

DECISION DOCUMENT

for

Framework Adjustment 8

to the

Northeast Skate Complex

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

**NORTHEAST SKATE
COMPLEX**



NEFMC Council Meeting

September 24, 2019

The following decision tables in this document appear in the same order as the sections in the Draft Framework 8 document; page numbers are provided for reference.

Section 4.1 – Specifications
(p. 15)

Skate Committee Motions:

- The Committee recommends the Council select as preferred alternative 2 (4.1.2) Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications.

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Survey Data • Updates Discard Mortality rate estimates
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
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Skate Committee Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee recommended using the revised ACLs as specifications for FYs 2020 & 2021. • The Committee also discussed a standardized approach to dealing with missing survey data; but recognized this might be too broad of a task to be undertaken by the skate PDT. 	
Skate AP Comments/Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AP provided guidance at the Joint AP/Committee meeting that contributed to the Committee recommendation. 	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SSC approved the specifications outlined in Option 2. • Biological impacts: p. 61 • Protected species impacts: p. 71 • Habitat impacts: p. 75 • Human Communities impacts: p. 79 	

Section 4.2.1 – Skate Possession Limit Alternatives

(p. 16)

Skate Committee Motions:

- The Skate Committee recommended the Council select as the preferred alternative 4.2.1.2 to increase season 1 and 2 wing possession limits.

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	Revised Skate Wing Possession Limit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1 to Aug 31: 3,000 lbs • Sep 1 to Apr 30: 5,000 Revised Barndoor skate (sub) possession limit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1 to Aug 31: 750 lb • Sep 1 to Apr 30: 1,250 lb
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of an appropriate skate wing possession limit for FY2020 and FY2021. 	
Skate Committee Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee did pass a motion to increase skate wing possession limits. • Some Committee members did not vote on revised skate wing possession limits based on guidance from AP members. 	
Skate AP Comments/Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AP provided guidance at the Joint AP/Committee meeting that contributed to the Committee recommendation. • Some AP members were concerned that increased wing possession limits could increase the likelihood that the incidental possession limit would be implemented at some point in FYs 2020 & 2021. • Some AP members were concerned that the fishery would struggle to achieve the TAL if possession limits were not increased. 	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological impacts: p. 66 • Protected species impacts: p. 73 • Habitat impacts: p. 77 • Human Communities impacts: p. 82 	

Section 4.2.2 – Bait Possession Limit Alternatives (p. 17)

Skate Committee Motions:

- The Committee recommended that the Council select alternative 4.2.2.2 to increase season 3 bait possession limit as the preferred alternative

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	Increase Season 3 Bait Possession Limit to 25,000 lb
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Skate Committee Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee recommended increasing the season 3 possession limit. It was noted that higher possession limits could increase the risk of the incidental possession limit being triggered but FW4 revised the incidental possession limit to 8,000 lb so a limited fishery could continue. The fishery also shuts down once 100% of the TAL is achieved. 	
Skate AP Recommendation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AP provided guidance at the Joint AP/Committee meeting that contributed to the Committee recommendation. Bait AP members present supported this increase. 	
Other Important Considerations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological impacts: p. 68 Protected species impacts: p. 74 Habitat impacts: p. 77 Human Communities impacts: p. 84 	