**Angler Survey Subcommittee Summary**

**April 30, 2025**

* Staff distributed draft reporting forms to Council and subcommittee advisors for a last round of comments before finalization. Options included the traditional volunteer angler survey reporting forms as well as a simplified tally sheet for for-hire vessels focusing on just summer flounder and black sea bass.
* Several comments recommended changes to the tally form so that private anglers could use it also, not just for hire.
* Staff made the recommended changes and met with subcommittee members to discuss finalization of the reporting forms and provide updates from NMFS regarding the timeline for incorporating data into the recreational demand model.
* Regarding data collection forms, the committee and staff made some final tweaks to the tally form and agreed to develop a companion instructional sheet; staff also agreed to make some revisions to the Administration’s VAS splash page to make it a little more user friendly for first time visitors. Staff will work on those edits for hopeful finalization prior to the start of the summer flounder season (May 4th).
* Regarding NMFS discussions, staff indicated that NEFSC staff suggest that data collected this year may not be incorporated into the recreational demand model; MRA staff will follow up with NEFSC staff to learn more about timing constraints as well as workloads related to implementing a proof of concept regional split in NJ. The committee and staff agreed that having several years of this fine scale data will help the Marine Fisheries Council in future years.