Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

ADDENDUM XXXIII TO THE SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Black Sea Bass State-by-State Commercial Allocation

Approved February 2021

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Addendum XXXIII and the complementary Amendment developed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) modify the allocations of the coastwide black sea bass commercial quota among the states, which were originally implemented in 2003 through Amendment 13 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and extended indefinitely through Addendum XIX (2007). Through the Council Amendment, the state-specific allocations will be added to the Council's FMP, and federal regulations for in-season closures of the coastwide fishery will be modified. These actions, jointly approved by the Council and Commission, address significant changes in the distribution of black sea bass that have occurred since the original allocations were implemented, and also account for the historical dependence of the states on the black sea bass fishery.

The management unit for black sea bass in US waters is the western Atlantic Ocean from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina northward to the US-Canadian border. The black sea bass fisheries are managed cooperatively by the states through the Commission in state waters (0-3 miles), and through the Council and NOAA Fisheries in federal waters (3-200 miles).

2.0 OVERVIEW

2.1 Statement of Problem

State-by-state allocations of the commercial black sea bass coastwide quota were originally implemented in 2003 as part of Amendment 13, loosely based on historical landings from 1980-2001. The state shares in Amendment 13 allocated 67% of the coast-wide commercial quota among the states of New Jersey through North Carolina (North of Cape Hatteras) and 33% among the states of New York through Maine. These state commercial allocations had been unchanged since they were implemented in 2003.

Over the last decade, the distribution of the black sea bass stock has changed, abundance and biomass have increased significantly, and there have been corresponding changes in fishing effort and behavior. According to the most recent black sea bass stock assessment, which modeled fish north and south of Hudson Canyon separately, the majority of the stock occurred in the southern region prior to the mid-2000s (NEFSC 2019). Since then, the biomass in the northern region has grown considerably. Although the amount of biomass in the southern region has not declined in recent years, the northern region currently accounts for the majority of spawning stock biomass (Figure 1). This shift in black sea biomass distribution has also been supported by other peer reviewed scientific research (e.g., Bell et al., 2015).

In some cases, expansion of the black sea bass stock into areas with historically minimal fishing effort has created significant disparities between state allocations and current abundance and resource availability. The most noteworthy example is Connecticut, which has experienced significant increases in black sea bass abundance and fishery availability in Long Island Sound in recent years but is only allocated 1% of the coastwide commercial quota (this allocation was based loosely on landings from 1980-2001).

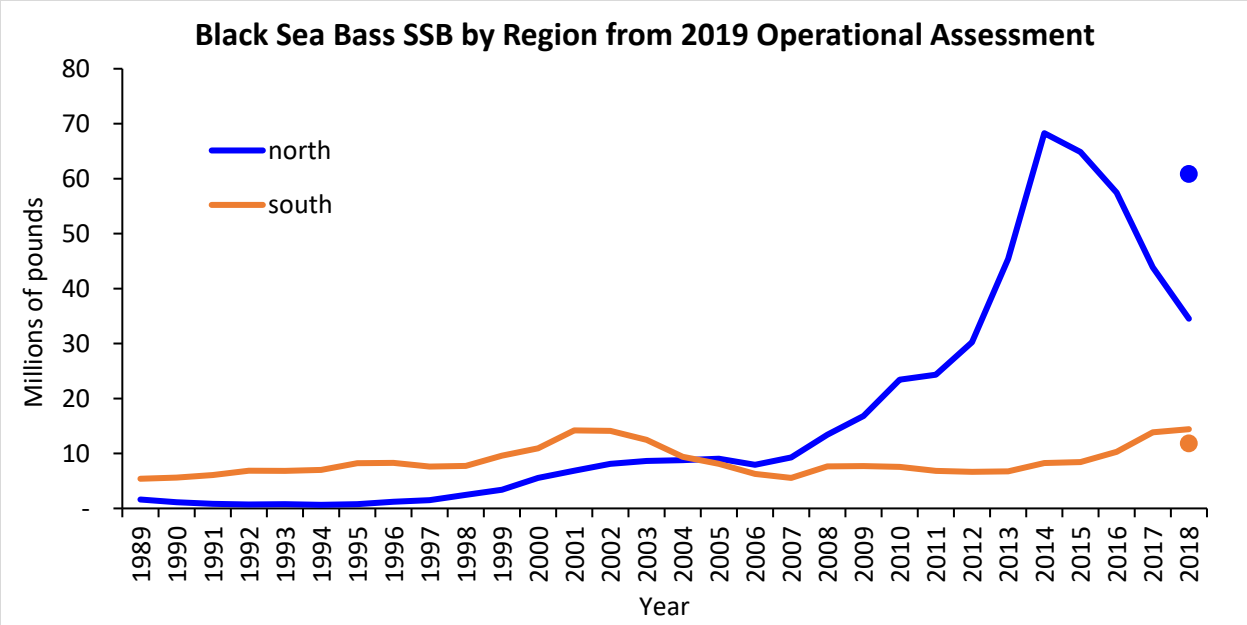

Figure 1. Black sea bass spawning stock biomass by region from the 2019 Operational Assessment Update. Open marks represent retro-adjusted values (used to set catch limits). Source: Personal communication with Northeast Fishery Science Center.

2.2 Background

The Commission's FMP for black sea bass was approved in October 1996. The Council added black sea bass to their Summer Flounder FMP in 1996 through Amendment 9. Both FMPs established an annual process of developing commercial quotas, recreational harvest limits, and recreational and commercial management measures, as well as a series of permitting and reporting requirements. Under the original FMP, the annual coastwide commercial quota was divided into four quarters: January 1 through March 31, April 1 through June 30, July 1 through September 30, and October 1 through December 31.

Under the quarterly quota allocation system, the fishery was subjected to lengthy closures and some significant quota overages. Fishery closures occurring as a result of quotas being fully utilized or exceeded resulted in increased discards of legal sized black sea bass in mixed species fisheries for the remainder of the closure period. Significant financial hardship on the part of the fishing industry also resulted from a decrease in market demand caused by a fluctuating supply. To address these issues, the Management Board enacted a series of emergency rules in 2001 establishing initial possession limits, triggers, and adjusted possession limits. While these measures helped reduce the length of fishery closures, the frequent regulatory changes confused fishermen and added significant administrative burden to the states. Addendum VI (2002) provided a mechanism for setting initial possession limits, triggers, and adjusted possession limits during the annual specification setting process without the need for further emergency rules.

The quarterly quota system was replaced with an annual quota system under Amendment 13, approved by the Commission and Council in May 2002. The Amendment implemented a federal coastwide commercial quota, and a state-by-state allocation system for 2003 and 2004 to be

managed by the Commission. This system was adopted to reduce fishery closures, achieve more equitable distribution of quota to fishermen, and allow the states to manage their commercial quota for the greatest benefit of the industry in their state.

At the time of final action on Amendment 13, the Council expressed a desire that the state allocations be managed at both the state and federal levels and contained in both the Council and Commission's FMPs. However, the NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator at the time said a state quota system at the federal level could not be monitored effectively with the then current monitoring methods due to the anticipated low allocations in some states. As a result, the Council approved a federal annual coastwide quota, acknowledging that this would facilitate the use of state allocations through the Commission's FMP. Many of the concerns with monitoring state quotas at the federal level have subsequently been resolved with changes to how commercial landings are reported.

State-specific shares were adopted as follows: Maine and New Hampshire 0.5%, Connecticut 1%, Delaware 5%, New York 7%, Rhode Island, North Carolina and Maryland 11%, Massachusetts 13%, New Jersey and Virginia 20% (Table 1).

The individual state shares management program was continued in 2005 and 2006 through Addendum XII (2004). Addendum XIX, approved in 2007, extended the state shares of the commercial black sea bass quota indefinitely. No further changes have been made to the black sea bass commercial state shares. Addenda XII and XIX (2004 and 2007, respectively) allowed for the transfer of black sea bass commercial quota among states, and Addendum XX (2009) established the process for state to state quota transfers. Under the management program established through these Addenda, states have the responsibility of managing their quota to provide the greatest benefit to their commercial black sea bass industry. The ability to transfer or combine quota further increased the flexibility of the system to respond to annual variations in fishing practices or landings patterns.

In response to some states' concerns about changing resource availability and associated fishery impacts, the Board formed a Commercial Black Sea Bass Working Group in August 2018 to identify management issues related to changes in stock distribution and abundance, and propose potential management strategies for Board consideration. In February 2019, the Board reviewed the Working Group report. The key issue the Working Group identified is that the state commercial allocations implemented in 2003 do not reflect the current distribution of the resource, which has expanded significantly north of Hudson Canyon. The Board then requested the Plan Development Team (PDT) perform additional analyses and further develop proposed management options related to the issue of state commercial allocations. After reviewing the PDT report, in October 2019 the Board initiated Addendum XXXIII to consider changes to the black sea bass commercial state allocations. In December 2019, the Council initiated a complementary amendment to consider including the state shares in the Council FMP.

Table 1. State shares of black sea bass quota as allocated by Addendum XIX to Amendment 13.

State	Percent of Coastwide Quota
Maine	0.5 %
New Hampshire	0.5 %
Massachusetts	13 %
Rhode Island	11 %
Connecticut	1 %
New York	7 %
New Jersey	20 %
Delaware	5 %
Maryland	11 %
Virginia	20 %
North Carolina	11 %

2.3 Status of the Stock

The most recent stock status information comes from the 2019 operational stock assessment, which was peer-reviewed in August 2019 and approved for management use in October 2019 (NEFSC 2019). The assessment indicated that the black sea bass stock north of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring in 2018, the terminal year of data used in the assessment.

The operational stock assessment updated the Age Structured Assessment Program (ASAP) models used in the 2016 benchmark stock assessment with commercial and recreational catch data, research survey and fishery-dependent indices of abundance, and analyses of those data through 2018[1]. For modeling purposes, the stock was partitioned into two sub-units divided approximately at Hudson Canyon to account for spatial differences in abundance and size at age. The sub-units are not considered separate stocks. Although the stock was assessed by sub-unit, the combined results were used to develop reference points, determine stock status, and recommend fishery specifications.

Spawning stock biomass (SSB), which includes both mature male and female biomass, averaged around 8 million pounds during the late 1980s and early 1990s and then steadily increased from 1997 to 2002 when it reached 22.2 million pounds. From 2007 to 2014, SSB dramatically increased, reaching a peak in 2014 at 76.5 million pounds. Since 2014, SSB has trended back down but remains above the target level. After adjusting for retrospective error in the model, SSB in the terminal year (2018) is estimated at 73.6 million pounds, approximately 2.4 times the target SSB reference point (SSB_{MSY} proxy= SSB40% = 31.1 million pounds) (Figure 2). The (similarly adjusted) fishing mortality rate (F) in 2018 was 0.42, about 91% of the fishing mortality threshold reference point (F_{MSY} proxy= F40%) of 0.46. Except for 2017, F has been

[1] In July 2018, the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) replaced the existing estimates of recreational catch with a calibrated 1981-2017 time series that corresponds to new survey methods that were fully implemented in 2018. The new calibrated recreational estimates are significantly higher than previous estimates, especially in later years of the time series. These revised data were incorporated into the 2019 operational stock assessment. This change was one of multiple factors which impacted the understanding of overall biomass levels.

below the F_{MSY} proxy for the last five years. Average recruitment of black sea bass from 1989 to 2018 was 36 million fish at age 1. The 2011 year class was estimated to be the largest in the time series at 144.7 million fish and the 2015 year class was the second largest at 79.2 million fish. Recruitment of the 2017 year class as age 1 in 2018 was estimated at 16.0 million, well below the time series average.

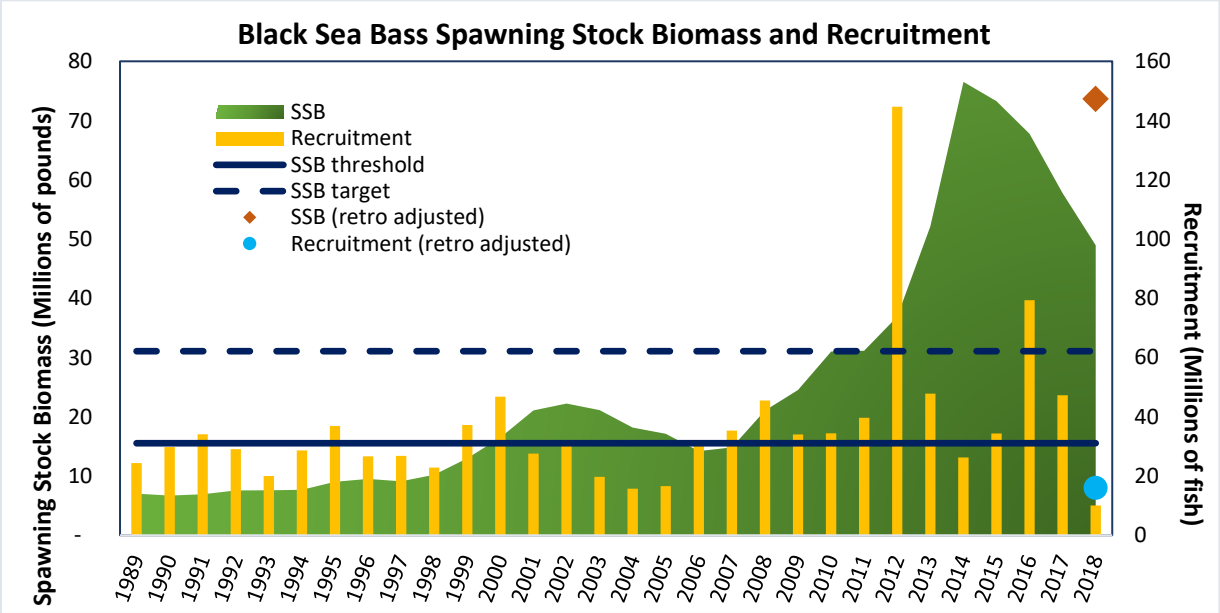

Figure 2. Black sea bass spawning stock biomass and recruitment. Source: 2019 Operational Assessment Prepublication Report, Northeast Fishery Science Center.

2.4 Status of the Fishery

The following information is based on commercial fishery dealer data (landings), the most recent stock assessment (discards), federal vessel trip reports (gear types and area of catch), and input from a small sample of fishermen and dealers. Input was provided by 6 individuals who primarily identify as fishermen and 4 individuals who represent two commercial fish dealers. Collectively, these 10 individuals are from 5 states and use three different gear types (i.e., bottom otter trawl, pot/trap, and hand line). Their input is not intended to be a representative sample of the commercial black sea bass fishery as a whole, but was solicited to provide context to trends shown in the data and document relevant information not captured in the available data.

Commercial landings have been constrained by a coastwide (i.e., Maine through Cape Hatteras, North Carolina) commercial quota since 1998, and state allocations were introduced in 2003. From 1998 to 2019, coastwide landings have closely followed quotas, ranging from a low of 1.16 million pounds in 2009 to a high of 3.98 million pounds in 2017. State landings have also closely followed quotas since they were implemented in 2003. A process for interstate quota transfers was established in 2009, but until 2017 states were highly constrained by low quotas and thus there was not much opportunity for transfers. Under higher quotas more interstate transfers have occurred; in the last three years, the states of Massachusetts through New

Jersey have all received quota transfers from other states to prevent or mitigate overages of their state quotas.

Since the coastwide quota was implemented in 1998, commercial discards have constituted 17% of total commercial removals on average. Over the last five years of the time series (2014-2018) discards were generally higher, averaging 33% of total commercial removals; discards in recent years have likely been influenced by high availability coupled with quota and minimum fish size limitations.

The average price per pound paid to fishermen by dealers for black sea bass (adjusted to 2019 values based on the Gross Domestic Product Price Deflator) appears to show an inverse relationship with landings in the southern region states (New Jersey - North Carolina) during 2010-2019 (i.e., price generally decreased with increases in landings, p=0.002). There did not appear to be a strong relationship between price and landings in the northern region (Maine - New York) during 2010-2019 (p=0.498, Figure 3). Some fishermen and dealers said temporary price drops can occur at both local and regional levels due to increases in the coastwide quota, state-specific seasonal openings, or individual trawl trips with high landings, all of which can be interrelated. They note that these sudden price drops are often temporary and the price usually rises again. This is evident in the coastwide relationship between average price per pound and the coastwide quota, which increased by 52% mid-year in 2017 and then decreased by 15% from 2017 to 2018. The average coastwide price per pound dropped from $3.92 in 2016 to $3.49 in 2017, but increased to $3.82 in 2018 (all prices are adjusted to 2019 values based on the Gross Domestic Product Price Deflator).

Input from fishermen and federal vessel trip report data from 2009-2019 suggest that in years with higher quotas, bottom trawl gear accounted for a greater proportion and pots/traps accounted for a smaller proportion of total commercial landings compared to years with lower quotas. For example, the lowest quotas during 2010-2019 occurred in 2010-2012. During those years, bottom trawl gear accounted for around 39-41% of total commercial black sea bass landings (depending on the year) and pots/traps accounted for about 33-36%. In comparison, the highest quotas occurred in 2016-2019, during which around 52-61% of total commercial black sea bass landings could be attributed to bottom trawl gear and around 21-26% to pot/trap gear. Some fishermen have said trawlers are better able to take advantage of increases in quota as they can land higher volumes than vessels using pot/trap gear. This can be especially beneficial when the price of black sea bass drops (usually temporarily) in response to sudden increases of fish on the market.

According to commercial dealer data for 2010-2019, the average coastwide ex-vessel price per pound for black sea bass caught with bottom trawl gear was $3.90 (adjusted to 2019 values), 6% greater than the average price for black sea bass caught with pots/traps ($3.70). However, some fishermen report that they can get higher prices for black sea bass caught with pots/traps as they can market their fish as fresher and better quality than trawl-caught fish. Pot/trap and hook and line commercial fishermen in some states also sell black sea bass to live markets, which offer even higher prices. Some fishermen and dealers say size has a greater impact on price than gear, though the two are interrelated as black sea bass landed using bottom trawl gear tend to be larger than those landed using pots/traps.

The states have taken different approaches to managing their commercial black sea bass fisheries. Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia use Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) systems, while other states utilize different combinations of quota periods, closed seasons, and initial or adjustable trip and possession limits to prevent quota overages. For some states like Connecticut, quota availability and resulting management measures are highly dependent on quota transfers from other states. Some fishermen and dealers say they take these differences in state management measures into account when deciding when to fish, where to sell fish, and what price to offer for fish. For example, the price offered by local dealers may be higher when neighboring states are closed. Alternatively, some fishermen and dealers in comparatively low allocation states say they generally do not make business decisions based on black sea bass. Due to the low allocations in some states, black sea bass provides supplemental income for these fishermen and dealers, but is not a primary target species. For these reasons, the economic impacts of changes to state quotas can vary in part based on how states adjust their management measures in response to quota changes. For example, an increase in the possession limit could have different impacts than an extension of the open season. ITQ fishermen may be impacted differently than non-ITQ fishermen, and impacts may vary between gear types.

From 2010-2017, the commercial black sea bass landings from Maine through North Carolina which were caught in the northern region (as defined in the stock assessment, corresponding to approximately Hudson Canyon and north) increased steadily, with the greatest increases occurring during 2015-2017. After 2017, the proportion caught in the northern region declined, but remained much higher than the proportion from the southern region. During 2010-2019, the amount of commercial black sea bass landings caught in the southern region did not vary greatly (Figure 4).

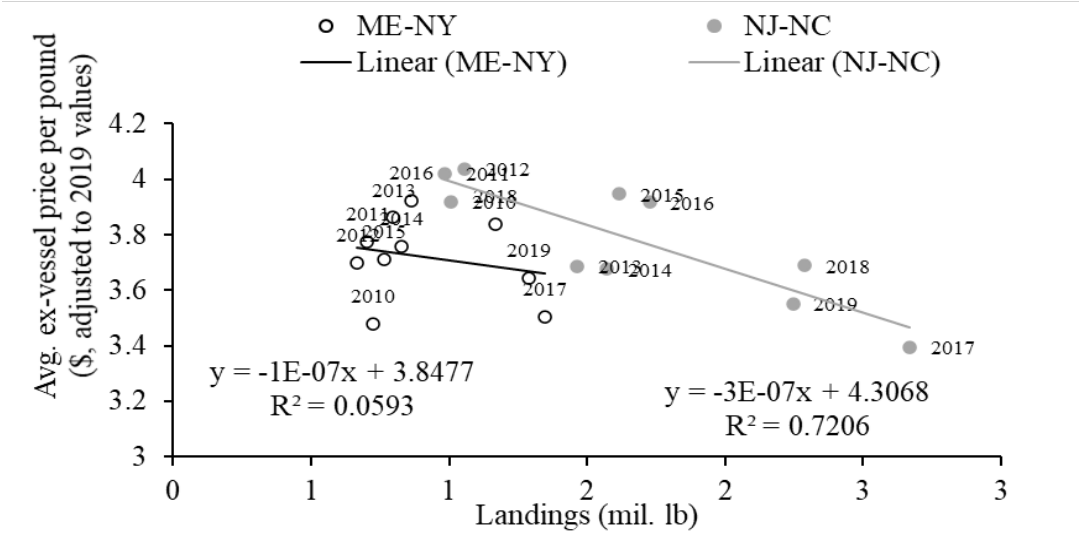

Figure 3. Average annual ex-vessel price per pound for black sea bass compared to annual black sea bass commercial landings by region (ME-NY and NJ-NC), 2010-2019, with associated linear relationship. Prices are adjusted to 2019 values based on the Gross Domestic Product Price Deflator. Data source: dealer data (CFDERS, provided by the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Analysis and Program Support Division).

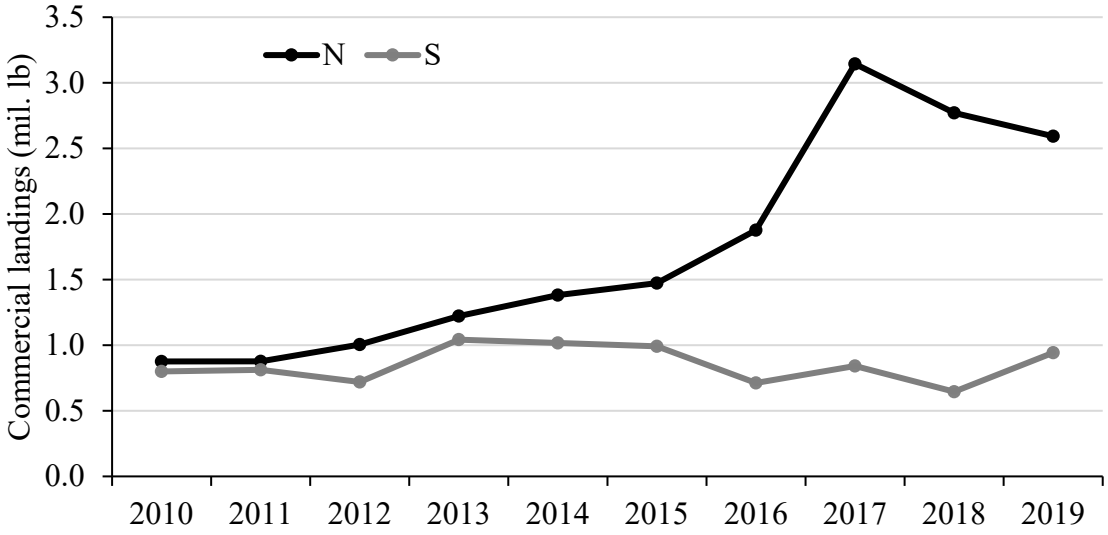

Figure 4. Total commercial black sea bass landings, 2010-2019, Maine through North Carolina, by region of catch location (North or South). Region is assigned based on statistical area of catch using the delineation defined in the stock assessment. Landings with an unknown statistical area were assigned to region based on the state of landing. Data source: dealer AA tables provided by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center

3.0 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

3.1 Revised State Commercial Allocation Process *(The following management program replaces Section 3.1 of Addendum XIV to Interstate FMP for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass).*

This Addendum establishes a new process for establishing the annual state allocations of the coastwide commercial black sea bass quota. The first part of this process establishes new baseline allocations, as described in Section 3.1.1. The second part of the process is to distribute a portion of the annual coastwide quota to the states according to the baseline allocations, and the remaining portion according to regional biomass from the stock assessment, as described in Sections 3.1.2 and 3.1.3.

3.1.1 Baseline Quota Allocations

Baseline quota allocations have been established (Table 2). Connecticut's initial quota allocation is increased to 3% of the coastwide quota by adjusting other state allocations as shown in Table 2.

Connecticut has experienced a substantial increase in abundance of black sea bass in state waters over the last seven years, though the state's original allocation was only 1% of the coastwide quota. This allocation increase attempts to reduce the disparity between the abundance of black sea bass in Connecticut waters and Connecticut's historical allocation. These revised allocations are used as the starting point for additional allocation changes described in Section 3.1.2.

Table 2. Changes in baseline state allocations from historical allocations under Addendum XXXIII

State	Historical Allocation	Change in Allocation	New Baseline Allocation
ME	0.5%	-0.25%	0.25%
NH	0.5%	-0.25%	0.25%
MA	13.0%	-0.23%	12.77%
RI	11.0%	-0.19%	10.81%
CT	1.0%	2.00%	3.00%
NY	7.0%	0.00%	7.00%
NJ	20.0%	-0.35%	19.65%
DE	5.0%	0.00%	5.00%
MD	11.0%	-0.19%	10.81%
VA	20.0%	-0.35%	19.65%
NC	11.0%	-0.19%	10.81%

3.1.2 State by State Coastwide Quota Distribution

Annually, 75% of the coastwide quota will be distributed to states using the baseline allocations established in Section 3.1.1 (Table 2). The remaining 25% of the coastwide quota will first be allocated regionally based on the most recent regional biomass proportions from the stock assessment. Then, regional quotas will be distributed to the states within each region in proportion to their baseline allocations, with the exception of Maine and New Hampshire. Maine and New Hampshire will each receive 1% of the northern region quota.

The regional biomass proportions used to allocate 25% of the coastwide quota are dependent on information from the most recent stock assessment. Therefore, they will be updated according to future stock assessments, which may result in changes to the state allocations. An example of state quota calculations using the regional biomass proportions from the 2019 Operational Assessment is provided in Appendix 1.

3.1.3 Regional Configuration

For the purposes of allocating a portion of the coastwide quota on a regional basis, the following three regions will be used: 1) Maine through New York; 2) New Jersey; and 3) Delaware through North Carolina (North of Cape Hatteras). New Jersey is a distinct region, addressing its geographic position straddling the border between the northern and southern spatial sub-units (approximately at Hudson Canyon as defined in the stock assessment; Figure 5). New Jersey's initial baseline allocation of 19.65% (Table 2) is treated as follows: 9.83% is considered to come from the northern region, and 9.83% from the southern region. As the regional allocations change, New Jersey's "northern" 9.83% of the coastwide quota will change according to the proportion of biomass in northern region, and the "southern" 9.83% will change according to the proportion of biomass in the southern region. New Jersey's total allocation is the sum of the northern and southern components of its allocation. This is consistent with the spatial distribution of black sea bass landings in recent years, which is roughly an even split between north and south of Hudson Canyon (Table 3).

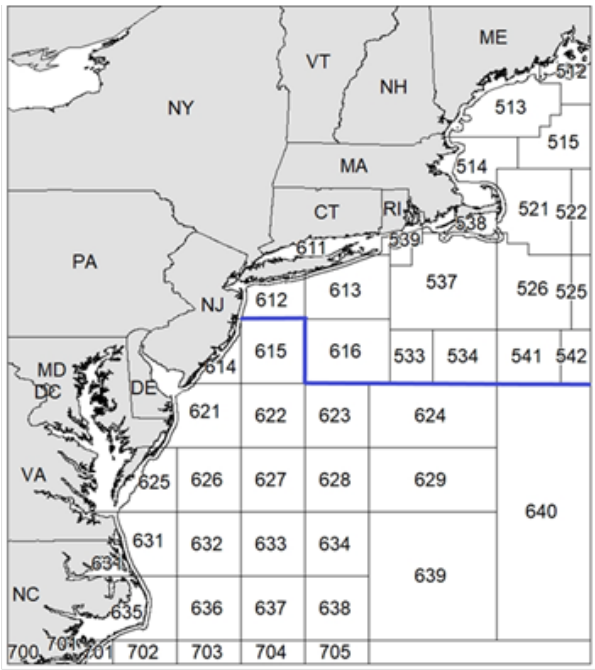

Figure 5. NMFS statistical areas showing the dividing line between the northern and southern regions as defined in the black sea bass stock assessment.

Table 3. Proportion of black sea bass commercial harvest landed in New Jersey from northern and southern region statistical areas. Only landings associated with valid northeast region statistical areas were included in the calculations. Data were provided by the ACCSP. Landings by area were estimated by applying VTR proportions of landings by area to dealer data.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	**Average 2010-2019**	**Average 2010-2014**	**Average 2015-2019**
% North	38%	28%	47%	46%	54%	78%	65%	74%	58%	57%	**54%**	**43%**	**66%**
% South	62%	72%	53%	54%	46%	22%	35%	26%	42%	43%	**46%**	**57%**	**34%**

3.2 Recommended Changes to Federal Regulations

A Council Amendment was developed in conjunction with Addendum XXXIII. The Commission and Council recommended the following changes to federal regulations be implemented through the Council Amendment.

3.2.1 Commercial state allocations included in both Commission and Council FMPs

The Commission and Council recommended that commercial state allocations for black sea bass be included in both the Commission and Council FMPs. As a result, future changes to the allocations will be considered through a joint action between the Commission and Council. This change will require NOAA Fisheries, rather than the Commission, to monitor landings against state quotas and to receive and process all quota transfers between states. Transfers of quota between states will continue to be allowed, but will be subject to the NOAA Fisheries review process.

Adding the state allocations to the Council's FMP will not change how overages of state quotas are handled. States will only pay back quota overages if the entire coastwide quota is exceeded. If a state exceeds their quota in a year when the coastwide quota is exceeded, then that state may be required to pay back overages of their quota.

3.2.2 Federal in-season closures

The Commission and Council recommended modifying the federal regulations for in-season closures, such that the entire commercial fishery would close in-season for all federally permitted vessels and dealers, regardless of state, once landings exceed the coastwide quota plus an additional buffer of up to 5%. The Council and Board will agree to the appropriate buffer for the upcoming year through the specifications process. The intent behind allowing an additional buffer is to help minimize negative economic impacts of coastwide closures on states that have not fully harvested their allocations. This is not expected to create an incentive for quota overages as states would still be required to close when their state-specific quotas are reached, and states will still be required to pay back quota overages as described in Section 3.2.1.

4.0 COMPLIANCE

The management program contained in Section 3.1 of Addendum XXXIII to Amendment 13 is effective January 1, 2022.

5.0 LITERATURE CITED

NEFSC. 2019. Operational Stock Assessment Report

Bell, R. J., Richardson, D. E., Hare, J. A., Lynch, P. D., and Fratantoni, P. S. 2014. Disentangling the effects of climate, abundance, and size on the distribution of marine fish: an example based on four stocks from the Northeast US shelf. ICES Journal of Marine Science, doi: 10.1093/icesjms/fsu217

MAFMC. 2003. Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for Black Sea Bass. Available at: http://www.mafmc.org/sf-s-bsb

APPENDIX 1. Example state quota calculations using the most recent biomass distribution

The table below shows example calculations for state quotas resulting from the allocation system adopted under Addendum XXXIII, using the regional biomass distribution from the 2019 Operational Stock Assessment and a coastwide quota of 6.09 million pounds. The regional biomass proportions are dependent on the most recent stock assessment, and are subject to change as regional biomass changes.

Each state's total quota under the Addendum XXXIIII allocation system is calculated using both the state's baseline allocation (Column B) and regional allocations based on the most recent stock assessment (Column C). The regional biomass proportions based on the most recent stock assessment are 84% in the north (highlighted in orange) and 16% in the south (highlighted in blue) (Column C). These regional allocations are distributed to the states within each region in proportion to their baseline allocations, except that Maine and New Hampshire each receive 1% of the northern region quota (Column D).

Each state's baseline allocation is multiplied by 75% (Column E). Then, each state's proportion of the regional allocation (Column D) is multiplied by 25% (Column F). The resulting state allocations (Column G) are the sum of the portion based on the baseline allocation (Column E) and the portion based on regional biomass (Column F). New Jersey's total allocation is the sum of its northern and southern components. The annual state quotas are calculated by multiplying the resulting state allocations (Column G) by the annual coastwide quota.

Step 1: Calculate the Baseline Based Allocation

$$Baseline\ Based\ Allocations\ (Column\ E) = Baseline\ Allocation\ (Column\ B) \times 75\%$$

Step 2: Calculate the Biomass Based Allocation

$$Biomass\ Based\ Allocation\ (Column\ F) = State\ Proportions\ of\ Regional\ Allocation\ (Column\ D) \times 25\%$$

Step 3: Add Together for the Final Allocation

$$Final\ Allocation\ (Column\ G) = Baseline\ Based\ Allocation\ (Column\ E) + Biomass\ Based\ Allocation\ (Column\ F)$$

A	B	C*	D*	E	F	G	H
State	**New Baseline Allocations**	**Regional Biomass Distribution (2019 Assessment)**	**State Proportions of Regional Allocation**	**Baseline-based Allocations (75% of Column B)**	**Biomass-based Allocations (25% of Column D)**	**EXAMPLE ALLOCATIONS based on current biomass distribution**	**EXAMPLE State Quota Based on 6,090,000 M lb Coastwide Quota**
ME	0.25%	84%	0.84%	0.19%	0.21%	0.40%	24,208
NH	0.25%		0.84%	0.19%	0.21%	0.40%	24,208
MA	12.77%		24.22%	9.58%	6.06%	15.64%	952,230
RI	10.81%		20.50%	8.11%	5.12%	13.23%	805,733
CT	3.00%		5.69%	2.25%	1.42%	3.67%	223,646
NY	7.00%		13.28%	5.25%	3.32%	8.57%	521,841
NJ - N	9.83%		18.63%	7.37%	4.66%	20.10%	1,223,939
NJ - S	9.83%	16%	2.80%	7.37%	0.70%		
DE	5.00%		1.43%	3.75%	0.36%	4.11%	250,089
MD	10.81%		3.08%	8.11%	0.77%	8.88%	540,599
VA	19.65%		5.61%	14.74%	1.40%	16.14%	982,908
NC	10.81%		3.08%	8.11%	0.77%	8.88%	540,599
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**75%**	**25%**	**100%**	**6,090,000**

* These values in these columns are dependent on the most recent regional biomass distribution estimates from the stock assessment. They will be updated whenever regional biomass information changes, and the state allocations will change as a result. The methodology for calculating the allocations will not change.