

RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Division of Marine Fisheries

Public Hearing

March 6, 2023



Virtual Meeting Participation



1. All participants will be muted throughout the meeting.
2. To make a comment or ask a question you must use the **Raise Hand** feature in the zoom webinar.
3. The meeting facilitator will un-mute one participant at a time to make their comment or ask their question, the participant will then be re-muted.

**Please minimize background noise while unmuted! –
Thank you**

Timeline



- **Jan. 31:** Workshop #1
- **Feb. 6:** Workshop #2
- **March 6:** Public Hearing
- **February 22 – March 23:** Public Comment Period
- **April 3:** RI Marine Fisheries Council
- **May 1+/-:** Rules effective

2023 Recreational Black Sea Bass Management



Proposal 1 – Industry Proposal:

Mode	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit	Est. Reduction
Gen. Rec	16" <u>16.5"</u>	5/22 – 8/31	2 fish/day	11.75%
		9/1 – 12/31	3 fish/day	
Party/Charter	16" <u>16.5"</u>	6/18 – 8/31	2 fish/day	
		9/1 – 12/31	6 fish/day	

Proposal 2 – Industry Proposal:

Mode	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit	Est. Reduction
Gen. Rec	16" <u>16.5"</u>	5/22 – 8/31	2 fish/day	11.36%
		9/1 – 12/31	3 fish/day	
Party/Charter	16"	6/18 – 8/31	2 fish/day	
		9/1 – 12/31	6 fish/day	

2023 Recreational Black Sea Bass Management cont'd



Proposal 3 – Industry Proposal:

Mode	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit	Est. Reduction
Gen. Rec	16 ² <u>16.5</u> ”	5/22 – 8/31	2 fish/day	N/A ~8%
		9/1 – 12/31	3 fish/day	
Party/Charter	16 ² <u>16.5</u> ”	6/ 18 <u>17</u> – 8/31	2 fish/day	
		9/1 – 12/31	6 fish/day	

Proposal 4 – Industry Proposal:

Mode	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit	Est. Reduction
Gen. Rec	16 ² <u>16.5</u> ”	5/22 – 8/31 <u>8/26</u>	2 fish/day	~10.3% N/A
		9/1 <u>8/27</u> – 12/31	3 fish/day	
Party/Charter	16 ² <u>16.5</u> ”	6/18 – 8/31	2 fish/day	
		9/1 – 12/31	6 fish/day	

2023 Recreational Scup Management



Proposal 1 - Regional proposal (CT, NY, MA, RI):

Sector	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit	% Reduction
Gen. rec. <u>Private and Rental Mode</u>	10 <u>10.5"</u>	Jan. 1 <u>May 1</u> – Dec. 31	30 fish/day	
Party/ Charter	10 <u>10.5"</u>	Jan. 1 <u>May 1</u> – Aug. 31	30 fish/day	
		Sept. 1 – Oct. 31	50 <u>40</u> fish/day	
		Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	30 fish/day	
Special Shore <u>Shore Mode</u>	9 <u>9.5"</u>	Jan. 1 <u>May 1</u> – Dec. 31	30 fish/day	

Proposal 2 – Industry Proposal):

Sector	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit	% Reduction
Gen. rec.	10 <u>10.5"</u>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	30 fish/day	
Party/ Charter	10 <u>10.5"</u>	Jan. 1 – Aug. 31	30 fish/day	
		Sept. 1 – Oct. 31	50 fish/day	
		Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	30 fish/day	
Special Shore	9 <u>9.5"</u>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	30 fish/day	

Striped Bass – 2023 Commercial General Category Management



Proposal 1 – Division Proposal:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit	Closed Days
34"	6/4 <u>May 29</u> – 7/5	50%	5 fish/person/day	<u>Thurs</u> , Fri, Sat & Sun
	7/6 – 12/31	50%	5 fish/person/day	<u>Thurs</u> , Fri, Sat & Sun

Proposal 2 – Industry Proposal:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit	Closed Days
34"	6/1 – 7/5 <u>12/31</u>	50 <u>100</u> %	5 fish/person/day	<u>Tues, Thurs</u> , Fri, Sat & Sun
	7/6 – 12/31	50 %	5 fish/person/day	Fri, Sat & Sun

Proposal 3 – Industry Proposal:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit	Closed Days
34"	6/1 – 7/ 5 <u>3</u>	50%	5 fish/person/day	<u>Wed</u> , Fri, Sat & Sun
	7/ 6 <u>4</u> – 12/31	50%	5 fish/person/day	<u>Wed</u> , Fri, Sat & Sun

Striped Bass – 2023 Commercial General Category Management cont'd



Proposal 4 – Industry Proposal:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit	Closed Days
34"	6/1 <u>5/22</u> – 7/5	50%	5 fish/person/day	<u>Thu</u> , Fri, Sat & Sun
	7/6 – 12/31	50%	5 fish/person/day	<u>Thu</u> , Fri, Sat & Sun

Proposal 5 – Industry Proposal:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit	Closed Days
34"	6/1–7/5 <u>5/22 – 12/31</u>	50 <u>100</u> %	5 fish/person/day	<u>Thu</u> , Fri, Sat & Sun
	7/6–12/31	50 %	5 fish/person/day	Fri, Sat & Sun

Dealers - Striped Bass Reporting



Proposal #1 (Division proposal): Amend dealer reporting frequency of striped bass landings from “each week on Mondays and Thursdays, are due no more than five (5) days after the date of purchase within 24 hours after the date of purchase” to no more than twenty-four (24) hours after the date of purchase”

Menhaden - 2023 Commercial Management



Proposal 1 – Division Proposal:

- Clarify that Incidental Catch /Small Scale Fishery starts when state quota reached
- Remove trammel nets from Incidental Catch small-scale gear types (FMP compliance measure)

Proposal 2 – Industry Proposal:

- Adopt a weekly possession limit of 120,000 lbs/vessel regardless of MMA status

Other non-substantive proposed amendments to Part 3 - Finfish



Proposal 1 – Division Proposal:

1. Recreational Summer Flounder: Relocate minimum size from the “Possession Limit” section to the “Minimum Size” section (inadvertent error last filing).
2. Commercial Summer Flounder: Remove rules regarding the Summer Flounder Aggregate Landing Program; in conjunction with relocating these sections to new Aggregate Program regulation (proposed adoption of Part 23 “*Aggregate Programs for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass*”), which will contain all Aggregate Program rules (i.e., Winter I Summer Flounder, Summer/Fall Summer Flounder, and Summer/Fall Black Sea Bass (note this would only occur if new Aggregate Program rule is adopted (Part 23) and the existing Research Pilot Aggregate Program (Part 12) remains expired).
3. Menhaden: Non-substantive clarifications made to language

Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate Program



Division proposal:

Increase the maximum daily possession limit from 200 lbs/vsl/day to 300 lbs/vsl/day for vessels that do not hold a Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate

Aggregate (Summer/Fall) Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass



Proposal #1 (Division proposal):

- Adopt new rule “*Part 23 - Aggregate Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass*” in conjunction with allowing the pilot program rules *Part 12 – Research Pilot Aggregate Program for Summer flounder and Black sea bass*” to expire.

Summary of proposed rule (see noticed rule (Part 23) for specific language):

- Summer/Fall season: May 1 – Dec. 31 (no change proposed from pilot program)
- Possession limit:
 - Summer flounder: 7x the daily limit (no change proposed from pilot program)
 - Black sea bass: 5x the daily limit (no change proposed from pilot program)
- 90% closure trigger (pilot program = 80%)
- Participation in both the Winter I season and the Summer/Fall season for summer flounder
- Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate: Not required to participate in the program. Required to possess > 300 lbs/vsl/day (proposed; currently 200 lbs/vsl/day) (the pilot program did not require an Exemption).
- General eligibility: Vessel operator must not have been assessed a criminal or administrative penalty for violations of State or Federal commercial fishing Regulations or laws within the past three (3) years.

Aggregate (Summer/Fall) Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass



Industry proposals:

1. Participation in Winter I Program or Summer/Fall Program, NOT both
2. Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate:
 - a. Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate not required to possess > 300 lbs/vsl/day (proposed; currently 200 lbs/vsl/day)
 - b. Alternate Possession Limit for participants that do not hold a Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate. Weekly limit = 7X daily limit; however, in a single day, the vessel may only be in possession of one-half (1/2) the weekly limit or the maximum daily limit allowed, whichever amount is greater.
3. Black Sea Bass Possession Limit:
 - a. Increase possession limit to 7X the daily limit for all black sea bass seasons
 - b. Increase possession limit for summer season only (May 1 – August 15)
4. Aggregate Program Trigger:
 - a. Possession limits may revert back to a daily limit once 80% of the sub-period quota for each species is projected to have been reached
5. Aggregate Program participants cannot have their small-mesh net on-board when on an active aggregate program trip.
6. Summer flounder possession limit of 100 lbs/day if fishing with small-mesh and possessing > 250 lbs squid.

Definitions and General Provisions



- Proposed addition and amendment of terms for consistency with statute
- Proposed removal of terms not used in rules
- Proposed addition of new species (e.g., cobia, Sand lance, Spanish mackerel) to species list
- Other minor non-substantive clarifications

End of Slides!



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