Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Marine Fisheries

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Summary of Comments

Agency: Department of Environmental Management
Division: Marine Fisheries
Regulation: Part 23 – Aggregate Program (250-RICR-90-00-23)

Type of rulemaking: Regular rulemaking
Type of filing: Amendment

Timetable for action on the proposed rule:

- Date of public notice: February 4, 2025
- Date of hearing: February 25, 2025
- End of comment period: March 7, 2025

Summary of comments received:

1. **Summer/Fall Aggregate Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass - Closure Trigger for Black Sea Bass:**

    - 1 comment in support of reducing the closure trigger
    - 8 comments in support of status quo, maintaining the current 85% closure trigger
    - 5 comments in support of proposal # 1, reducing the closure trigger from 85% to 70%
    - RICRRA in support of reducing the closure trigger from 85% to 70%
    - 2 comments in support of reducing the closure trigger to no less than 80%
    - 1 comment in support of reducing the closure trigger to 75% or 70%
    - 1 comment in support of a weekly limit without an aggregate program

2. **Summer/Fall Aggregate Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass - Closure Trigger for Summer Flounder:**

    - 1 comment in support of reducing the closure trigger
    - 4 comments in support of status quo
    - 4 comments in support of proposal # 1, reducing the closure trigger from 85% to 70%

- 2 comments in support of reducing the closure trigger to no less than 80%
- 1 comment in support of reducing the closure trigger to 75% or 70%
- 1 comment in support of a weekly limit without an aggregate program
- RICRRA in support of reducing the closure trigger from 85% to 70%

3. **Aggregate Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass - Possession limit for Black Sea Bass:**

    - 1 comment in support of status quo
    - 2 comments in support of reducing the aggregate possession limit for black sea bass from 7X to 6X the daily limit for the last subperiod

4. **Aggregate Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass - Non-compliance provision:**

    - 1 comment concerned about how the vessel would be affected by the proposed rule.

IMPORTANT! The public hearing was recorded and is publicly available on the Division of Marine Fisheries YouTube channel here. ***This document serves only as a tally of support, opposition, or alternative proposals received, as provided in written and oral comments received; it does not include supporting details, rationale, or discussion of matters not specific to the proposed rules.***