**Summer Flounder**

The purpose of this meeting was to review the 2024 commercial summer flounder fishery and discuss trip limit modifications to the 2025 fishery.

NJDFW staff provided advisors with current 2024 summer flounder commercial fishery

landings. Currently there is approximately 240,000 pounds of summer flounder projected to be available for the final season of the 2024 commercial fishery. Trip limit modifications that reflect the remaining quota have been recommended by advisors and were implemented on November 1, 2024.

Additionally, advisors were presented with the preliminary 2025 commercial summer

flounder quota for New Jersey. The preliminary quota for New Jersey is 1,470,127 pounds, status quo relative to the 2024 fishing year.

Based upon this preliminary quota for the summer flounder commercial fishery, the Committee’s preferred trip limits for the 2025 commercial fishing year are as follows:

Season 1 (January-February): option A- 1,250-pound trip two times per week **or**

option B- 2,500-pound trip one time per week.

Season 2 (March-April): option A- 375-pound trip four times per week **or**

option B- 750-pound trip two times per week **or**

option C- 1,500-pound trip one time per week.

Season 3 (May-June): option A- 214-pound trip seven times per week **or**

option B- 375-pound trip four times per week **or**

option C- 750-pound trip two times per week **or**

option D- 1,500-pound trip one time per week.

Season 4 (July-August): option A- 214-pound trip seven times per week **or**

option B- 375-pound trip four times per week **or**

option C- 750-pound trip two times per week **or**

option D- 1,500-pound trip one time per week.

Season 5 (September-October): option A- 500-pound trip seven times per week **or**

option B- 875-pound trip four times per week **or**

option C- 1,750-pound trip two times per week **or**

option D- 3,500-pound trip one time per week.

Season 6 (November-December): option A- 500-pound trip four times per week **or**

option B- 1,000-pound trip two times per week **or**

option C- 2,000-pound trip one time per week.

Options cannot be combined under any circumstance for a given season. Once a trip has been landed under one option, the vessel is restricted to only that option for the remainder of the

fishing week (Sunday-Saturday). Once the following fishing week begins (12:00 a.m. Sunday), the vessel can choose another option under the corresponding season.

The Committee recommends the commercial trip limits for the 2025 commercial summer flounder fishing year as provided in this report.

Lastly, advisors expressed interest in implementing a commercial harvester landing license, which would be required for any entity commercially landing in the state of New Jersey. The topic of concern was discussed due to the fact that some commercial fisheries are currently able to land in the state with only valid fishing permits. Staff indicated that they would support implementation of a landing license, but it will likely require legislative action which staff can not initiate.

**Council Attendees:** Dr. Patrick Donnelly, Robert Rush

**DEP and Fish and Wildlife Attendees:** Jeffrey Brust, Chad Power

**Advisor Attendees:** Carl Benson, Roy Diehl, Rick Hoff, John Howell, Gus Lovgren, Wayne Reichle