



February 2011



## Summer Flounder Regulatory Scoping

### Where are we?

#### 2010

- The target number of fish = 75,000 fish,
- Estimated harvest = 38,220 fish (first year since 2006 that we are under target!)

#### 2011

- The target number of fish = 101,000 fish

Bottom Line:

We can liberalize in 2011 !!



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### Considerations:

- ✓ We have only had one year of uniform coastal and Chesapeake recreational summer flounder regulations
  - We do not have a time series that allows us to effectively evaluate how uniform regulations affect performance
  
- ✓ There were larger than average year-classes in 2008 and 2009
  - The 2008 year-class will be close to 18 inches in 2011
  
- ✓ Future Regionalization?
  - Establishing a region, maybe DE-VA, that would have a combined target and a larger recreational sampling area may provide more opportunity for Maryland fishermen and should produce more accurate estimates



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## Options for 2011 summer flounder regulations:

Option	Season Dates	Size Limit/ Creel	Conservation Opportunity
1	April 17 - November 22	18.5"/ 3 fish	1
2	January 1- December 31	18.5"/ 3 fish	2
3	April 17 – November 22	18"/ 3 fish	3

Conservation Opportunity = 1 provides more conservation opportunity and less risk to go over target; 3 provides less conservation opportunity and increased risk of going over target



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If you would like to submit written comment, please email: [fisheriespubliccomment@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:fisheriespubliccomment@dnr.state.md.us)

We will accept public comment through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011.