

Summary of Proposed Rule
Part 3 – Finfish (250-RICR-90-00-3)
Public Hearing February 10, 2020

Note: Proposed language is identified as red, underline; language proposed for deletion is identified as ~~red-stricken~~.

1. **2020 Recreational Black sea bass management (section 3.7.1):** No amendments have been proposed, however this section is open for comment.

2. **2020 recreational Scup management (section 3.8.1):** No amendments have been proposed, however this section is open for comment.

3. **2020 recreational Striped bass management (section 3.9.1):** The noticed amendment represents the ASMFC Regional Conservation Equivalency (CE) Option B proposal and the ASMFC Rhode Island CE Option C proposal as summarized in the tables below. At the time of noticing, these options are still awaiting approval by the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board (Board) as an FMP amendment. Neither proposal can be implemented unless approved by the Board. ASMFC Regional CE Option B will only be implemented if all three states included in the regional proposal (Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York) agree to adopt the rule. Please note that the current minimum size of 28” is not consistent with the FMP and is therefore not an option for consideration. Noticed options 1 and 2, as well as other options under consideration, are as follows:

Noticed option 1 (ASMFC Regional CE Option B proposal):

Option	Mode	<u>Min./Max. Size</u>	Season	Poss. limit
<u>B</u>	<u>All Modes</u>	<u>30” – < 40”</u>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1 fish/person/day

Noticed option 2 (ASMFC Rhode Island CE Option C proposal):

Option	Mode	<u>Min./Max. Size</u>	Season	Poss. limit
<u>C</u>	<u>Private/Shore</u>	<u>32” – < 40”</u>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1 fish/person/day
	<u>For-Hire</u>	<u>30” – < 40”</u>		

One additional ASMFC Rhode Island CE proposal under consideration for adoption that is also awaiting approval from the Board, but not noticed, is as follows:

Additional Options not Noticed:

(ASMFC CE proposal)

Option	Mode	<u>Min./Max. Size</u>	Season	Poss. limit
<u>B</u>	<u>All Modes</u>	<u>32" – < 40"</u>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1 fish/person/day

If none of the above CE options are approved by the ASMFC board, the following option is provided as consistent with the Addendum VI to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan:

(ASMFC Addendum VI consistency proposal)

<u>Min./Max. Size</u>	Season	Poss. limit
<u>28" – < 35"</u>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1 fish/person/day

4. **2020 commercial Striped bass general category management (section 3.9.2(A)):** The noticed amendments include changes to the sub-period allocations, the days closed to the commercial harvest of striped bass, and the daily possession limit. These changes are proposed as a means to better manage the fishery and prevent harvest overages due to an 18% reduction in quota for 2020:

Noticed Option 1:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit	Closed Days
34"	May 20 – June 30	70 <u>60</u> %	5 fish/person/day	<u>Thurs.</u> , Fri. & Sat.
	July 1 – Dec. 31	30 <u>40</u> %	5 fish/person/day	<u>Thurs.</u> , Fri. & Sat.

Noticed Option 2:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit	Closed Days
34"	May 20 – June 30	70%	5 <u>4</u> fish/person/day	Fri. & Sat.
	July 1 – Dec. 31	30%	5 <u>4</u> fish/person/day	Fri. & Sat.

Additional Option not Noticed:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit	Closed Days
34"	May 20 – June 30	70%	5 <u>3</u> fish/person/day	<u>Thurs.</u> , Fri. & Sat.
	July 1 – Dec. 31	30%	5 <u>3</u> fish/person/day	<u>Thurs.</u> , Fri. & Sat.

5. **2020 commercial Striped bass Floating fish trap management (section 3.9.2(B)):** No amendments have been proposed, however this section is open for comment.
6. **2020 recreational Summer flounder management (section 3.10.1):** No amendments have been proposed, however this section is open for comment.
7. **2020 commercial Summer flounder management (section 3.10.2(B)(1)(c)(3)):** Codify in rule the possession limit change from 1,000 lbs/vessel/week to 2,000 lbs/vessel/bi-week that was effectuated on January 15, 2020 via authority established pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-1-12.1.
8. **2020 recreational Tautog management (section 3.11.1):** No amendments have been proposed, however this section is open for comment.
9. **2020 Commercial Tautog management (section 3.11.2):** The noticed amendments are as follows:

Noticed Option 1:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit
16"	April 1 – May 31	50 <u>35%</u>	10 fish/vsl/day
	June 1 – October 14 <u>July 31</u>		Closed
	<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 15</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>10 fish/vsl/day</u>
	Sept. 16 – Oct. 14		Closed
	Oct. 15 – Dec. 31	50%	10 fish/vsl/day

Noticed Option 2:

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Poss. limit
16"	April 1 – May 31	50 <u>42.5%</u>	10 fish/vsl/day
	June 1 – October 14 <u>July 31</u>		Closed
	<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 15</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>10 fish/vsl/day</u>
	Sept. 16 – Oct. 14		Closed
	Oct. 15 – Dec. 31	50 <u>42.5%</u>	10 fish/vsl/day

10. 2020 recreational Bluefish management (section 3.18.1): Noticed option 1 (ASMFC/MAFMC management proposal) and option 2 (ASMFC Regional Conservation Equivalency (CE) proposal) are summarized in the tables below. At the time of noticing, noticed option 2 is still awaiting approval by the ASMFC Bluefish Technical Committee (TC) and Management Board (Board) as an FMP amendment. Noticed option 2 can only be implemented if approved by the TC and Board and if both states included in the regional proposal (Rhode Island and Connecticut) agree to adopt the rule. Please note that the current bag limit of 15 fish/day is not consistent with the FMP and is therefore not an option for consideration. The noticed options are as follows:

Noticed option 1 (MAFMC/ASMFC management proposal):

Mode	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
<u>Private/Shore</u>	N/A	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	<u>3 fish/day</u>
<u>For-hire</u>			<u>5 fish/day</u>

Noticed option 2 (ASMFC Regional CE proposal):

Mode	Min./Max. Size	Season	Poss. limit
<u>Private</u>	N/A	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	<u>3 fish/day</u>
<u>For-hire</u>			<u>5 fish/day</u>
<u>Shore</u>	<u><= 12"</u> <u>> 12"</u>	<u>Jan. 1 – Dec. 31</u>	<u>6 fish/day</u> <u>2 fish/day</u>

11. Commercial Monkfish management (section 3.23.2): The noticed amendment represents a weekly possession limit of 5 times the current daily limit. Analyses suggested that under some scenarios a weekly aggregate equal to 7 times the daily could result total landings that would trigger a possession limit reduction (per section 3.23.2.C(2)):

Noticed proposal:

Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
17" total or 11" tail length	May 1 – April 30	700 <u>4,900</u> lbs tail weight/day or 2,037 <u>14,259</u> lbs whole weight/vsl/ day <u>week</u>

12. Commercial state waters Skate wing management (section 3.26.2(B)): The FMP proposed specifications for the next fishing season beginning May 1, 2020 provides for an increase in the possession limit from 2,600 to 3,000 lbs/vessel/day for season 1 and from 4,100 to 5,000 lbs/vessel/day for season 2 (of the federal fishery). The current regulation is

based on 7 times the season 1 possession limit. The proposed (noticed) change represents a weekly limit equal to 5 times the proposed season 2 daily limit:

Noticed proposal:

Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
N/A	May 1 – April 30	18,200 <u>25,000</u> lbs wings/week

Additional proposals that have been submitted (equal to 7 times the proposed (FMP) season 2 daily possession limit):

Additional Option not Noticed:

Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
N/A	May 1 – April 30	18,200 <u>35,000</u> lbs wings/week

13. Please note there are several non-substantive clarifications proposed throughout the rule.