RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

PRE-HEARING WORKSHOP

December 18, 2018
Marine Fisheries Informational Workshop – Rules of Engagement

• RIDMF staff will provide presentation on each of the proposed regulation amendments

• Discussion will ensue upon completion of each presentation;

• Discussion should focus on:
  • Understanding of the rationale behind each of the proposed amendments;
  • Recommendations of alternatives.

• IMPORTANT! The workshop discussion is not an official public record. Please offer your preferred option(s) and comments for the public hearing record during the public hearing.

• Hearing is scheduled for February 11, 2019.
Workshop Items

• Recreational and commercial Striped Bass
Striped Bass

• Summary of Stock Status
• 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment
• 2018 Rhode Island Commercial Fishery Performance
• 2018 Rhode Island Recreational Fishery Performance
• Recommendations/proposals for 2019
Striped Bass - Stock Status

• Update in 2016: Based on SAW/SARC 57 and peer review, the striped bass stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring relative to biological reference points.

• Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.16 in 2015, a value below both the fishing mortality threshold (0.22) and the fishing mortality target (0.18).

Source: 2016 Update of the Striped Bass Stock Assessment (Figure 14)
Striped Bass – Stock Status cont.

• SSB was estimated to be 129 million pounds in 2015, just above the threshold but below the target (127 million and 159 million respectively)

• In 2015 high recruitment and a strong year class were observed

• In 2018 the MD YOY survey indicated a slightly higher abundance relative to 2017

[Graph of Striped Bass YOY: Bay-wide Geometric Mean Catch per Haul]
2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment

• Peer reviewed in November 2018

• Peer Review and Assessment report are still being drafted, will be available in time for the February Striped Bass Board meeting

• Newly calibrated MRIP estimates:
  • Higher recruitment, biomass, and SSB reference points
  • Same population trend

• Strong year classes in 2011 and 2015 followed by high recruitment
  • 2011 year class – age 6 in 2017 (prop. Mature = 0.46)
  • 2015 year class – age 2 in 2017 (prop. Mature = 0.00)
2018 Benchmark Stock Assess.
2018 Benchmark Stock Assess.

Source: ASMFC 2016 Striped Bass Update Assessment, Fig. 12 (A)

Source: 2018 Striped Bass SAW 66 Assessment Report, Figure B7.33 (A)
2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment

• The Board could:
  • Adopt the single stock SCA model and status quo BRP’s
  • Adopt one of the other models put forward in the benchmark and a set of associated BRP’s
  • Task the SAS/TC with developing another set of BRP’s
  • Initiate the development of an addendum or amendment
    • Adoption of new BRP’s and/or satisfying 1 or more management triggers may require Board action
  • Unlikely that management would change for 2019
2018 RI Commercial Striped Bass General Category Fishery Performance

- Quota: Initial = 111,459 lbs, 5,314 lb harvest overage in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Days Open</th>
<th>Initial Allocation</th>
<th>Trap Rollover/Period Adjustment</th>
<th>Final Allocation</th>
<th>Landings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/20 – 8/4</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>78,021 lbs</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>78,021 lbs</td>
<td>87,388 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/5 – 12/31</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33,438 lbs</td>
<td>-9,367</td>
<td>24,071 lbs</td>
<td>29,385 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Commercial General Category Striped Bass - 2019 Proposed Management Options

- RI 2019 Commercial Quota: 181,572 lbs
  - General Category: 111,459 lbs
  - Floating Fish Trap: 70,113 lbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Min. Size</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Option 1: Status quo</td>
<td>34”</td>
<td>5/20 – 8/4 (closed Fri &amp; Sat)</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>5 fish/person/day (max 5 fish/vessel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8/5 – 12/31 (closed Fri &amp; Sat)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>5 fish/person/day (max 5 fish/vessel)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018 RI Commercial Fishery Performance - Floating Fish Trap

• **2018 Quota:** Initial = 70,113 lbs

• Quota was not exceeded but landings graph is confidential and cannot be displayed
Commercial Floating Fish Trap
Striped Bass - 2019 Proposed Management Options

- RI 2018 Commercial Quota = 181,572 lbs:
  - General Category: 111,459 lbs
  - Floating Fish Trap: 70,113 lbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Min. Size</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
<th>Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1:</strong> Status Quo</td>
<td>26”</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>4/1 – 12/31</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
RI Recreational Striped Bass Fishery Performance

Source: 2018 MRIP, 2018 data preliminary and only through wave 4
RI Recreational Striped Bass Fishery Performance cont’d:

Source: 2018 MRIP, 2018 data preliminary and only through wave 4
Recreational Striped Bass - 2019
Proposed Management Options

- No amendments proposed for 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Management</th>
<th>Min. Size</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
<th>Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28”</td>
<td>1 fish/person/day</td>
<td>Open year round</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
End of Slides!