**Summer Flounder**

The purpose of this meeting was to review the 2021 commercial summer flounder fishery and discuss trip limit modifications to the 2022 fishery.

NJDFW staff provided advisors with current 2021 summer flounder commercial fishery

landings. Currently there is approximately 627,000 pounds of summer flounder projected to be available for the final season of the 2021 commercial fishery. Trip limit modifications that reflect the remaining quota have been recommended by advisors and were implemented on November 1, 2021.

Additionally, advisors were presented with the preliminary 2022 commercial summer

flounder quota for New Jersey. The Preliminary quota for New Jersey is 2,597,391 pounds, which includes a 24% increase relative to the 2021 fishing year.

Based upon this preliminary quota for the summer flounder commercial fishery, the Committee’s preferred trip limits for the 2022 commercial fishing year are as follows:

Season 1 (January-February): option A- 2,000-pound trip two times per week **or**

option B- 4,000-pound trip one time per week.

Season 2 (March-April): option A- 400-pound trip six times a week **or**

option B- 1,250-pound trip two times per week **or**

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

Season 3 (May-June): option A- 350-pound trip seven times a week **or**

option B- 625-pound trip four times per week **or**

option C-1,250-pound trip two times per week.

Season 4 (July-August): option A- 350-pound trip seven times a week **or**

option B- 625-pound trip four times per week **or**

option C-1,250-pound trip two times per week.

Season 5 (September-October): option A- 500-pound trip seven times a 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- 400-pound trip five 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 2022 commercial summer flounder fishing year as provided in this report.