

## **Three Industry Proposals Were Submitted For Discussion**

### **Proposal 1**

**DATE:** 22 September 2012

**TO:** William Mackintosh, Council Chair, Scup/Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel

**From:** Gerard Tremblay, Primary Voting Member, (Hook & Line Sector) Scup/Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel

**Subject:** Proposal Submission, Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel Scheduled 3 October 2012

This proposal is being submitted on behalf of the Rhode Island Commercial Rod & Reel Association (RICRRA) for consideration at the Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel Meeting scheduled for 3 October 2012. Additional copies will be made available to panel members and the public prior to and/or on the day of subject meeting.

Gerard Tremblay  
Executive Treasurer, RICRRA  
Primary Voting Member, Scup/Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel

**2013 BLACK SEA BASS QUOTA MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE  
COMMERCIAL FISHERY- 3 October 2012  
FROM  
RHODE ISLAND COMMERCIAL ROD & REEL ASSOCIATION (RICRRA)**

### **BACKGROUND**

Due to the extremely low quota allocation for 2012 and a daily possession limit of 50 Lbs. as mandated by the Director's decision, to not proceed with a 25 Lb. daily possession limit during the spring and summer sub-periods, serious consequences evolved in what at this point (due to low quota) should be considered a by-catch fishery. As a direct result of a 50 Lb. Directed fishery possession limit, the spring sub-period closed on 29 May, re-opened on 1 July, closed on 30 July and did not re-opened in September. There was no fall fishery whatsoever.

### **GOALS**

- 1. To insure that the 2013 spring and summer fishery remain open as long as possible with a reasonable and viable by-catch fishery daily possession limit of 25 Lbs.**
- 2. To insure (to the greatest extent possible) that a consistent and non-fragmented supply of product be made available to dealers and the marketing infrastructure as a whole.**

**3. To help insure that prices remain stable relative to market demand.**

### **PROPOSAL**

**Remain at status quo for the Winter I, (1 Jan-30 Apr) and Winter II, (1 Nov-31 Dec) sub-periods.**

**For the Spring, (1 May-30 Jun) and Summer (1 Jul- 31 Oct) sub-periods, institute a 25 Lb. per calendar day possession limit.**

**Fishery closed from 1 August through 31 August if deemed necessary by DFW analysis of remaining quota (if applicable). See Note \***

**\* Note: Relative to the August closure, after analysis by DFW, if it is determined that at 25 Lbs. per day an August closure would not be necessitated, the Division should go forward with and implement that determination.**

### **JUSTIFICATION**

**Due to an artificially low quota imposed by ASMFC, black sea bass has become a by-catch fishery for the vast majority of participants. This is particularly the case for participants in the spring and summer fishery. If the rational instituted by this proposal were to be implemented, the best interests of the majority of fishers (and this and other resources) would be realized until such time as the correct state of the stock is determined.**

**Prepared by: Stephen Parente, RICRRA**

**Submitted by: The Board of Directors, Rhode Island Commercial Rod & Reel Association, (RICRRA)**

**Kenneth Booth, President**

## **Proposal 2**

Via email there was a request that 2 proposals be added to the panel meeting and public hearing. Both only alter the possession limit for the summer periods (May-June and July, Aug-Oct).

1: Both sub periods have a 100lb/day limit

2: Aggergate limit of 250lbs/ week

### **Proposal 3**

Given the quota is basically status quo, suggest that we drop daily limits to 25lbs and explore an increase in legal size, thus making the landings per pound more valuable. Would this give us any leverage for a future increase in quota? I would like to hear from other AP members and industry reps before I put this in stone.

I would like to move May opening to June 1 at 25 lbs due to price (MA opens in May ). I would also like to propose we move the Nov.1 quota up to Oct.1 at 25 lbs due to weather issues. Again I would encourage discussion before putting anything in for a vote.

I understand that 25 lbs does not create a reasonable fishery but it does augment other catches and that is all the quota we have!