

DECISION DOCUMENT

for

Framework Adjustment 5

to the

Northeast Skate Complex

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

**NORTHEAST SKATE
COMPLEX**



Skate Committee Meeting

September 25, 2017

The following decision tables in this document appear in the same order as the sections in the Draft Framework 5 document; page numbers are provided for reference.

**Section 4.1 – Updates to Annual Catch Limits
(p. 23)**

Skate Committee Motions:

- The AP recommends that for Section 4.1, the Committee recommends that the Council selects Option 2 as its Preferred Alternative.

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 estimate for winter skate
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
•	
Skate Committee Recommendations	
•	
Skate AP Comments/Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AP supported Option 2, updating the survey data and discard mortality rate estimate for winter skate in sink gillnet. 	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SSC approved the specifications outlined in Option 2 and supported using new discard mortality rate estimate for winter in sink gillnet gear. • Biological impacts: p. 86 • Habitat impacts: p. 94 • Endangered and other protected species impacts: p. 97 • Economic impacts: p. 102 • Social impacts: p. 105 	

Section 4.2 – Barndoor Skate Possession Limit Alternatives

(p. 24)

Skate Committee Motions:

- The Skate AP recommends for Section 4.2 that the Committee recommend that the Council selects Options 3 and 5 as the preferred alternative.

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Five Alternatives
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	Barndoor skate possession limit of 500 lb
Option 3	Proportional Barndoor Skate Possession Limit
Option 4	Mixed Wing possession limit
Option 5	Discard Restriction
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of an appropriate barndoor skate wing possession limit for FY2018 and FY2019. 	
Skate Committee Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Skate AP Comments/Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AP recommended Options 3 and 5 because it allowed for a higher possession limit in the winter when more barndoor skate are encountered but was still considered to be a cautious approach. Option 5 was considered to be good standard practice when fishing. 	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological impacts: p. 89 • Habitat impacts: p. 95 • Endangered and other protected species impacts: p. 99 • Economic impacts: p. 103 • Social impacts: p. 106 	