Yenkinson (PA)

**Commission Advisory Panel members present:** Frank Blount (RI)\*, Greg DiDomenico (NJ)\*, Jim Lovgren (NJ), Mike Plaia (CT)\*

\*These individuals serve on both the Council and Commission APs.

**Others present:** Chris Batsavage (Council/Board member, NC DMF), Tracey Bauer (ASMFC Staff), Julia Beaty (MAFMC Staff), John Boreman (SSC), Dustin Colson Leaning (ASMFC Staff), Karson Coutré (MAFMC Staff), Kiley Dancy (MAFMC Staff), Justin Davis (Board member, CT DEEP), Neil Delanoy, Steve Doctor (MD DNR), Hannah Hart (MAFMC Staff), Mark Holliday (SSC), Carolyn Iwicki, Emily Keiley (NMFS GARFO), Adam Nowalsky (Council/Board member, NJ)

### Discussion questions

1. What factors influenced recent catch (markets/economy, environment, regulations, other factors)?
2. Are the current fishery regulations appropriate? How could they be improved?
3. What would you recommend as research priorities?
4. What else is important for the Council to know?

## **General Comments (All 3 Species)**

---

### ***Market/Economic Conditions***

Several advisors voiced concerns about the impacts of increasing costs of gas, bait, packing boxes, ice, equipment, etc. on commercial and recreational fisheries. Multiple advisors said this was the biggest issue facing commercial and recreational fisheries for all three fisheries this year.

One advisor said commercial fisheries will not be able to operate profitably and will struggle to pay crew. This advisor recommended an emergency action from the White House to provide economic relief to commercial fishermen given that they supply critical food to the nation.

A few advisors said increased prices are resulting in reduced recreational fishing effort, and they are observing fewer boats on the water and in marinas. For-hire businesses are incurring higher costs and are having to charge more for trips. One advisor noted a decline in for-hire clients, including fewer trips from clients who used to be regulars. Due to the added cost of gas, tolls, and the price of a trip, clients are being more selective on how many and what trips they take. Another advisor said he has made this same personal decision himself as it is not economically feasible to take the same number of party boat trips as he would have typically done in past years. Another advisor noted that these increased costs are also coming at a time of more restrictive regulations for species such as scup and black sea bass, which will further reduce fishing effort. Multiple advisors also commented on increased prices for recreational bait and how this may impact what species anglers are targeting.

One advisor noted that the world is in a unique post COVID-19 time where people are starting to get back into their “normal” day to day, but the current state of the economy is going to impact seafood purchases, fishing effort, and the number of anglers on the water. One advisor expressed concern about the impacts of imported fish on the U.S. market. He said imports flood the market and affect the price of U.S. caught fish and suggested the need to further investigate this issue.

### ***Recreational Management Issues***

One advisor said more people are comfortable gathering together this year compared to 2020 and 2021. This may be working in combination with the increased prices described above to further reduce recreational fisheries participation this year. In 2020 and 2021 recreational fishing was viewed as safe outdoor activity during the pandemic and effort was higher. This advisor thought these impacts on effort will be important to consider in upcoming assessments.

Another advisor asked what number of recreational fishermen NMFS is using to generate recreational harvest estimates. Staff responded that NMFS does not produce a number of recreational fishermen, and instead measures effort in the number of angler trips. This advisor also said an accurate count of all saltwater recreational anglers is needed to comply with the Magnuson Stevens Act and to better manage recreational fisheries for all species. This advisor recommended requiring electronic reporting for the recreational sector and said that until this requirement is in place, we will continue to make decisions off flawed data.

One advisor expressed concern about the Council and Commission’s recent final action decision on the Harvest Control Rule. She questioned how the Harvest Control Rule would prevent overfishing and would prevent negative impacts to the commercial sector.

### ***Commercial Management Issues***

One advisor suggested modifying the minimum trawl mesh size to 5 inches for all three species from November through April so fishermen could use one net to target all three species during this period. He noted that during this time of year, the commercial fisheries for these species mostly take place offshore where there are fewer juveniles compared to inshore. He suggested using a high rise style net that doesn't hit the bottom as hard as a typical summer flounder net.

Another advisor expressed support for a common mesh size but preferred 4 inches over 5 inches. He also said the minimum fish sizes should be modified to correspond with the changed minimum mesh sizes. He suggested a 10 or 11 inch summer flounder minimum fish size and a minimum size for black sea bass and scup of between 6 and 8 inches.

### ***Environmental Conditions***

One advisor voiced concern on the Outer Banks in North Carolina eventually being washed away due to sea level rise and storms.

Another advisor said the impacts of the addition of chemicals in the water, including chemicals and disinfectants used to kill the COVID virus, should be investigated. This advisor also noted the need to investigate other pollutants being dumped into water bodies in the south and the northward movement of these pollutants and potential impacts on mid-Atlantic fisheries.

One advisor suggested that environmental cycles impact fisheries and their influence on fish abundance and behavior should be studied.

## **Summer Flounder**

---

### ***Market/Economic Conditions***

One advisor said that from January through April this year, commercial fishermen reported unusually low prices for summer flounder. Prices have since recovered to typical levels for this time of year. Low prices earlier this year may have been driven by the lack of the hospitality business in New York, as summer flounder is not a big retail fish and is bought mostly by hotels and restaurants, where demand is still down due to COVID.

An advisor from New York said summer flounder prices have increased there for the first time in years, to the \$5-6 per pound range. Because New York has a low quota allocation, this may not be indicative of the rest of the market.

As described under General Comments, several advisors voiced concerns about high fuel prices. One New York advisor stated that fishermen will not necessarily fish as far as they typically do for summer flounder and may not use permits they hold in other states as much. For example, New York fishermen permitted in other states won't make a trip to land in Virginia or North Carolina due to the two to three day steam time required. Another advisor agreed that high costs will likely cause lower landings in Virginia and North Carolina, contributing to continued commercial quota underages. He stated that managers should come up with new "outside the box" ideas for that quota, because those states do not have the boats anymore to harvest it and vessels from other states won't incur a \$30,000 fuel bill to fish there.

This advisor also said recently he was aware of two boats fishing a few miles from Point Pleasant, NJ for three or four days, getting only a few hundred pounds for 15 hours, since there are not a lot

of fluke available yet this year. While they sold them for a good price, over \$6 per pound, after the cost of fuel there was nothing left. He said this is not sustainable, and while managers cannot do anything about this, they should be aware that it will reduce participation.

### ***Environmental Conditions and Availability***

One advisor noted that the current assessment update includes data through 2019 and shows increasing biomass during 2017-2019. However, recreational harvest over these has not shown the same increasing trend. He is curious what the next assessment (in 2023) will show and is interested in tracking how landings correspond with the biomass trends from the assessment.

Three advisors said this year, summer flounder do not seem to be inshore or in the bays yet in large numbers and recreational summer flounder fishing has not taken off yet this summer. One advisor suggested that this was due to water temperatures and that some are starting to show up now.

### ***General Management Issues***

One advisor suggested that the decline in recruitment between 2010 and 2019 is because the spawning stock biomass came to consist of smaller fish due to Council and Commission's policies which drove increased harvest of larger female fish. He stated that spawning stock biomass was lower in the 90s but recruitment was higher, because the fisheries were harvesting smaller fish and allowing the larger fish to spawn. He emphasized that management needs to change its current policies and recognize the importance of "big old fat fecund female fish."

### ***Recreational Fishery Issues***

A few advisors commented on the 2022 recreational regulations in New Jersey which include a split slot limit measure (two fish allowed at 17-17.99 inches and one fish above 18 inches). One advisor was supportive of this measure, but hoped that next year the slot limit range could be widened. He hoped that a slot limit would protect more larger females and have positive impacts on the summer flounder stock.

Another advisor expressed some hesitation about the slot limit, stating that he believes more fish have been harvested in southern New Jersey so far this year than all of last year combined. He was concerned that harvest estimates may notably increase which could have negative impacts on the recreational fishery in the long run. While he noted that a slot limit may slightly reduce discards, he thinks people will continue to fish until they catch a big fish, such that harvest of larger breeders may not be substantially reduced. This advisor also thought the lower bag limit this year of three total fish in New Jersey would have negative economic impacts by preventing out of town anglers from investing in fishing trips to target summer flounder.

### ***Research Recommendations***

One advisor said he believes recent low summer flounder recruitment is caused not by the number of eggs produced, but by predation on larvae in the first year of life. He suggested that researchers determine what is eating them and how that is impacting the summer flounder stock.

One advisor noted that there will be extensive wind farms throughout the continental shelf and we need to know how that will impact fishery migrations. He noted that summer flounder will be affected by underground cables and magnetic fields, and we need to know if they will avoid these cables and how this will change their migratory routes as they are bottom dwellers. This could also drive them into less optimal areas, for example, areas with higher concentrations of predators. He requested that these impacts be documented. Another advisor agreed with this recommendation.

One advisor expressed concern that we don't know as much as we should about the migration patterns of summer flounder beyond a general East-West pattern. There has been a shift in the stock distribution toward the Northeast that is blamed on oceanic factors, but he suggested that we need to better understand this distribution change as there may be more to it. This same advisor also suggested that we get a better handle on the question of summer flounder recruitment by adjusting sampling locations to better account for changes in stock distribution. Finally, this advisor recommended that we find better ways to conduct population surveys than trawl surveys, which disturb fish and their habitat and kill a lot of fish. Newer and better technology may exist to conduct surveys without killing the fish and destroying vulnerable habitats.

## **Scup**

---

### ***Market/Economic Conditions***

One advisor said prices for scup this winter were good, and prices got up to \$2.50 per pound for jumbos, \$1.75 per pound for larges, and \$1 per pound for mediums. She added that it was extremely windy off New York during this year's Winter I season, so optimal fishing days were few and far between and only those bold enough to face the poor weather conditions were able to fish.

In addition to the comments described above about impacts of higher prices on for-hire fisheries for all three species, one advisor said scup are not common in state waters off New Jersey and the price of fuel will likely impact recreational effort and individuals' willingness to make the trip into federal waters.

One advisor expressed concern on the impact of imported fish on the U.S. scup market. This advisor also commented on the historical importance of small fish for low-income families and suggested decreasing the commercial minimum size limit to six or seven inches to help bring that market back.

### ***Commercial Fishery Issues***

One advisor recommended modifying the southern portion of the Southern Scup Gear Restricted Area (GRA). He said scup are no longer common as far south as Virginia and the southern 20 miles of the southern GRA is only taking away fishing area from small mesh trawl fisheries with no biological benefit to scup.

A few advisors recommended allowing commercial transfers at sea. These advisors indicated allowing transfers at sea would reduce regulatory discards and help commercial fishermen harvest more of the commercial quota each year. However, there was some confusion on which species at sea transfers was already permitted and one advisor brought up that at sea transfers for scup is already allowed in rule. One advisor suggested implementing some provisions on how far from shore and time of year at sea transfers are allowed.

### ***Recreational Fishery Issues***

Advisors voiced concern about the high landing estimates produced by MRIP. Two advisors questioned if poor data scenarios are inflating harvest estimates and requested reaching out to MRIP staff to get more details. One advisor said the 2021 wave two estimates for Massachusetts were particularly concerning and expressed frustration on how they were driven by a single trip intercept.

Some advisors also questioned why the recreational sector is continuing to exceed the recreational harvest limit (RHL) and one advisor expressed concern about the new Recreational Harvest Control Rule, as described above in the General Comments section for all three species.

### ***Research Recommendations***

Several advisors voiced the need to better understand how offshore wind energy development will impact scup. One advisor said some of the planned project areas are within the scup migratory path and expressed the need to better understand how noise pollution and vibrations caused by offshore wind energy structures will impact scup behavior and biology.

## **Black Sea Bass**

---

### ***Market/Economic Issues***

One advisor from New York noted that the price for black sea bass remains low and has not yet fully recovered from impacts of the pandemic, likely because the market for black sea bass is largely driven by restaurants.

### ***Commercial Fishery Issues***

One advisor suggested a 7,500 pound commercial trip limit for black sea bass in federal waters. There is currently no commercial trip limit in federal waters. Several states have implemented trip limits for state waters; however, states that manage their commercial black sea bass fisheries with individual transferable quotas (ITQs) do not have trip limits. This advisor noted that a single 50,000 pound trip from an ITQ vessel once caused the price to crash for two weeks. Lower prices result in fishermen needing to catch more fish to make the same amount of money. He noted that some pot fishermen have sold their ITQs to trawl fishermen, which has contributed to the issue of high landings from single trips negatively impacting the price for all fishermen in an area. This advisor said he did not support ITQs for black sea bass for this reason and because they can lead to a few fishermen landing most of the fish.

### ***Recreational Fishery Issues***

Two advisors noted that black sea bass availability to recreational anglers remains very high.

One advisor said he hasn't seen as many recreational boats on the water as in previous years, but the boats that are out are doing very well catching black sea bass. He said no matter what management does, the recreational fishery will keep going over their limits because availability is so high. Even with fewer boats in the fishery, less clients on for-hire trips, and bait prices rising, he predicted that the recreational fishery would still exceed the RHL due to high availability. He thought the recreational fishery should be less restricted given that biomass is so high.

One advisor noted that if the RHL is decreased in future years due to past overages, then the reduced RHL could cause the stock to grow even more. This would lead to even higher availability and continued overages. He argued that reducing landings limits in response to overages is counterproductive for abundant stocks. He also noted that minimum size limits for black sea bass result in anglers mostly harvesting male fish, which should not be overly detrimental to the stock.

One advisor from New Jersey said that with increased costs, for-hire vessels are charging \$105 per trip with a 10 fish bag limit for black sea bass. He did not think these trips would be economically

feasible with an 8 fish bag limit. He noted that for-hire vessels don't have many other species to target besides black sea bass, especially with lower summer flounder availability.

### ***Research Recommendations***

One advisor asked if black sea bass can transition from female to male and then back to female. He asked this question because he observed an 8-10 pound black sea bass which was full of roe and normally female black sea bass do not reach this size, to his knowledge. He questioned if this could be happening due to contaminants in the water and recommended research into this topic. Another advisor noted that dogfish can store sperm and wondered if black sea bass could store roe after starting to transition to males.

## Additional Email Comments

---

**From:** Katie Almeida <kalmeida@towndock.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** Hart, Hannah <hhart@mafmc.org>  
**Subject:** RE: SFSBSB draft Fishery Performance Report

Hi Hannah,

I had to leave the call early, but I just wanted to say that I am against decreasing the commercial minimum size scup. Can that be noted?

Thank you,

Katie

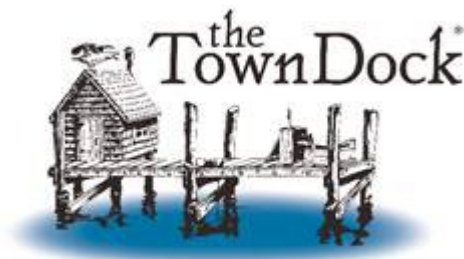
### **Katie Almeida**

**Senior Representative, Government Relations  
and Sustainability**

45 State Street | Narragansett, RI 02882 USA

O: 401-789-2200 x143 | C: 508-930-2633

[www.towndock.com](http://www.towndock.com)



The contents of this e-mail message and any attachments are confidential and are intended solely for the recipient. Any review, use, distribution or disclosure by others is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient (or authorized to receive for the recipient), please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete all copies of this message and its attachments, if any.

---

### **COMMENTS BY ERIC BURNLEY 6/17/22**

Summer flounder:

Summer flounder are the most important recreational fish in Delaware. They are available from the shallow water on the Inland Bays out to the offshore wrecks.

At this time, I would say flounder fishing is decent. No one is setting the world on fire, but if you know how to fish, you can pick up a few here and there and if you work at it, you can box a four-fish limit.

Everything got off to a late start this year due to cold water sticking around into late spring. I suspect we will see the best of the flounder fishing in the ocean beginning in late June into early July.



The drop in minimum size from 16.5 to 16 inches has not made a great difference. The photos I see and the reports I get don't mention many 16-inch fish. I am also not hearing complaints about having to sort through lots of shorts to find a few keepers. I don't see this as a good sign. A lack of short fish could mean a lack of flounder in the pipeline for the future.

I am always concerned about global warming. I have seen what it has done with triggerfish, sheepshead, striped bass and spadefish. I wonder what it will do with flounder?

In the past, the marshes behind the Barrier Islands of Virginia and up into Delaware were the nursery grounds for summer flounder. As these waters warm will the flounder try to move north and find it hard to relocate into New York City?

Then there is the normal progression of summer flounder from south to north. Smaller flounder head north every spring after spending the winter on the shelf. They summer further north every year ending up on the New England Shoals right now. Will they be going into Canada in the future as the ocean warms?

Summer flounder could use more research on their breeding habits. We know they spawn in the fall in the ocean, but where in the ocean? Should we stop flounder fishing during the spawning season? Should we have a maximum size limit on flounder as we do on striped bass? Do we know the spawning stock biomass for summer flounder?

Of course, some people always want more and some always want less, but I think for summer flounder a four-fish limit at 16 inches is just right for now. These fish are not easy to catch and most anglers don't catch a limit on any given day so I think the current limit is safe.

Black sea bass:

What happened with black sea bass in 2022 was a travesty. There was no logical reason to raise the size limit to 13 inches and cut the season by 20 days when the biomass was three times the target level.

Black sea bass fishing is a drop and crank operation. Most of the time. There are times when you will mark thousands of fish and not one will bite. I am sure they have a good reason, but so far no one I know has been able to figure it out.

With the increase in the size limit, I must assume there will be an increase in release mortality. When fishing from a head boat, as I often do, the number of small sea bass floating away is quite high. Granted, many will right themselves and swim back down to the bottom, but not all.

Perhaps managers might consider this factor before arbitrarily raising the minimum size limit. To say black sea bass are numerous on the artificial reef sites such as the Del-Jersey-Land is quite an understatement. Trying to fish for flounder or tog on these structures is difficult due to the overwhelming presence of the sea bass. They do thin out in the winter giving tog fishermen some relief.

I certainly would like to see more information on the breeding habits of black sea bass. When do they spawn? Where do they spawn? When they get lockjaw is that because they are spawning? At what age do they spawn?

I have seen the data on the migration of black sea bass from south to north. At what point will we lose them in Delaware? Is there any similar species that might take their place?

As for future regulations, let's go back to 12.5 inches. Let's keep the season running from May 15 to December 31. There are plenty of black sea bass out there so let's share the bounty.

Scup:

I will save scup comments for those to my north. While there was a time when porgies were an important fishery in Delaware that time is past. A few more show up every year, but not enough to consider this a fishery.

---

**From:** James Fletcher <bamboosavefish@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:25 PM  
**To:** Kiley Dancy; Andrew Petersen  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda for 6/16 Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel meeting

Before we go down same line of thought:::

**CAN ADVISORS DISCUSS BOFFFF \*\*\* BIG OLD FAT FECUND FEMALE FISH\*\*\* AND CELL PHONE REPORTING BY RECREATIONAL IN EEZ? BLUE FIN DATA HAS AN APP FOR RECREATIONAL REPORTING AND WILL HANDLE DATA FOR A FEE.**

SCUP SUMMER FLOUNDER BLACK SEA BASS PLANS ARE BASED ON FAULTY INCORRECT SCIENCE!  
All net sizes are incorrect for all three species; fishermen asked for 5 inch cod end all three species.  
BOFFFF would favor recreational total length & no discards. if videoed throwing anything back NOVA in EEZ. LOW INCOME FROM SHORE WOULD HAVE FISH FOR FOOD **NO DEAD DISCARDS!**  
BOFFFF commercial vessel has dollar value for year \*\*\* must land and sell all catch \*\* no exceptions NO DEAD DISCARDS.

**ARE CLOSED SEASONS AND SIZE LIMITS A NOAA / NMFS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; METHOD TO ALLOW IMPORTS A MARKET SHARE?**

**WILL STAFF PROVIDE IMPORT INFORMATION FOR FISH THAT COMPETE WITH SCUP BLACK SEA BASS & SUMMER FLOUNDER?**

**COMMERCE NOAA NMFS FIRST PROPOSED SIZE LIMITS AND CLOSED SEASONS AS PART OF MAGNUSON. WHY DOES MAGNUSON ALLOW DEAD DISCARDS?**

**ALLOW AN ADVISOR DISCUSSION OF BOFFFF JAMES FLETCHER**

---

**From:** James Fletcher <unfa34@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 10:19 AM  
**To:** Kiley Dancy  
**Subject:** Up coming review Summer Flounder Scup Black Sea Bass.

I have asked in the past for the pounds of imports for Talipa and imports that are sold in place of summer Flounder and Black Sea bass, The Council has an economist who should be able to obtain the numbers .

in the past I requested these numbers with no results so I am asking again.

Advisors need to know the amount of fish that are imported into the market U.S. fishermen could fill.

Our discards are only discards because of Council size limits.

BOFFF begs the advisors to ask that all fish caught be utilized. I do not understand why for recreational.

1. Council can / will NOT SUPPLY A NUMBER OF SALT WATER ANGLERS 7 comply with 2006 Magnuson. 2 why Council NMFS WILL NOT REQUIRE MANDATORY CELL PHONE BY RECREATIONAL!

back to original request. NUMBER OF POUNDS FOR IMPORTS THAT COMPETE WITH SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP \*\* TALIPA SUMMER FLOUNDER IF POSSIBLE PRICES.

THANK YOU JAMES FLETCHER.

---

**From:** James Fletcher <unfa34@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 11:05 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia <jbeaty@mafmc.org>  
**Subject:** Today's meeting possible question

With low income fishers fishing from shore not being able to keep fish smaller than size set for EEZ by affluent council members;

sizes set for bragging rather than food.

DOES ANY METHOD EXIST TO IMPLEMENT\*\*\* TOTAL LENGTH RETENTION AND NO **DISCARDING**?

Could Council and mainly STATES enact a A temporary rule ;;; RECREATIONAL FISHERS REPORTING ON CELL PHONE TO A BLUE FIN DATA RECREATIONAL APP. CAN RETAIN 70 INCHES OF FLOUNDER (SUMMER & SOUTHERN) 150 INCHES black sea bass 300 inches scup.

**NO DISCARDS !! [ MUST REPORT CATCHES {LENGTHS} DAILY**

**Persons wishing not t report by cell phone would fish with current regulations:::**

**HARD TIMES CALL FOR DRASTIC MEASURES!!!**

**THOSE WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT AND APPOINTED TO COUNCIL DO NOT KNOW WHAT HARD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ARE!**

BLUE FIN DATA HAS AN APP READY FOR REPORTING.

GORDON WILL THROW A FIT \*\*\* NMFS WILL SAY DOES NOT COMPLY WITH MAGNUSON \*\*\*

NMFS AND GORDON HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH MAGNUSON 2006 RECREATIONAL SALT WATER ANGLER REGISTRATION LIST. **THESE GROUPS ARE THE FIRST TO STOP LOW INCOME FISHERS FROM BEING ABLE TO KEEP FISH FOR FOOD!** THEY HAVE BEEN SILENT ON BOFFFF !

THIS IS VOLUNTARY REPORTING TO GIVE FOOD TO LOWER INCOME SHORE SIDE FISHERS FOOD #####!

CAN THE ADVISORS HOLD A ROLL CALL VOTE ON TOTAL LENGTH AND NO DISCARDS WITH CELL PHONE REPORTING?

PROVIDED COUNCIL DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS FOR THE **BLUE FIN DATA APP PERHAPS A GO FUND ME PAGE COULD BE USED TO PAY FOR APP.**

**PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL ADVISORS!**

**i WAS ASKED TO LEAVE A DOCK AREA SO A FAMILY COULD KEEP THE FISH THEY WERE CATCHING FOR FOOD!**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS WANTING BRAGGING FISH SHOULD FISH WITH ONLY 7 O HOOKS ON BOATS NOTHING SMALLER {FEW SCUP WILL BE CAUGHT} !**

THANK YOU

JAMES FLETCHER

UNITED NATIONAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION YES I AM UPSET!

---

**From:** James Fletcher <unfa34@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 8:28 AM  
**To:** Lewis, June; Beaty, Julia; Kiley Dancy  
**Subject:** No Answer to Question on SF Scup BSB

I receive no answer from a number of request.

1. What is number of recreational fishers in EEZ
2. Why no Comments for a total length for all manages species {no discards}
3. Why do regulations target the largest females?
4. WHAT ARE THE IMPORT NUMBERS FOR FISH { POUNDS OF IMPORTS ALLOWED INTO U.S. BY NMFS & NOAA THAT REPLACE THESE FISH IN MARKET ?.

THE BAD PART IS 80% OF RECREATIONAL FISHERS FISH FROM SHORE & THE CURRENT REGULATIONS DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO KEEP FISH FOR FOOD.

DISCARDS FROM SHORE SIDE FISHING IS NOT CALCULATED CORRECTLY. WHY NOT DISCUSS TOTAL LENGTH RETENTION & NO DISCARDS ESPECIALLY FOR STATE WATERS? THUS ALLOWING LOW INCOME FISHERS FOOD?

Have you ever considered stock enhancement / ocean ranching where faster growing fish or eggs are released.

NO I SELDOM EVER GET ANSWERS! SOME OF MY PROJECTS TAKE 10 YEARS TO BECOME REALITY & THEN ONLY BECAUSE SOME ONE ELSE HELPS TO PUSH THE PROJECT.  
NOAA NMFS WANTS REDUCTION OF FISH FOR FOOD NOT PRODUCTION FOR FOOD.

THANKS FOR ANY AND ALL HELP James Fletcher.

---

**From:** James Fletcher <unfa34@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2022 10:46 AM  
**To:** Hart, Hannah  
**Subject:** Re: SFSBSB draft Fishery Performance Report

Information

<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/mobile/> this number of people with cell phones.  
council should require reporting using *BLUEFIN DATA APP FOR RECREATIONAL REPORTING!*

would you send the Advisor report to [Matthew.cutler@noaa.gov](mailto:Matthew.cutler@noaa.gov) Some how his group is looking at under served population of people AKA low income minority groups.

Side line question: do you know why council will not provide a number for salt water recreational fishers as required by 2006 magnuson?

Do you know who opposes total length retention & NODISCARDS?

WELCOME TO MAFMC STAFF people like me asking questions are reason your work is hard.

THANK YOU

---

**From:** James Fletcher <[unfa34@gmail.com](mailto:unfa34@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 12:26 PM  
**To:** Hart, Hannah <[hhart@mafmc.org](mailto:hhart@mafmc.org)>; Moore, Christopher <[cmoore@mafmc.org](mailto:cmoore@mafmc.org)>; Beal, Robert <[rbeal@asmfc.org](mailto:rbeal@asmfc.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: SFSBSB draft Fishery Performance Report

CONSIDER THE COUNCIL IS AND HAS BEEN PROTECTING \*\*\*\*\* NEW TERM \*\*\*  
PE\*\*\* PRESTIGIOUS ELITE\*\*\*

WE KNOW THEY ARE ON COUNCIL & ASMFC

THE DEPRIVED SHORE SIDE ANGLER [ DSSA[ \*\*\* NEW \*\*\* IS NOT REPRESENTED!  
COUNCIL OR ASMFC

I HOPE ATTACHED DEFINITION TRAVELS WITH THIS EMAIL.

*THE PROTECTED PRESTIGIOUS ELITE MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS THIS GROUP MAKES  
UP ALL SINGLE VESSEL ANGLERS IN EEZ.*

*need / want to know number of warm bodies that fish in EEZ and or salt water MAGNUSON 2006  
thank you Fletcher UNFA*

Attachment:

Who are the 20% PRESTIGIOUS ELITE RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN ?

Who are the 80% deprived shore side subsistence recreational anglers?

When will State fishery Management agencies manage the natural resource of fish for food not  
fun for the prestigious Elite?

-Prestigious Elite  
prestigious  
pre-ste'jas, -stij'as

adjective Having

prestige; esteemed.

1. Practicing tricks; juggling.
2. Definition of *prestigious*

1 ; having prestige : honored

2 archaic : of, relating to, or marked by illusion, conjuring, or trickery

Elite

singular or plural in construction : the socially superior part of society

A group or class of persons considered to be superior to others because of their intelligence, social standing, or wealth

A group of persons exercising the major share of authority or influence within a larger group:

The group or part of a group selected or regarded as the finest, best, most distinguished, most powerful, etc.

## **Definition of *deprived***

; marked by deprivation especially of the necessities of life or of healthful environmental influences

not having the things that are necessary for a pleasant life, such as enough money, food, or good living conditions:

Synonyms for *deprived*

- depressed,
- disadvantaged,
- underprivileged Lacking in advantage, opportunity, or experience.

Who are the 20% PRESTIGIOUS ELITE RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN ?

Who are the 80% deprived shore side subsistence anglers?

When will State fishery Management agencies manage the natural resource of fish for food not fun for the prestigious Elite?