

individual angler trips taken aboard party/charter vessels in 2002 that landed at least one summer flounder smaller than 17 inches (43.2 cm), or that landed more than four summer flounder. The analysis concluded that the measures would affect 1 percent or less of the party/charter trips in most states, with state revenue losses identified for Massachusetts (MA) (\$927), Rhode Island (RI) (\$15,850), New York (NY) (\$155,636), New Jersey (NJ) (\$22,208), Delaware (DE) (\$570), Maryland (MD) (\$570), VA (\$7,362), and North Carolina (NC) (\$161). (These figures are for all vessels operating in each state, rather than for each vessel). No state revenue losses were identified for Maine (ME), New Hampshire (NH), or Connecticut (CT).

The average maximum gross revenue loss per party/charter vessel was estimated to be \$9 in MA, \$634 in RI, \$2,993 in NY, \$347 in NJ, \$285 in DE, \$190 in MD, \$409 in VA, and \$23 in NC. As discussed in the proposed rule, it is very likely that the Council's analysis of economic impacts overestimates potential revenue impacts of the proposed measures, since some anglers would continue to take party/charter vessel trips, even if the restrictions limit their landings, because they participate in catch and release fishing or target other species.

Precautionary default measures are defined as measures that would achieve at least the overall required reduction in landings for each state. The precautionary default measures specified by the Council and the Council's Demersal Species Committee and the Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (in Alternative 3) consists of an 18-inch (45.7-cm) minimum fish size, a possession limit of one fish per person, and no closed season.

The precautionary default measures would reduce state specific landings by a range of 41 percent (DE) to 88 percent (NC). As specified by Framework 2 to the FMP, states that fail to implement conservation equivalent measures would be required to implement precautionary default measures. The state-specific landings reductions associated with the precautionary default measures are substantially higher than the reductions that would be implemented using conservation equivalency. As such, it is expected that states will avoid the impacts of precautionary approach measures by establishing conservation equivalent management measures. Therefore, the precautionary default provision that is included in the conservation

equivalency proposal was not analyzed as a separate provision.

### Impacts of Scup Alternatives

The proposed action for scup would limit coastwide landings to 4.01 million lb (1,819 mt) and reduce landings by at least 27 percent compared to 2001. The overall estimated economic impacts of the proposed action are less than the impacts that would result from implementation of either of the other scup alternatives analyzed.

For the preferred scup alternative (in Alternative 1), impacted trips were defined as individual angler trips taken aboard party/charter vessels in 2002 that landed at least one scup smaller than 10 inches (25.4 cm), that landed more than 50 scup, or that landed at least one scup during the proposed closed seasons of March 1 through June 30, and December 1 through December 31. The analysis concluded that the measures would affect 10 percent of the party/charter trips in MA and 1 percent or less of the party/charter trips in five states, with statewide revenue losses identified for MA (\$421,057), RI (\$2,324), NY (\$1,829), NJ (\$6,475), MD (\$25,450), and NC (\$8,064).

The average maximum gross revenue loss per party/charter vessel associated with the preferred scup alternative was estimated to be \$8,593 in MA, \$166 in RI, \$59 in NY, \$185 in NJ, \$25,450 in MD, and \$2,688 in NC.

For the scup no action alternative (in Alternative 2), impacted trips were defined as individual angler trips taken aboard party/charter vessels in 2002 that landed at least one scup smaller than 10 inches (25.4 cm), that landed more than 20 scup, or that landed at least one scup during the periods of March 1 through June 30, and October 3 through December 31. The analysis concluded that the measures would affect 11 percent of angler trips taken aboard party/charter boats in MA, 4 percent in RI, 5 percent in NY, and less than 1 percent in NJ, DE, MD, and NC, with statewide revenue losses identified for MA (\$486,423), RI (\$55,664), NY (\$702,429), NJ (\$67,060), MD (\$25,450), and NC (\$8,064). No state revenue losses were identified for ME, NH, CT, DE, or VA.

The average maximum gross revenue loss per party/charter vessel associated with this alternative was estimated to be \$9,927 in MA, \$3,976 in RI, \$22,659 in NY, \$1,916 in NJ, \$25,450 in MD, and \$2,688 in NC.

For the scup measures considered in Alternative 3, impacted trips were defined as individual angler trips taken aboard party/charter vessels in 2002 that landed at least one scup smaller than 10

inches (25.4 cm), that landed more than 50 scup, or that landed at least one scup during the period March 1 through July 13. The analysis concluded that the measures in this alternative would affect 11 percent of the party/charter trips in MA and 1 percent or less of the party/charter trips in most states, with statewide revenue losses identified for MA (\$469,518), RI (\$9,576), NY (\$81,902), NJ (\$19,880), MD (\$25,450), and NC (\$8,064). No state revenue losses were identified for ME, NH, CT, DE, or VA.

The average maximum gross revenue loss per party/charter vessel associated with this alternative was estimated to be \$9,582 in MA, \$684 in RI, \$2,642 in NY, \$568 in NJ, \$25,450 in MD, and \$2,688 in NC.

### Impacts of Black Sea Bass Alternatives

The proposed action for black sea bass would limit coastwide landings to 3.43 million lb (1,557 mt) and reduce landings by at least 27 percent compared to 2002. Although the economic impacts of the preferred alternative (in Alternative 1) are greater than for the status quo measures (in Alternative 2), Alternative 1 was selected for implementation because it is expected to achieve the necessary reduction in landings relative to 2002, consistent with the goals and objectives of the FMP, while resulting in less economic impact than would the measures in Alternative 3.

For the preferred black sea bass alternative, impacted trips were defined as individual angler trips taken aboard party/charter vessels in 2002 that landed at least one black sea bass smaller than 12 inches (30.5 cm), that landed more than 25 black sea bass, or that landed at least one black sea bass during the proposed closed seasons of September 2 through September 15, and December 1 through December 31. The analysis concluded that the measures would affect 3 percent of the party/charter trips in NJ, 4 percent in DE, and 1 percent or less in most states, with statewide revenue losses identified for MA (\$1,805), RI (\$5,404), CT (\$368), NY (\$20,332), NJ (\$441,702), DE (\$89,544), MD (\$41,331), VA (\$19,418), and NC (\$364). No state revenue losses were identified for ME or NH.

The average maximum gross revenue loss per party/charter vessel associated with the proposed black sea bass alternative was estimated to be \$19 in MA, \$193 in RI, \$46 in CT, \$442 in NY, \$8,334 in NJ, \$44,772 in DE, \$13,777 in MD, \$1,022 in VA, and \$52 in NC.

For the non-preferred black sea bass measures considered in Alternative 2, impacted trips were defined as