Noticed and Supplemental Proposed Rule Changes

Part 23 - Aggregate Programs for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass

1. Proposed amendments to Aggregate Programs for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass (section 23.11):

• Proposal #1 (Division/noticed proposal):

- Add summer flounder to the authorized species in the summer/fall program (May 1 December 31) at a weekly possession limit of 7x the daily limit.
- Amend the black sea bass weekly possession limit from 5x to 7x the daily limit.

• Proposal #2 (Industry proposal):

• Amend the black sea bass weekly possession limit from 5x to 7x the daily limit.

• Proposal #3 (Industry proposal):

- Add summer flounder to the authorized species in the summer/fall program (May 1 December 31).
- o Remove the requirement for a summer flounder exemption certificate in order to possess more than 200 pounds of summer flounder.
- o Implement a summer flounder weekly possession limit of 7x the daily limit for vessels with a summer flounder exemption certificate and 5x the daily limit for vessels without a summer flounder exemption certificate.

• Proposal #4 (Industry proposal):

- Add summer flounder to the authorized species in the summer/fall program (May 1 – December 31).
- o Modify aggregate closure trigger from 80% to 85%.

• Proposal #5 (Industry proposal):

- Amend the black sea bass weekly possession limit from 5x to 7x the daily limit.
- o Modify aggregate closure trigger from 80% to 85%.