

RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Division of Marine Fisheries

Public hearing

November 12, 2019





1. **Remove provision that specifies quota management for tautog overharvest, as the summer subperiod referenced no longer exists in rule (Part 1, section 1.6(A)(1)(b)(2))**

Annotated language:

Any over-harvest from the previous year will be deducted from ~~to~~ the entire state allocation of the current year before redistributing according to the species-specific management plan. ~~For the Tautog fishery, if an over-harvest has occurred for the entire year, that over-harvest will be deducted from the Summer sub-period of the following calendar year.~~

2. Establish rule for high grading prohibition (Part 1, section 1.6(H))



Annotated language:

High-grading prohibition: Returning legal-size fish to the water after they have been taken into possession for the purposes of retaining another more desirable legal-size fish is prohibited. Tautog that are harvested and kept alive are exempt from this prohibition.

3. 2020 Commercial Management of Black Sea Bass (Part 3, section 3.7.2(A) and (B))



- Considerations for 2020 management:
 - No changes have been noticed.
 - 2020 RI commercial quota expected to increase from 377k lbs to 613k lbs.

Current management:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Starting Poss. limit (lbs)
11"	Jan. 1 – April 30	25%	500 (vsl/week)
	May 1 – June 30	25%	50 (vsl/day)
	July 1 – July 31	19.5%	50 (vsl/day)
	Aug. 1 – Sept. 14		Closed
	Sept. 15 – Oct. 31	19.5%	50 (vsl/day)
	Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	11%	50 (vsl/day)

3. 2020 Commercial Management of Black Sea Bass (Part 3, section 3.7.2(A) and (B)) cont'd.



Workshop discussion:

- Increase May 1 - June 30 sub-period allocation percentage by decreasing allocation percentage(s) from other sub-period(s).
 - Remove the closed sub-period from August 1 – September 14 with allocation adjustments to other sub-periods.
 - Increase Sept. 15 – Oct. 31 sub-period allocation percentage by decreasing allocation percentage(s) from other sub-period(s).
 - Increase Nov. 1 – Dec. 31 sub-period allocation percentage by decreasing allocation percentage(s) from other sub-period(s).
- **Alternative industry proposal submitted:** Increase 1/1 – 4/30 possession limit to 750 lbs/vsl/week.

Season	Allocation	Starting Poss. limit (lbs)
Jan. 1 – April 30	25%	500 <u>750</u> (vsl/week)

4. 2020 Commercial Management of Scup (Part 3, section 3.8.2(A) and (B))



- No changes have been noticed.

Current management:

Min. size	Seasons	Sector	Allocation	Starting Possession Limit
9"	Winter I: (1/1 – 4/30)		Coastwide	50,000 lbs/vsl/day
	Summer: (5/1 – 9/30)	Gen. Cat	40% of sub-period quota	10,000 lbs/vsl/wk
		Floating Fish Trap	60% of sub-period quota	Unlimited
	Winter II: (10/1 – 12/31)		Coastwide	2,000/27,000 lbs/vsl/day*

* Winter II possession limit begins at 2,000 lbs/vsl/day; change to 27,000/day after Winter I roll over calculated.

5. 2020 Commercial Management of Summer Flounder (Part 3, section 3.10.2)



- Noticed changes as proposed:
 - Increase the starting possession limit during the May 1 – September 15 sub-period from 50 to 100 pounds per vessel per day.
 - Open the Summer Flounder Aggregate Landing Program on the Sunday of the first full week in January instead of the Sunday of the first full week in February and amend starting/opening possession limit for the Summer Flounder Aggregate Landing Program from 1,500 lbs/bi-week to 2,000 lbs/bi-week.

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Starting Poss. limit
14"	Jan. 1 – April 30	54%	100 lbs/vsl/day; 1,500 <u>2,000</u> lbs/vsl/bi-week (Agg. Landing Program participants)
	May 1 – Sept. 15	35%	50 <u>100</u> lbs/day
	Sept. 16 – Dec. 31	11%	100 lbs/day

5. 2020 Commercial Management of Summer Flounder (Part 3, section 3.10.2) cont'd



- **Alternative industry proposal submitted***:
 - Increase the starting possession limit during the May 1 – September 15 sub-period from 50 to 100 pounds per vessel per day.
 - Amend starting/opening possession limit for the Summer Flounder Aggregate Landing Program from 1,500 lbs/bi-week to 1,500 lbs/week.

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Starting Poss. limit
14"	Jan. 1 – April 30	54%	100 lbs/vsl/day; 1,500 lbs/vsl/ bi-week <u>week</u> (Agg. Landing Program participants)
	May 1 – Sept. 15	35%	50 <u>100</u> lbs/day
	Sept. 16 – Dec. 31	11%	100 lbs/day

*Industry proposal received during the public comment period, after public notice.

6. 2020 Commercial Management of Bluefish (Part 3, section 3.18.2)



- Considerations:
 - 2020 Commercial Quota: 188,637 lbs. (similar to 2019 initial quota but without the recreational rollover).
 - Quota transfer from recreational will not occur in 2020.
- Noticed changes as proposed:
 - Increase the minimum size from 12” to 18”.
 - Decrease starting possession limit during the May 1 – November sub-period from 8,000 to 6,000 pounds per vessel per day.

Min. size	Sub-period	Poss. Limit
12 <u>18</u> ”	1/1 – 4/30	1,000 lbs/2 wks
	5/1 – 2 nd Sat. in Nov.	8,000 <u>6,000</u> lbs/wk
	2 nd Sun. in Nov. – 12/31	500 lbs/wk

7. 2020 Commercial Management of Menhaden **(Part 3, section 3.22.2)**



- The Division is not proposing any management changes for 2020.
- Anticipated 2020 commercial quota similar to 2019 (~2.4 million pounds).



8. Proposed prohibition of Ocean pout in state waters (Part 3, proposed new section 3.32)

- Considerations: Proposal syncs state and federal rule; harvest and possession is prohibited in federal waters.

9. Proposed prohibition of Atlantic wolffish (Part 3, proposed new section 3.33)



- Considerations: Proposal syncs state and federal rule; harvest and possession is prohibited in federal waters.

10. Continuation of “Part 12 - Research Pilot Aggregate Program” regulations



- **Noticed changes as proposed:**

1. Reduce the eligibility requirement for historical record of landing summer flounder from 5 years (2014) to 1 year (section 12.7.2(B)).
2. Proposal to increase number of participating vessels in the program from 3 to 6 per gear category (section 12.7.2(C)).
3. Proposal to amend the application period from no later than November 30, 2018 to between January 1 and March 30 annually (section 12.7.2(I)).
4. Proposal to extend program through 2021 (sections 12.7.2(A) and 12.7.7).

11. Proposed new adoption “Part 13 - Cooperative Multi-State Possession and Landing Pilot Program for Summer Flounder”



- **Summary of proposed rule:**

- Authorize commercial fishers to simultaneously carry possession limits for, and land, summer flounder in cooperating states during the same fishing trip.
- Winter 1 sub-period only (January - April).
- Applicants must be licensed or otherwise authorized to possess and/or land summer flounder in at least one cooperating state.
- Applicant vessels must be permitted by NOAA Fisheries to possess and/or land summer flounder harvested from federal waters.
- Applicants must not have been assessed a criminal or administrative penalty, state or federal, to commercial fishing regulations or laws within the past three (3) years.
- Summer flounder catch intended for landing in Rhode Island and any cooperating state(s) must be stored separately with port identified.
- See the [noticed rule](#) for all proposed language.

12. Proposed adoption of a whelk pot tagging program (Part 4, proposed new section 4.18))



- **Summary of proposed rule:**
 - Adoption of a tagging program similar to lobster trap tag program.
 - One time use fastenable tags issued annually.
 - 300 original tags per fisherman
 - 10% routine loss
 - Catastrophic loss and gear rotation available
 - Tags purchased by fisherman via RIDMF (\$0.14/ tag).
 - Tags valid from September 1 – August 31.
 - Rule would take effect in 2020.
 - See the noticed rule for all proposed language.

End of Slides!

