

Background and Fishery Options

Historically, the recreational fleet (private and charter) has been managed under the same set of regulations, however, you will see options in the menu below that have different rules for these two sectors of the fishery. Separating the sectors does hold management consequences which we will outline at the meeting and which the Commission should have the opportunity to discuss. Due to the economic impacts caused by the ASMFC mandated reductions in 2015, the charterboat industry has asked that the Department consider options for 2016, which provide some flexibility to the charter fleet while meeting the mandates of ASMFC and reducing the overall economic impact to the industry. Pros and cons of these 'sector separated' options will be discussed during the SFAC meeting next week.

In the table below, potential regulations are identified by sector - Private (P) and Charter (C). Options in RED are crafted to manage the private angler fleet separately from the charter fleet. The following options are on the table for discussion:

Spring Trophy Season (April 16th - May 15th, 2016):

- A. (P&C) SQ: 1 fish/person/day @ 28"- 36" or ≥ 40 "
- B. (P&C): 1 fish/person/day @ 35" min
- C. (P&C): 1 fish/person/day @ 36" min AND (C) gets 1 fish/boat/trip @ 28"min

Summer/Fall Season (May 16th - December 20th, 2016):

- D. (P&C) SQ: 2 fish/person/day @ 20" min with one ≥ 28 "
- E. (P&C): 1 fish/person/day @ 18" min
- F. (P&C): 1 fish/person/trip @ 18" min OR 2 fish/person/trip @ 20"min with 1 ≥ 28 "

**Captain's Choice Option - For this option, the entire vessel would have to decide whether to keep 1 fish/person/trip at an 18" min or keep 2 fish/person/trip at a 20"min with only one fish over 28". Anglers on the vessel can not mix and match the selection of which regulation to follow on that trip. Shore based anglers could make the choice on an individual basis.*

- G. (C): **Captain's Choice for the Charter Fleet only / (P) would be set at option D or E.**

Coastal / Atlantic Season (January 1st - December 31st, 2016)

- H. (P&C) SQ: 1 fish @ 28" min
- I. (P&C): 2 fish/person/day @ 28"-38" or ≥ 44 " (This is Delaware's current regulation)

Looking forward to the discussion and seeing you all next week.