

DATE: 22 September, 2012

TO: Richard Hittenger, Council Chair, Summer Flounder Advisory Panel

FROM: Gerard Tremblay, Primary Voting Member, (Hook & Line Sector)
Summer Flounder Advisory Panel

SUBJECT: Proposal Submission, Summer Flounder 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 Summer Flounder 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, Summer Flounder Advisory Panel

**2013 SUMMER FLOUNDER QUOTA MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE
COMMERCIAL FISHERY – 3 October 2012
FROM
RHODE ISLAND COMMERCIAL ROD & REEL ASSOCIATION (RICRRA)**

BACKGROUND

Since the implementation of one summer period in 2007 running concurrently from 1 May through 31 October of each year, the summer flounder fishery has become and remains a viable entity for the vast majority of Rhode Island Fishers. This action facilitated a viable summer fishery in 2012 for what would appear to include the entire summer period. The 2012 season progressed (and is progressing) without fragmentation or interruption of product to market and an overall stable supply to dealers at a sustained rate and at a stable and reasonable price.

GOALS

1. To insure that the 2013 Summer Flounder fishery remains open as long as possible with reasonable daily possession limits.
2. To insure that the entire Summer Period continue as a 7 day fishery.
3. To insure that a constant and non-fragmented supply of product be made available to dealers and the marketing infrastructure as a whole.
4. To help insure that prices remain at a stable and reasonable rate.

PROPOSAL

Remain at Status Quo for 2013. We also request that the DFW continue to closely monitor dealer landings and adjust daily quota limits as appropriate in order to insure the fishery remains open as long as possible. The absolute minimum daily catch limit will not be lowered to less than 50 Lbs. per vessel per day.

JUSTIFICATION

The Summer Period currently consists of a 6-month period that runs from 1 May through 31 October. With appropriate due diligence and monitoring the DFW will be able to successfully manage the resource in such a manner as to insure a non-fragmented fishery throughout the entire period. Prior to the implementation of the current 1 Summer Period when we operated under split Summer I and Summer II Sub-Periods, early, frequent and fragmented closures were the norm. These closures typically occurred during the most robust periods of the inshore fishery, thus causing extreme financial hardship on the majority of participating fishers, the entire marketing infrastructure (Dealers, Hubs, Bait & Tackle Suppliers and Mariners, etc.) was severely impacted by this debacle as well.

We are aware that the possibility exists of a 10% reduction in quota for 2013, however, we are still of the opinion that with continued close monitoring of dealer landings and appropriate adjustments of daily possession limits by the DFW, that Status Quo is still the most viable and equitable course of action going forward.

Prepared by: Stephen Parente, RICRRA

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

Kenneth Booth, President