

Skate Plan Development Team Meeting

**April 19, 2021
1:00 – 3:00 PM
Webinar**



Webinar (recommended): <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/462372925>

Telephone: (571) 317-3122. Access Code: 462-372-925.

Technical Support: helpdesk@nefmc.org or (978) 465-0492 x111

Introductions

Skate Plan Development Team	
Dr. Trish Clay, NEFSC/SSB	Ashleigh McCord, GARFO/NEPA
Jenny Couture, NEFMC	Danielle Palmer, GARFO/PRD
Dr. Tobey Curtis, GARFO/HMS	Eric Schneider, RI DEM/DMF
Dr. Rachel Feeney (PDT Chair), NEFMC	Dr. Katherine Sosebee, NEFSC/Pop. Dy.
Cynthia Ferrio, GARFO/SFD	John Sullivan, GARFO/APSD
Lou Goodreau, NEFMC	Samantha Werner, NEFSC/SSB

Reminders:

- Please mute yourself to avoid interference with the meeting.
- Only have ONE audio connection to the webinar to avoid echoes.
- This is a working meeting of the PDT. Public comment accepted at PDT Chair's discretion.

Agenda

- 1:00 pm** **Introductions/approval of agenda/timelines/other updates**
- 1:10** **2022-2023 Specifications**
- Update on developing ABC
 - Develop possession limit measures and other information
- 1:45** **Amendment 5**
- Review Council meeting outcomes
 - Develop measures and other information
- 2:30** **Other business**
- Research priorities and data needs.
 - Data query methods and quality assurances
 - Plan next PDT meeting
- 3:00** **Adjourn**

Any revisions?



Skate timeline update



Month	Day	Meetings and Milestones
April	19	PDT meeting – A5 focus, specs if needed
May	6	Docs ready for AP & Cte meetings, poll for July PDT mtg
	13	AP meeting – specs possession limits, A5 progress
	18	Cte meeting – specs possession limits, A5 progress
June	9	Docs ready for Council meeting
	22-24	Council mtg – A5 focus, specs update
July	TBD	PDT meeting – finalize ABC recommendation, A5 progress
	20	Docs ready for SSC meeting
	29	SSC mtg – recommend ABC
Aug	TBD	PDT – specs impacts, A5 progress
	TBD	AP – final specifications mtg, A5 progress
	TBD	Cte mtg - final specifications mtg, A5 progress
Sept	28-30	Council mtg - Final action on specifications

1:10 PM

2022-2023 Specifications

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Specifications

- Council mtg
 - No recommendations for including measures other than setting ABC flow chart and possession limits
- One Affected Environment (for now) created for Specs and Amendment 5
- Next steps – Prior to May 6
 - All – develop any recommendations on possession limit alternatives
 - Lou, Jenny, Sam - what data can be provided in time?
 - All – review uncertainty buffer section in Affected Environment doc
- Next steps - Ongoing
 - Kathy – lead development of potential ABC recommendations
 - John – to supply discard and state landings data
 - Rachel – coordinate drafting memos for SSC
 - Lou, Sam, Trish – coordinate approach to economic and social impact analysis



Setting possession limits

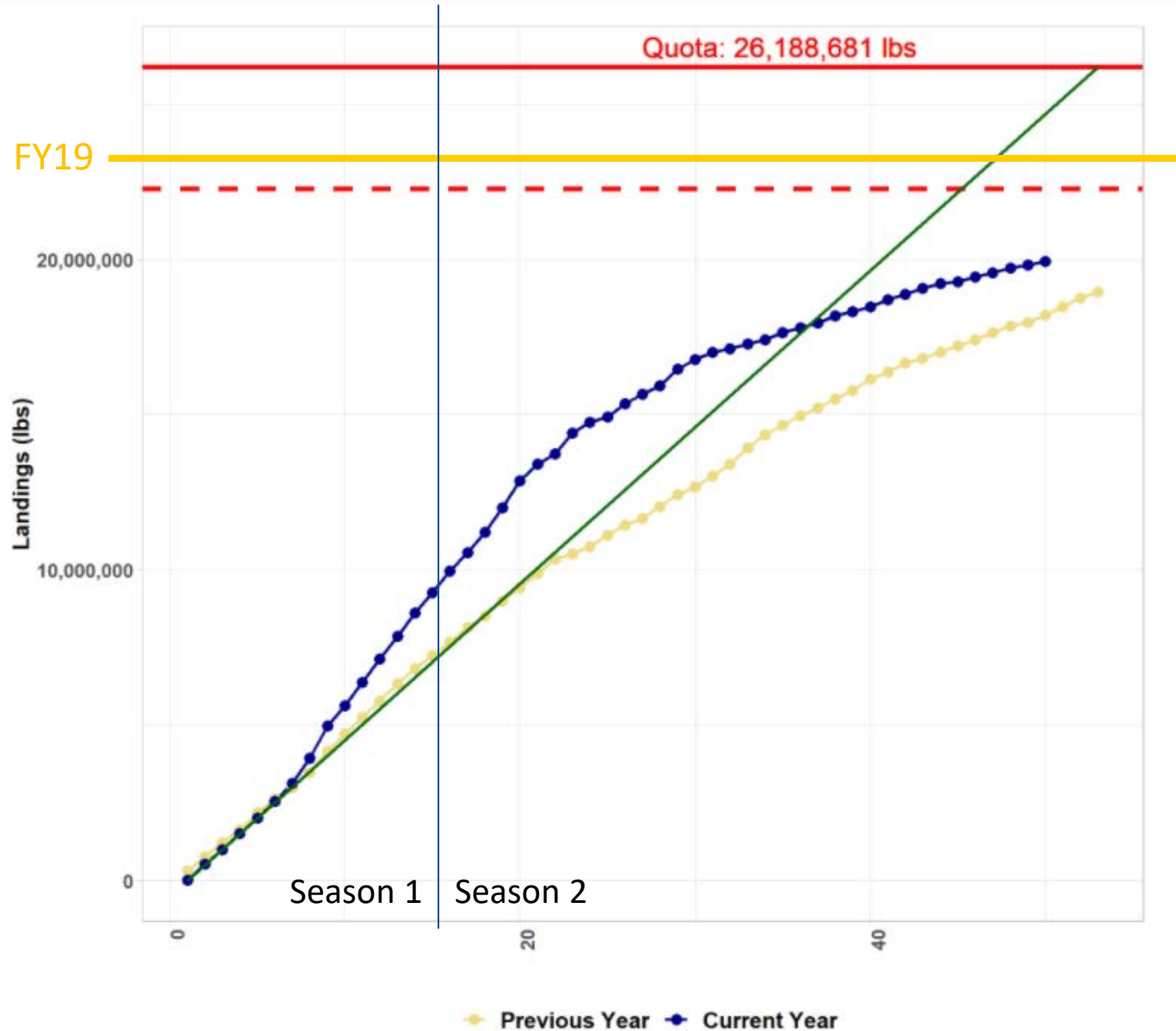
“No Action” - FY 2020 and 2021 skate seasons and possession limits.

Fishery	Season	Dates	% sub-TAL	Possession Limit	Trigger	Incidental Limit
Wing (66.5% TAL)	1	May 1 – Aug 31	57%	3,000 lb wing weight (6,810 lb whole weight)	85% of seasonal TAL	500 lb wing weight (1,135 lb whole weight)
	2	Sept 1 – Apr 30	remainder	5,000 lb wing weight (11,350 lb whole weight)	85% of annual TAL	
Bait (33.5% TAL)	1	May 1 – Jul 31	30.8%	25,000 lb whole weight	90% of seasonal TAL	8,000 lb whole weight
	2	Aug 1 - Oct 31	37.1%		90% of seasonal TAL	
	3	Nov 1 – Apr 30	remainder		80% of annual TAL	

- Barndoor possession limit = 25% of wing limit, zero with Bait Letter of Authorization.
- Possession limits increased for FY 2020-2021. Maintain?



FY 2020 wing landings



76% of FY 2020 wing TAL landed as of April 10.

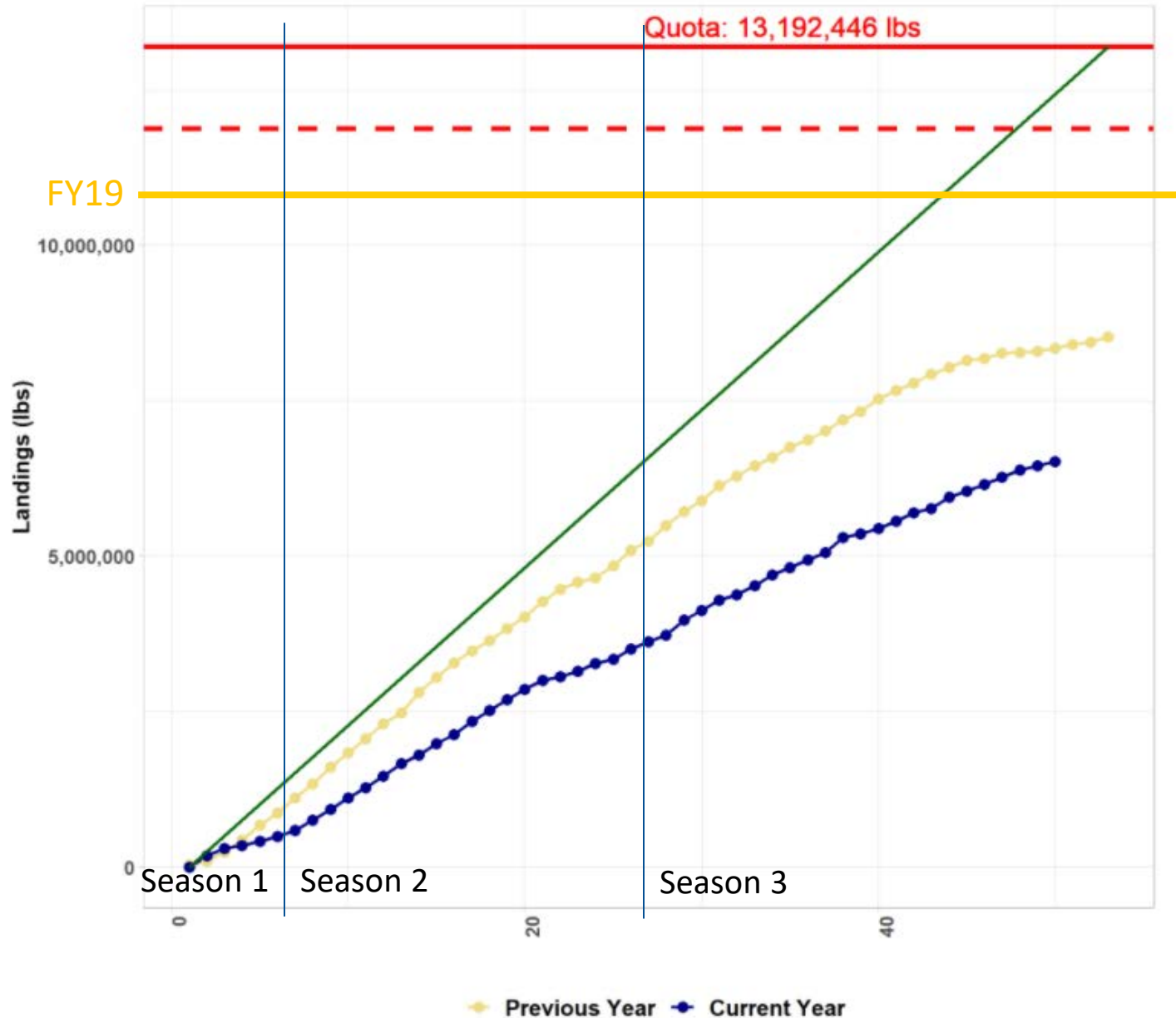
FY 2020:

Wing TAL increased from 23.1M lb in FY 2019 to 26.2M lb (whole weight).

The wing possession limits increased from 2,600 to 3,000 lb (wing weight) in Season 1 and from 4,100 to 5,000 lb in Season 2. Barndoor skate wing possession limits increased from 650 to 750 lb in Season 1 and from 1,025 to 1,250 lb in Season 2.



FY 2020 bait landings



49% of FY 2020 of bait TAL landed as of April 10.

FY 2020:

Bait TAL increased from 11.7M in FY 2019 to 13.2M lb.

The bait possession limit increased from 12,000 to 25,000 lb in Season 3 (25,000 year-round).



PDT Discussion:

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 - Lou, Jenny, Sam - what data can be provided in time?
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PDT Discussion:

- Next steps - Ongoing
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1:45 PM

Amendment 5

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Council Motions

- Problem statement, goals, and objectives (**consensus**)

“That the Council proceed to develop Amendment 5 using the problem statement, goals, and types of measures to consider as already approved by the Council.”

- FMP Objectives (**consensus**)

“That the Skate Fishery Management Plan Objectives #2 (on rebuilding overfished stocks) and #5 (on setting research priorities) be updated. The Committee will bring specific recommendations to a future Council meeting for approval.”

- Intermediate possession limits (**15/1/1**)

“That alternatives be developed for an intermediate possession limit trigger for the wing and bait fisheries. An intermediate trigger should be close to the current percentages of landings relative to Total Allowable Landings that trigger incidental limits (75% or above). Develop alternatives for possession limit reduction options at 50% and 75% for when an intermediate possession limit is triggered. For discussion at least, develop triggers in all wing and bait seasons.”



Council Motions

- Require a year-round federal skate permit (16/0/1)

“That the Council develop alternatives that would require the federal permit to be maintained year-round (prevent dropping or picking up mid-year).”

- Limited access – bait (failed)

- Limited access – wing (failed)

- New control dates (tabled)

“That new control dates be established for the wing and bait fisheries.”

- Skate data (consensus)

“That the Council develop options to improve precision and accuracy of skate data including at-sea monitoring and/or VMS requirement.”



PDT Next Steps

- Next steps – Prior to May 6
 - FMP objectives – draft language for FMP Objectives revision (Rachel lead, all PDT).
 - Alternatives
 - Draft specific language/ideas and supporting data.
 - Intermediate limits – Jenny lead
 - Federal permit
 - Develop any additional background information and ideas. Engage observer program staff?
 - At-sea monitoring
 - VMS
- Next steps - Ongoing
 - Jenny – coordinate development of Affected Environment
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 - VMS



PDT Discussion:

- Next steps - Ongoing
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2:30 AM
Other Business

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Other Business

PDT Discussion:

- Research priorities – ideas for updates/revision
 - Lou



Other Business

PDT Discussion:

- Data query methods and quality assurances
 - Prices >\$0.30 are likely wing.
 - Decision rule for queries? Further analysis to potentially stratify threshold (year, season, etc)
 - Engage ACCSP?
- Plan next PDT meeting – Early July for full PDT?
- Other?

