



Summer Flounder Regional Management



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Summer Flounder Management

- Cooperatively managed by Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mid-Atlantic Council
- Complementary FMPs
- Joint decisions on quotas and management measures



Recreational Management

- 40% of total allowable landings
- Each year: Council/Commission choose **either** coastwide measures **or** conservation equivalency (CE)
- CE chosen each year since 2001

Conservation Equivalency

Combined effect of individual state or regional measures is equivalent to that of a set of Federal coastwide measures

- Federal waters measures waived
- Anglers subject to regulations of landing state

History

1993-1998: Coastwide measures

- Problem:
 - Migrations result in differing availability by state/season
 - Differential impacts by state

History

1999-2000: Interim conservation equivalency measures

- Each state could chose either coastwide measures or “equivalent” state measures
- Problem:
 - Necessary coastwide reductions not met

History

2001: State-by-state conservation equivalency written into plan

- Annual Council/Commission choice between coastwide measures **or** state-by-state CE
- No individual state choice

History

2006: Added option to form **voluntary regions** of adjacent states

- Regional CE implemented for the first time in **2014**

Recreational Measures Process

Aug.

- Council & Commission set harvest limits

Nov.

- Monitoring Committee recommendations
- Advisory Panel recommendations

Dec.

- Council & Commission recommend rec. measures (choose coastwide or CE)

Conservation Equivalency Process

Jan.

- Commission's Technical Committee develops state/regional proposals

Feb.

- Commission's Board approves state/regional proposals

Spring:

- States seek public comment and implement state measures
- Commission sends letter to NMFS

Compliance

- States submitting no proposal or a proposal inconsistent with CE guidelines are assigned **precautionary default** measures
 - Conservative/unappealing measures
 - Achieve at least the necessary coastwide reduction in each state

Compliance

- States deemed out of compliance with FMP can have fishery shut down
 - Authority granted under Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act

State-by-State Allocations

- State harvest targets derived from coastwide harvest limit, using proportion of landings by state in 1998
 - The last year coastwide measures were in place

Shift to Regional Management

- Increasing criticism of state-by-state measures and 1998 base year allocation
- Shifting abundance/distribution (climate change and/or rebuilding)
- Increasing disparity in regs. between neighboring states

2014 Regional CE

	State	Min. Size	Poss. Limit	Season
1	Massachusetts	16	5 fish	May 22-September 30
2	Rhode Island	18	8 fish	May 1-December 31
3	Connecticut	18	5 fish	May 17- September 21
		16 (at 45 designated shore sites)		
	New York	18	5 fish	May 17- September 21
	New Jersey	18	5 fish	May 23- September 27
16 (1 pilot shore site)		2 fish	May 23-September 27	
4	Delaware	16	4 fish	January 1- December 31
	Maryland	16	4 fish	January 1- December 31
	PRFC	16	4 fish	January 1- December 31
	Virginia	16	4 fish	January 1- December 31
5	North Carolina	15	6 fish	January 1- December 31

2014 Regional CE

- Regional “targets” based on 2013 performance
- Regional performance evaluation still being worked out
- Regional approach continuing in 2015, perhaps with modifications to regions

Benefits

- Flexibility: ability to customize measures and meet state needs
- Coastwide measures difficult to analyze & recommend due to history of varied state measures
- Potentially increased stakeholder interaction during state process

Challenges

- Allocation issues
 - Recent changes in abundance/distribution
- Different regulations in shared waters
- Where to draw regional boundaries

Challenges

- Rec. estimates less precise at smaller spatial scales
- Trend toward “hyper-customization”
 - Less precise estimates when broken down by wave/mode
 - Increased complexity and confusion
- Longer process overall

Questions?

