

Skate Actions

2019

Fiona Hogan

Skate PDT Chair

Skate AP Meeting
April 23, 2019



New England
Fishery Management Council

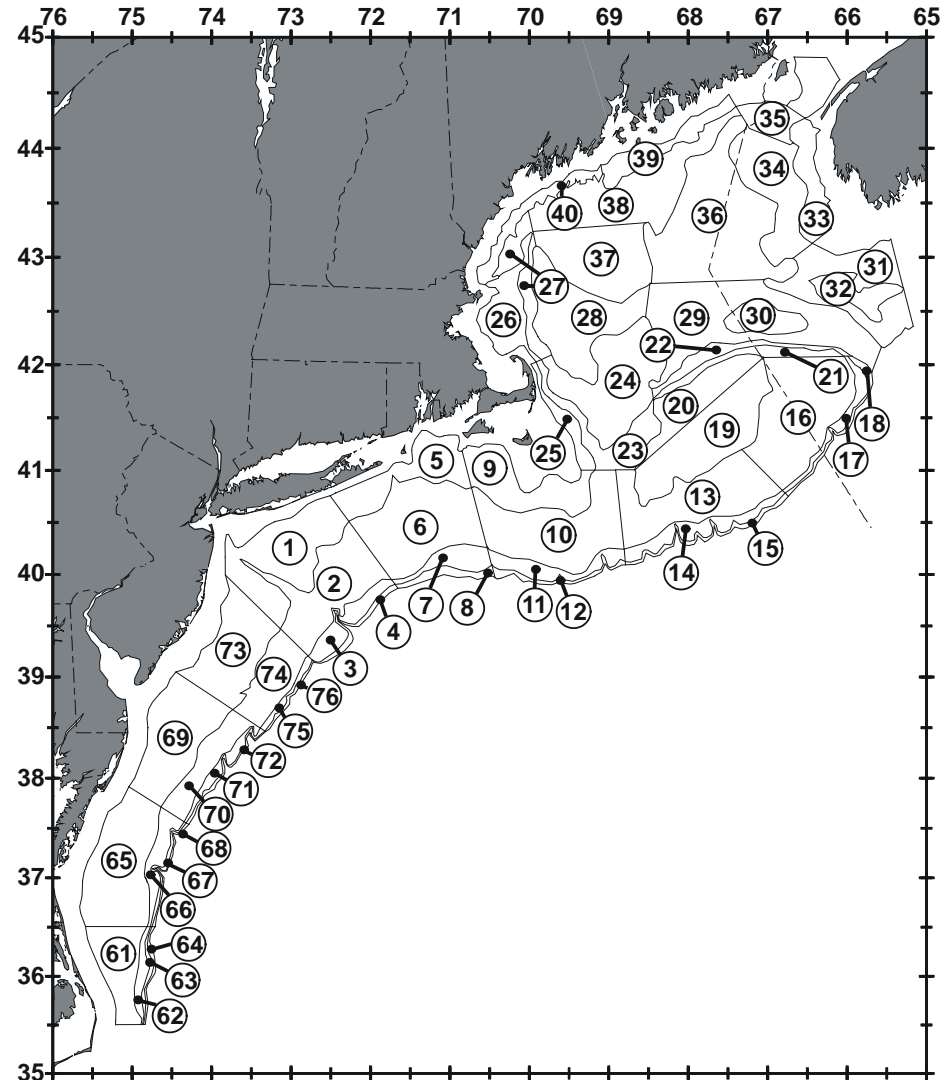
2019 Priorities

- ▶ Skate specifications for FYs 2020 & 2021
 - ▶ Late summer/fall
- ▶ Annual skate monitoring report
 - ▶ Fall
- ▶ Limited access – Amendment 5
 - ▶ Spring/summer/fall



Specifications

- ▶ Survey issues
 - ▶ 2017 Fall survey
 - ▶ No survey index for rosette or clearnose
 - ▶ Barndoor, smooth, and thorny indices don't include SNE
 - ▶ Winter skate index doesn't include SNE or MA
 - ▶ 2018 Fall survey
 - ▶ Barndoor, smooth, thorny and winter missing 3 strata completely and a 4th strata only had 1 tow



Impacts on specifications

- ▶ Key components of specifications
 - ▶ Survey indices
 - ▶ Discards
 - ▶ Catch/biomass medians
- ▶ PDT analyzing options for each issue
- ▶ One recommendation will be made by PDT
- ▶ Specifications will be calculated for all scenarios and presented to SSC



Preliminary Results

- ▶ Missing indices for rosette and clearnose
 - ▶ Use 2-year average
- ▶ Reduced survey coverage for barndoor, smooth, thorny, and winter skate in Fall 2017
 - ▶ Use time series average to adjust indices
- ▶ Fall 2018 survey issues
 - ▶ Need more work before conclusions can be made



Limited Access

Amendment 5 – Preliminary Work

Summary of permits and landings

FISH. YEAR	TOTAL PERMIT	TOTAL_LB S	TOTAL VALUE	WING PERMIT	WING_LB S	WING VALUE	BAIT PERMIT	BAIT LBS	BAIT VALUE
2003	421	16,279,061	\$2,005,322	421	16,279,061	\$2,005,322			
2004	506	29,139,849	\$4,576,634	502	23,786,712	\$4,173,148	22	5,353,137	\$403,486
2005	511	28,212,377	\$5,087,087	499	23,025,782	\$4,698,225	24	5,186,595	\$388,862
2006	520	29,667,534	\$6,512,338	518	24,715,918	\$6,107,426	25	4,951,616	\$404,912
2007	522	39,395,973	\$7,644,577	516	31,857,982	\$7,000,062	25	7,537,991	\$644,515
2008	499	36,110,966	\$6,231,808	490	28,267,845	\$5,512,798	40	7,842,894	\$719,010
2009	504	36,321,700	\$6,602,301	502	29,530,574	\$5,932,049	24	6,780,811	\$670,252
2010	490	27,816,447	\$5,172,654	475	19,364,051	\$4,191,337	54	8,452,396	\$981,317
2011	494	34,721,970	\$7,891,917	486	25,523,899	\$6,333,371	36	9,197,957	\$1,558,546
2012	464	29,242,265	\$6,163,103	455	18,776,874	\$4,799,915	30	10,465,346	\$1,363,188
2013	401	27,164,154	\$6,461,369	390	16,783,291	\$5,319,301	41	10,332,188	\$1,121,969
2014	401	31,001,944	\$8,242,850	385	22,467,773	\$7,166,253	38	8,501,192	\$1,074,170
2015	384	28,780,962	\$5,175,509	372	19,249,880	\$4,182,850	33	9,524,140	\$992,348
2016	372	26,651,231	\$4,756,200	358	18,161,598	\$3,805,030	38	8,485,768	\$951,083
2017	374	26,206,306	\$5,296,697	365	18,222,225	\$4,261,973	56	7,980,131	\$1,034,388
2018	264	12,309,469	\$2,873,347	254	9,242,931	\$2,489,316	28	3,056,238	\$369,919

Note: 2018 data are preliminary.



Entering the Skate Fisheries

FISHING YEAR	All Vessels	Wing Vessels	Bait Vessels
2004	155	153	22
2005	90	84	11
2006	70	71	14
2007	58	56	15
2008	36	37	18
2009	37	38	10
2010	49	48	21
2011	34	35	4
2012	33	32	5
2013	11	10	13
2014	25	24	7
2015	25	25	5
2016	17	17	7
2017	26	25	18
2018	6	6	5



Exiting the Skate Fisheries

FISHING YEAR	Total Vessels Dropped Out	"Wing" Vessels Dropped Out	"Bait" Vessels Dropped Out
2004	70	72	0
2005	103	107	9
2006	106	103	13
2007	94	94	16
2008	98	98	7
2009	72	72	29
2010	100	111	8
2011	71	70	26
2012	84	85	11
2013	96	98	5
2014	66	69	12
2015	71	69	13
2016	67	70	7
2017	63	61	10
2018	129	130	33

Bait Fishery

- ▶ Focused on the bait fishery due to its size
- ▶ Questions over databases
 - ▶ Fields identifying bait vs wing landings can affect number of qualifying vessels
- ▶ Control date July 30, 2009
 - ▶ FYs 2004 – 2008
 - ▶ FYs 2009 – 2013
 - ▶ FYs 2014 - 2016



Bait

Time-period	Number of vessels	Live pounds (thousand)	Landed pounds (thousand)
FY2004-2008	166	46,030	45,978
FY2009-2013	162	55,404	55,064
FY2014-2018	169	48,746	48,710
Total	497	-	-
Total, no duplicates	331	150,180	149,752
Qualify FY2004-2008 Active FY2014-2016	50	111,867	111,816

PDT's thoughts after bait work

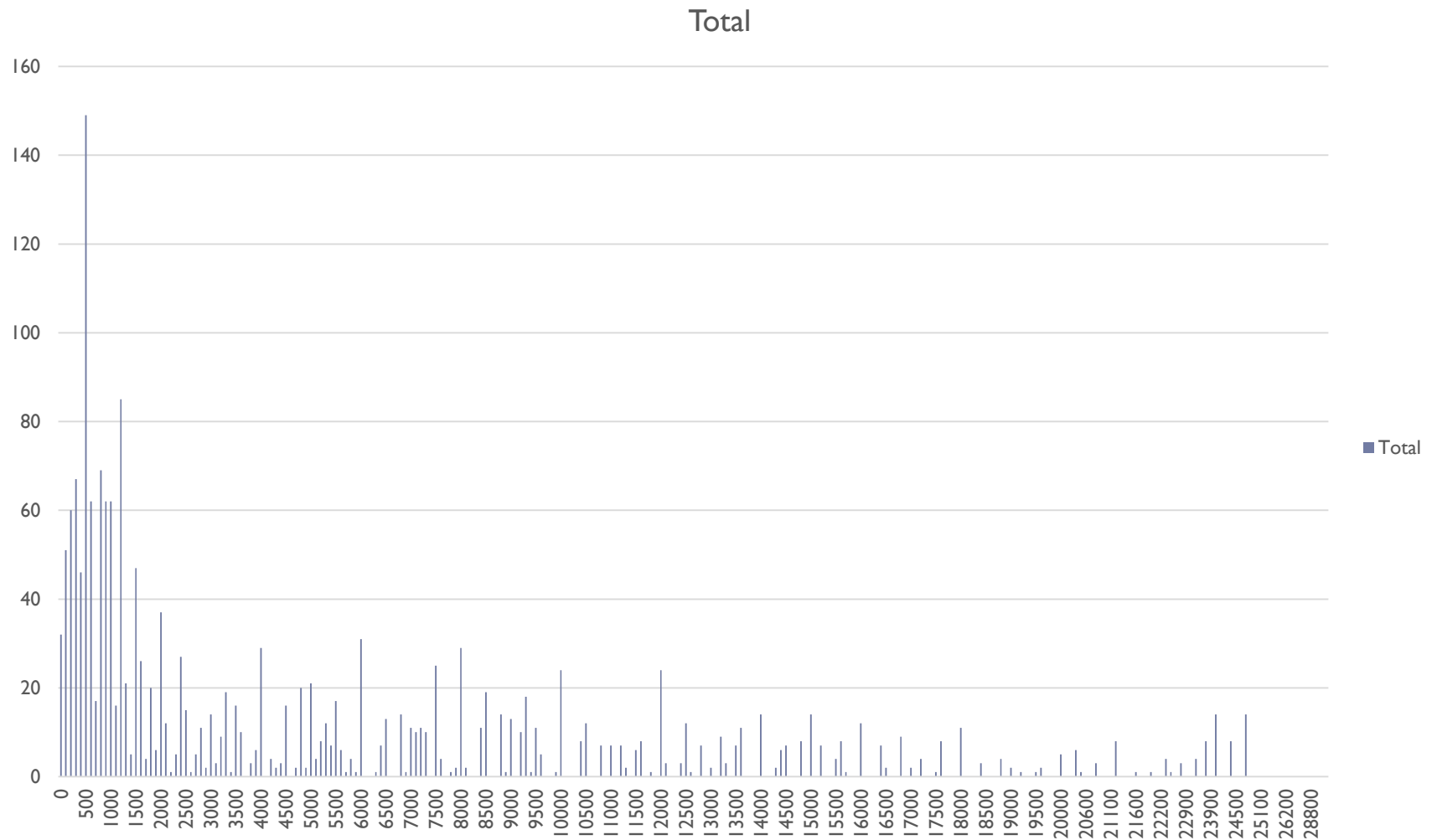
- ▶ CFDEERS – chosen database
 - ▶ NMFS will officially pull final data as decisions are made
- ▶ Letter of Authorization – informal at early stages of FMP
- ▶ Landings – better for qualification than DAS
- ▶ Purpose & need
- ▶ Objective – guidance necessary to develop alternatives
- ▶ Incidental permit – needed
 - ▶ Potentially open access
 - ▶ Could reduce regulatory discards from incidental trips even in wing fishery



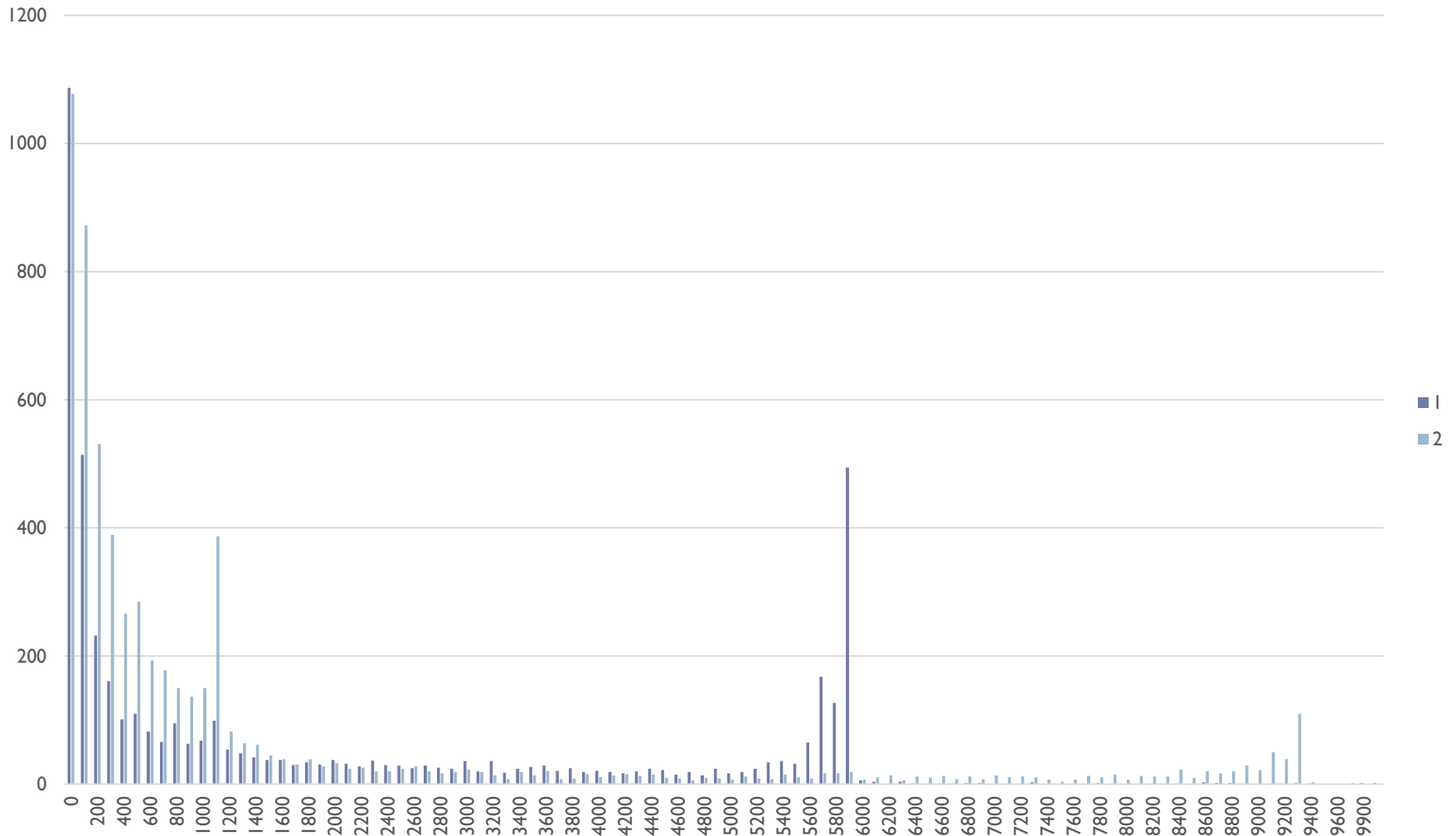
Wing

Time-period	Number of vessels	Live pounds (thousand)	Landed pounds (thousand)
FY2004-2008	798	137,516	65,694
FY2009-2013	696	110,468	52,405
FY2014-2018	556	97,130	45,920
Total	2050	-	-
Total, no duplicates	1083	345,115	164,020
Qualify FY2004-2008 Active FY2014-2016	353	245,348	117,159

Bait FY2016 trip frequency



Wing FY2016 trip frequency



Objectives

- ▶ The overall goal of the Skate FMP is:
 - ▶ Consistent with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other applicable laws, to develop a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to research and manage the Northeast skate complex at long-term sustainable levels.



Objectives

- ▶ To achieve this goal, the Council has identified several FMP objectives:
 - ▶ 1. Collect information critical for substantially improving knowledge of skate fisheries by species and for monitoring: (a) the status of skate fisheries, resources, and related markets and (b) the effectiveness of skate management approaches.
 - ▶ 2. Implement measures to: protect the two currently overfished species of skates (barndoor and thorny) and increase their biomass to target levels, reduce fishing mortality on winter skate, and prevent overfishing of the other species in the Northeast skate complex – this may be accomplished through management measures in other FMPs (groundfish, monkfish, scallops), skate-specific management measures, or a combination of both as necessary.
 - ▶ 3. Develop a skate permit system, coordinate data collection with appropriate state agencies for vessels fishing for skates or catching skates as bycatch only in state waters, and work with Final Skate FMP/EIS 8 Volume I the fishing industry to establish a catch reporting system consistent with industry capabilities, including the use of study fleets.
 - ▶ 4. Minimize the bycatch and discard mortality rates for skates caught in both directed and nondirected fisheries through the promotion and encouragement of experimentation, conservation engineering, and gear development.
 - ▶ 5. Promote and encourage research for critical biological, ecological, and fishery information based on the research needs identified in the Skate SAFE Report and scoping document, including the development and dissemination of a skate species identification guide.
 - ▶ 6. Minimize, to the extent possible, the impacts of skate management approaches on fisheries for other species on which New England and Mid-Atlantic fishermen depend (for example, groundfish, monkfish, scallops, and fluke), recognizing the interconnected nature of skate and other fisheries in the Northeast Region.
 - ▶ 7. To the extent possible, manage clearnose and rosette skates separately from the other five species in the skate complex, recognizing that these two species are distributed primarily in the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic regions.



Questions for AP/CTE

▶ LA permit program

- ▶ Create a single LA skate permit (have 1 permit type)
- ▶ Create separate Bait and Wing LA permits (have 2 permit types)
- ▶ Create separate Bait, Wing, and Bait/Wing combo permits (3 permit types)
- ▶ Any of the above plus an open access incidental permit

▶ Qualification Criteria

- ▶ Held a permit prior to the control date (July 30, 2009)
 - ▶ Plus actively fishing now (need to qualifying fishing years)
 - ▶ Landings of X amount prior to control date
- ▶ Actively fishing now
 - ▶ Landings of X amount
- ▶ Held LOA during X time period (bait only)
- ▶ Does control date need to change for either fishery?



Timelines

- ▶ **May 21/22 AP/CTE meeting**
 - ▶ Additional progress on design of limited access permit program
- ▶ **June Council meeting**
 - ▶ Update the Council/receive any additional guidance
- ▶ **June – TBD**
 - ▶ Continue work on limited access
- ▶ **August – November**
 - ▶ Specifications package

