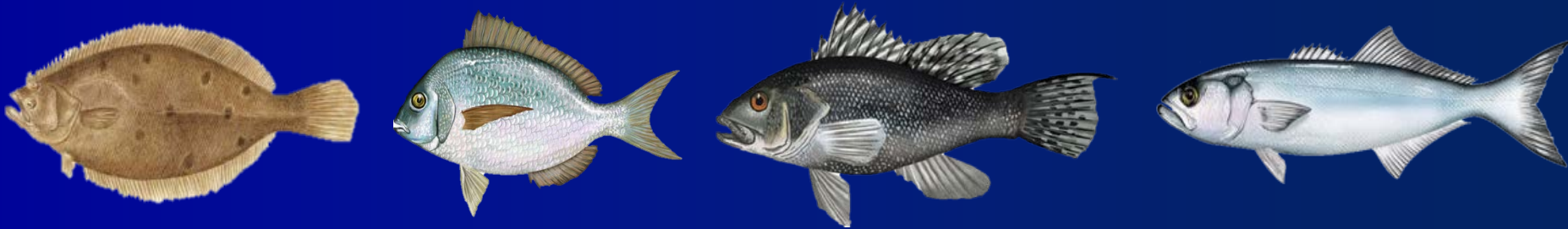




Recreational Reform Initiative

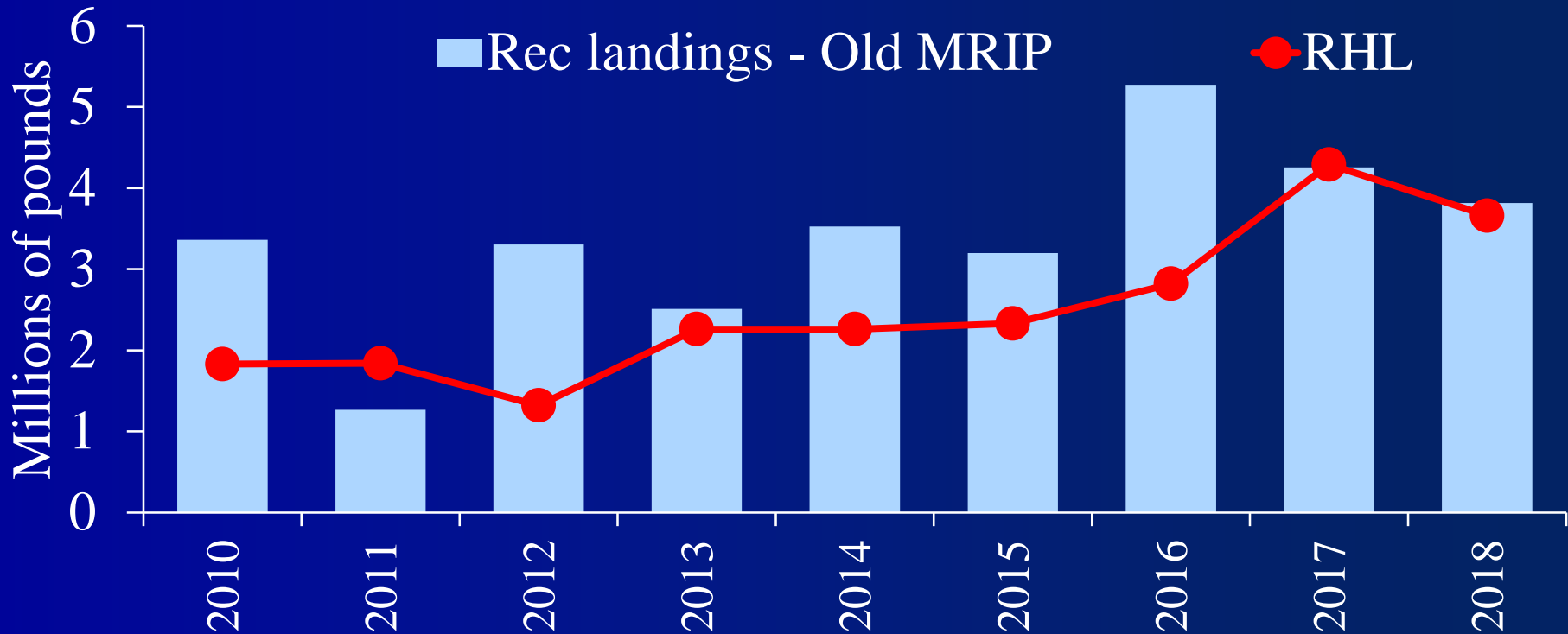


Council Coordination Committee Meeting
November 6, 2019

Background



- Black sea bass biomass more than double the target
- High availability to recreational anglers
- "Chasing the RHL"



Recreational Reform Initiative

- How to provide greater stability in recreational management measures?
- ASMFC Board Chair and Vice Chair Strategic Plan for Reforming Recreational Black Sea Bass Management.
- Joint steering committee formed March 2019.



Draft Mission Statement

Allow for more regulatory stability and flexibility in the recreational management programs for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish by revising the current annual timeframe for evaluating fishery performance and setting recreational specifications to a new multi-year process.



Current Process

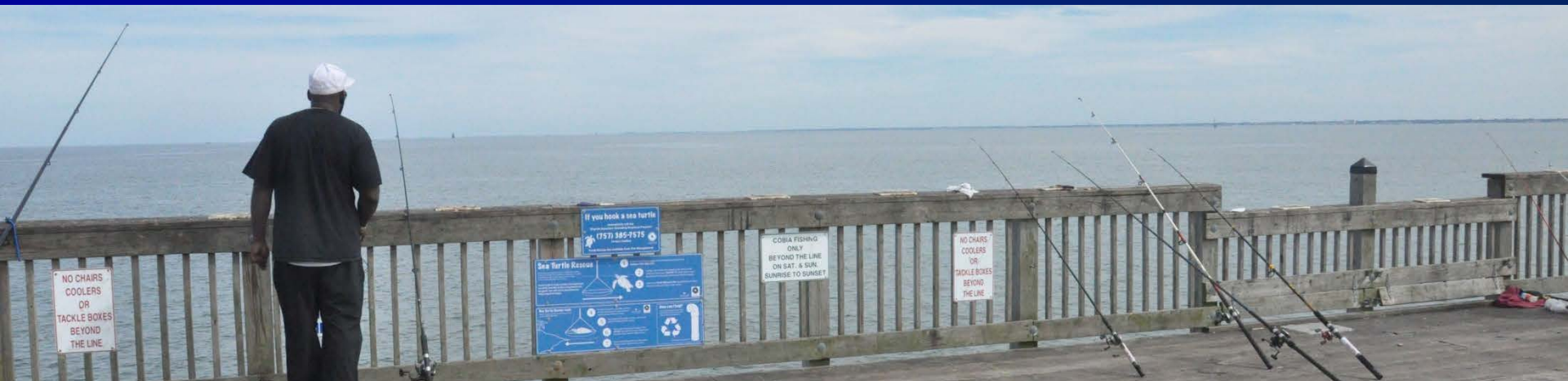
- Jan 1 – Dec 31 fishing year.
- August: Council and ASMFC recommend RHLs for next 1-3 years.
- December: recommend federal waters bag/size/season for next year.
- Feb/March: State waters bag/size/season developed for current year.
- May-July: Federal waters bag/size/season implemented for current year.

Two-Year Process

- August: recommend RHLs for next 2 years.
- December: recommend federal waters bag/size/season for next 2 years.
- Feb/March: State waters bag/size/season developed for next 2 years.
- May-July: Federal waters bag/size/season for next 2 years implemented.
- Biggest time savings: finalize year 2 measures in year 1 with no follow up action or rule making needed.

Two-Year Specifications

- Commit to making no changes to year 2 measures.
- If stock becomes overfished or overfishing occurs, will need to react.
- How to factor in annual AM evaluation?
- Decide on rec measures in Oct rather than Dec?



Guidelines for *Status Quo*

■ Stock status

- Biomass compared to the target
- Fishing mortality compared to the threshold
- Recruitment compared to the average and recent trends
- Survey indices in years when management track assessment not provided?

- **Multiple positive indicators could support *status quo* when moderate reduction in harvest otherwise needed**

Guidelines for *Status Quo*

- **Expected recreational harvest compared to the RHL**
 - *Status quo* justified if expected rec harvest within a pre-defined percentage above or below RHL - needs to go both ways
 - Guidelines for incorporating uncertainty in MRIP estimates (PSEs, smoothing of outliers)
 - Further consider pros/cons of using preliminary and/or projected current year data
 - Simulation testing

Next Steps

- Technical analysis and simulations.