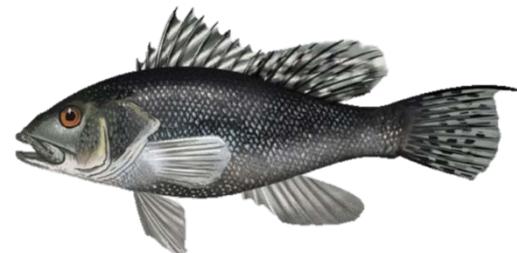
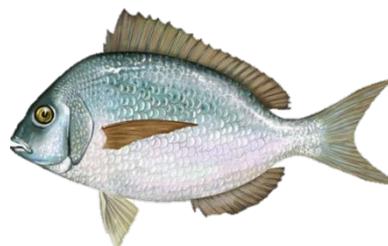




Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission Draft Addendum 31

**on
Conservation Equivalency and Block Island Sound Transit**



**Narragansett, Rhode Island
November 7, 2018**

Presentation Outline



- ASMFC Overview
- Document Development Timeline
- Document Introduction
 - Statement of the Problem
 - Background
- Management Options
- Questions & Next steps
 - Public Comment

ASMFC Overview



- Formed in 1942 – Interstate Compact
- 15 Atlantic coast states: ME – FL
- 0 – 3 miles from shore
 - Council manages 3-200 miles
- Deliberative forum for states
- 3 Commissioners from each state
- Each state has one vote



Document Development



Joint Action by Board (Addendum) and Council (Framework)

Addendum/Framework initiated	December 2017
Management options approved for public comment	May 2018
Public Comment	Oct-Nov 2018
Consider final approval of Addendum /Framework	Dec 2018

Document Structure



- Statement of the Problem
- Background
- Proposed Management Program
 - Conservation Equivalency for Black Sea Bass
 - Conservation Equivalency rollover for Fluke
 - Block Island Transit Zone
 - Slot Limits* (Council only; ASMFC currently allows)

Statement of the Problem



- State and federal waters measures are not always identical.
- Discrepancies between state and federal regulations create confusion
 - Can result in noncompliance and challenges for enforcement
- Add. 31 aims to: 1) to add tools for managing summer flounder, scup and black sea bass, and 2) reduce inconsistencies between state and federal regulations

Background



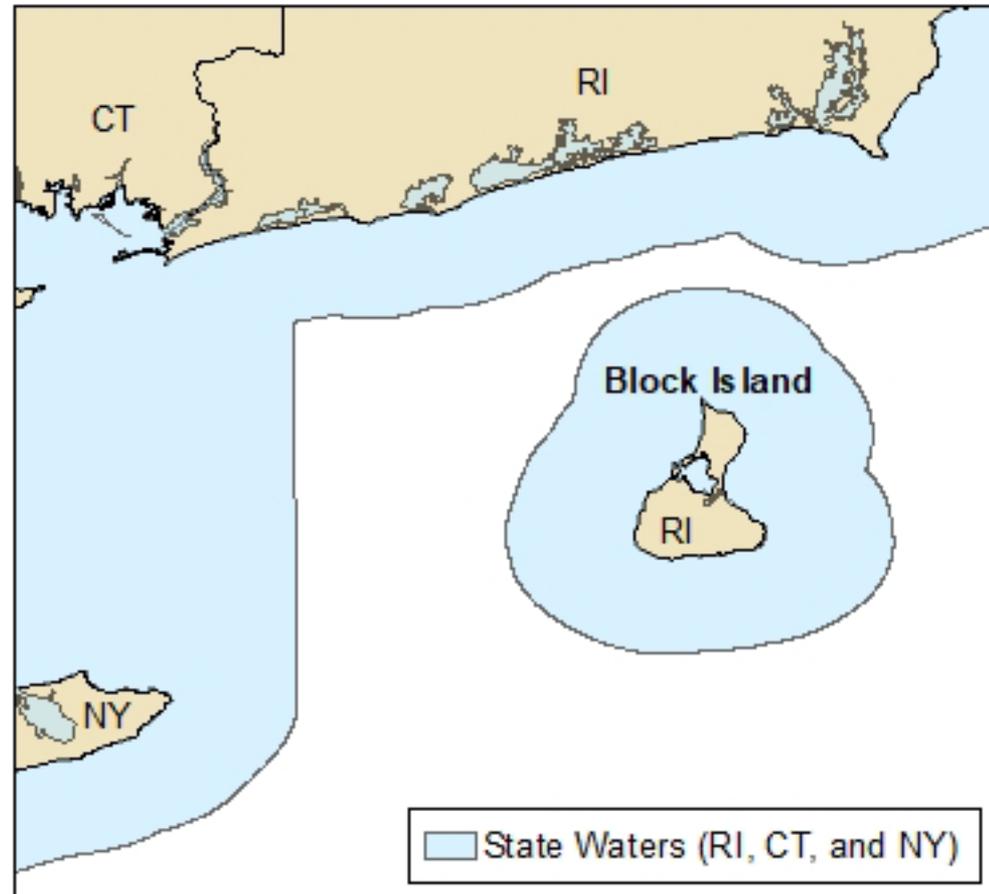
- Summer Flounder Recreational Measures
 - FMP status quo: Annual choice between coastwide or Conservation Equivalency (CE)
 - CE allows state measures to be applied in federal waters; federal measures waived
- Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures
 - FMP status quo: Coastwide measures
 - Two sets of measures: federal waters, and state by state or regional measures in state waters (only through addenda)

Background Cont'd



Block Island Sound Transit

- Permit holders must abide by federal regulations when returning to mainland from state waters around Block Island
- Recent fall BSB rec. closure in federal waters, but open in state waters





Draft Addendum 31 Management Options

Conservation Equivalency (CE)

- **Issue 1:** Allow CE for Black Sea Bass
- **Issue 2:** Allow year to year rollover of CE for Fluke

Issue 3: Block Island Sound Transit

- Sub-options for transit allowance
 - Transit Area
 - Fisheries affected

Draft Addendum 31 Options



Issue 1: Allow CE for Black Sea Bass

- **1A: Status Quo - No action**
- **1B: Allow BSB recreational conservation equivalency (CE) using summer flounder process**
- **1C: Allow BSB recreational CE using summer flounder process and allowing CE to rollover from one year to next**

****Choice of options 1B & 1C does not implement CE; makes it an option annually****

Summer Flounder CE process



- **Dec:** Council/Board - coastwide measures or CE?
If CE:
 - Non-preferred coastwide measures
 - Precautionary default measures
- **Jan:** States/regions submit proposals, TC reviews
- **Feb:** Board considers proposals for approval
- **Apr:** Commission sends letter to NMFS certifying that state/regional measures will constrain harvest to RHL
- **May:** NMFS waives federal waters measures through Dec 31





Option 1C: CE Rollover

- Federal waters measures typically waived in May – expires Dec 31
- From Jan 1 – May, non-preferred coastwide measures are in effect in federal waters
- For CE to roll over (**1C**), non-preferred coastwide and precautionary default measures would need to be appropriate for RHL in both years

Draft Addendum 31 Options



Issue 2: Allow year to year rollover of CE for Fluke

- **2A: Status quo**
- **2B: Allow summer flounder CE to rollover from one year to next**



Issue 3:

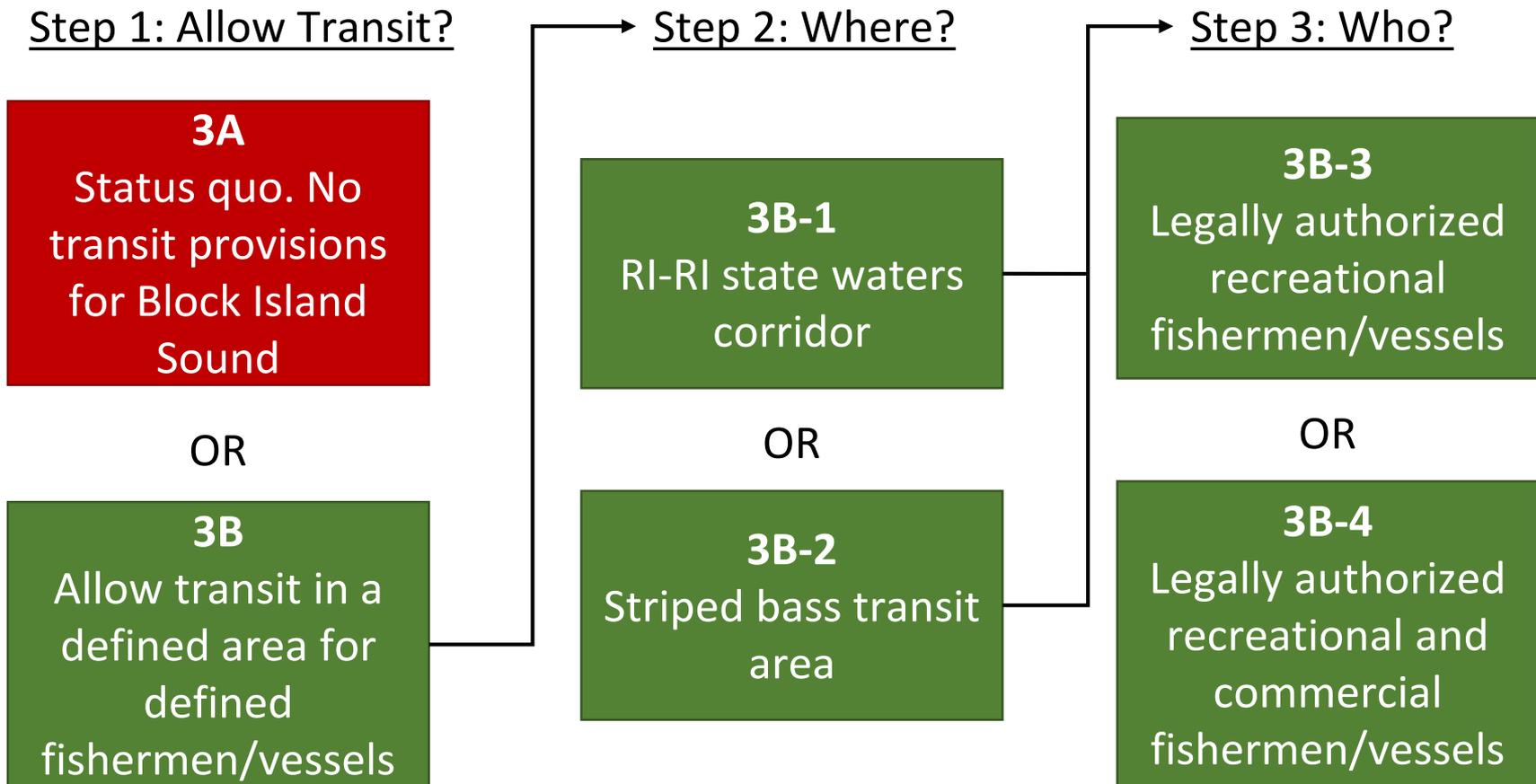
Block Island Transit Provisions

- Options only impact Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass
- Only affects non-federal permit holders (federal permit holders still bound by most restrictive regulations)
- ASMFC will make recommendation to NOAA for proposed rule

Block Island Sound Transit



Options for Block Island Sound Transit



Block Island Sound Transit



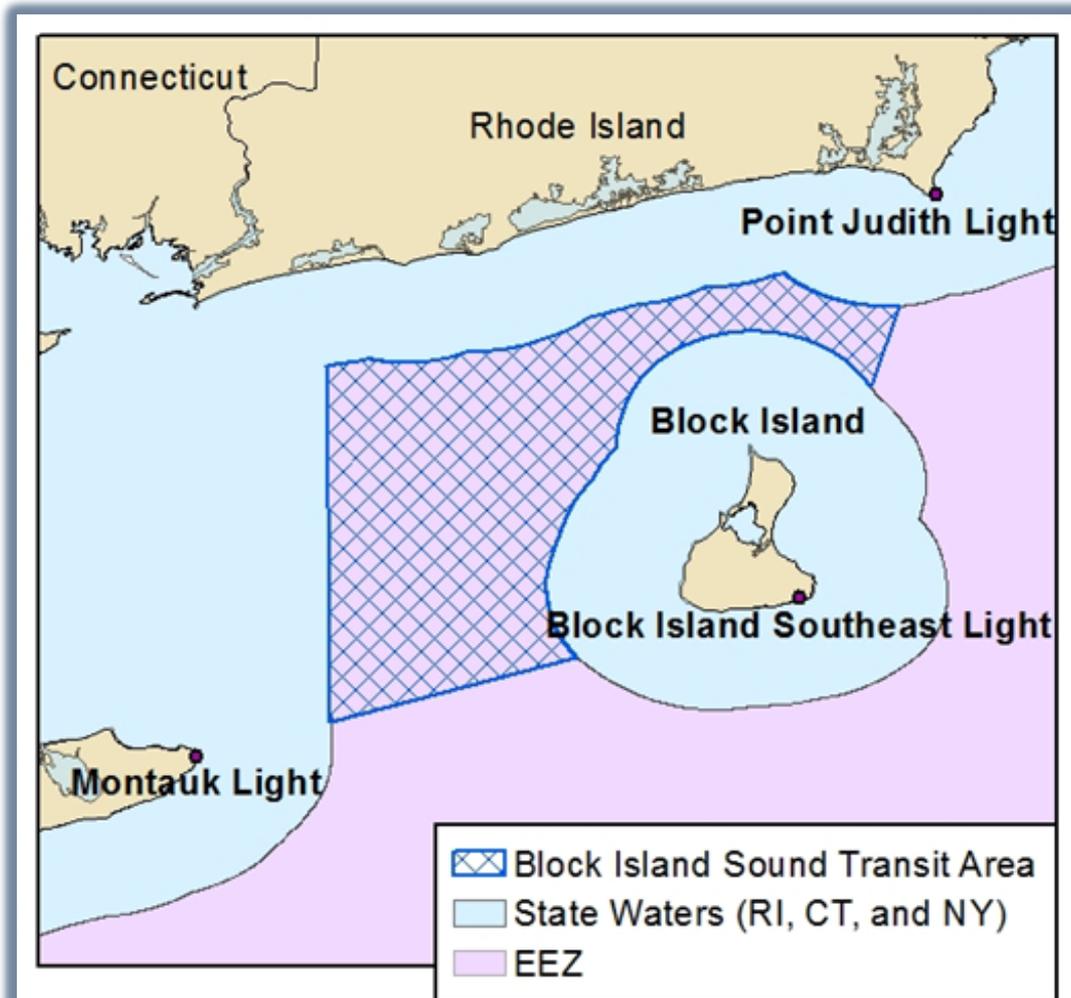
- **3A: No action (status quo)**
- **3B: Transit Provisions**
 - Establishes transit zone for non-federally permitted vessels in possession of 3 species
 - Federally permitted vessels must follow most restrictive regulations
 - Transit = continuous movement, gear stowed, no fishing

Block Island Sound Transit



3B Sub-Options: Transit Area

- 3B-2: Existing Block Island Transit Zone for Striped Bass



3B Sub-Options: Fisheries Subject to Transit

- 3B-3: Recreational Fishery Only
 - Applies to:
 - Non-federally permitted recreational anglers and for-hire party/charter vessels;
 - in possession of any of the three species (fluke, scup, sea bass) legally harvested from state waters
 - Does NOT apply to dual permit holders

3B Sub-Options: Fisheries Subject to Transit

- 3B-4: Recreational and Commercial Fishery
 - Applies to:
 - Non-federally permitted recreational anglers, for-hire party/charter vessels, AND commercial vessels;
 - in possession of any of the three species (fluke, scup, sea bass) legally harvested from state waters
 - Does NOT apply to dual permit holders

Next Steps



- Ask questions now

Then...

- Provide public comment
 - Specify which 1) management options you prefer and 2) why



Public Comment

Send public comment to



Kirby Rootes-Murdy

Senior FMP Coordinator

email: comments@asmfc.org

**Subject line: 'Draft Addendum XXXI and XXXII
Comment'**

mail address: 1050 N. Highland St.

Suite 200A-N

Arlington, VA 22201



Back Up Slides

Options Summary



Conservation Equivalency (CE) Options

- Issue 1: CE for Black Sea Bass
 - **Option 1A:** No CE (status quo)
 - **Option 1B:** CE with summer flounder process
 - **Option 1C:** CE with rollover
- Issue 2: CE Rollover for Fluke
 - **Option 2A:** No CE Rollover
 - **Option 2B:** CE Rollover

Options Summary



Block Island Sound Transit Options

- **Option 3A:** No transit provisions (status quo)
- **Option 3B:** Transit allowed through specified area

Transit Area { – **Option 3B-1:** RI-RI Transit Corridor
– **Option 3B-2:** Striped Bass Transit Area

Sector { – **Option 3B-3:** Recreational fishery only
– **Option 3B-4:** Rec and commercial fishery

Block Island Sound Transit



Options for Block Island Sound Transit

Step 1: Allow Transit?

3A
Status quo. No transit provisions for Block Island Sound

OR

3B
Allow transit in a defined area for defined fishermen/vessels

Step 2: Where?

3B-1
RI-RI state waters corridor

OR

3B-2
Striped bass transit area

Step 3: Who?

3B-3
Legally authorized recreational fishermen/vessels

OR

3B-4
Legally authorized recreational and commercial fishermen/vessels