

TABLE 4.—COMPARISON OF THE ALTERNATIVES OF QUOTA COMBINATIONS REVIEWED—Continued
[In million lb]

	2004 initial TAL	2004 RSA	2003 Commercial quota overage	2004 Preliminary adjusted com- mercial quota*	2004 Preliminary recreational harvest limit
Black Sea Bass Preferred Alternative	8.00	0.13	0.00	3.86	4.01
Quota Alternative 2 (Most Restrictive)					
Summer Flounder	23.30	0.17	0.05	13.83	9.25
Scup Alternative 2	11.00	0.16	0.00	8.06	2.78
Black Sea Bass Alternative 2 (Status Quo)	6.80	0.13	0.00	3.27	3.40
Quota Alternative 3 (Least Restrictive)					
Summer Flounder Alternative 3	30.10	0.17	0.05	17.91	11.97
Scup Alternative 3	22.00	0.16	0.00	16.64	5.20
Black Sea Bass Alternative 3	8.90	0.13	0.00	4.30	4.47

* Note that preliminary quotas are provisional and may change to account for overage of the 2003 quotas.

Table 5 presents the percent change associated with each of commercial quota alternatives (adjusted for overages and RSA) compared to the final adjusted quotas for 2003.

TABLE 5.—PERCENT CHANGE ASSOCIATED WITH ADJUSTED COMMERCIAL QUOTA ALTERNATIVES COMPARED TO 2003 ADJUSTED QUOTA

	Total changes including overages and RSA		
	Quota alternative 1 (preferred)	Quota alternative 2 (most restrictive)	Quota alternative 3 (least restrictive)
Summer Flounder			
Aggregate Change	+21.30	*+0.03	+29.55
Scup			
Aggregate Change	*+2.07	– 33.39	+37.52
Black Sea Bass			
Aggregate Change	+28.24	*+8.64	+42.86

* Denotes status quo management measures. The status quo or “no action” measure for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass refers to what most likely will occur in the absence of implementing the proposed regulation.

All vessels that would be impacted by this proposed rulemaking are considered to be small entities; therefore, there would be no disproportionate impacts between large and small entities. The categories of small entities likely to be affected by this action include commercial and charter/party vessel owners holding an active Federal permit for summer flounder, scup, or black sea bass, as well as owners of vessels that fish for any of these species in state waters. The Council estimates that the proposed 2004 quotas could affect 2,122 vessels that held a Federal summer flounder, scup, and/or black sea bass permit in 2002. However, the more immediate impact of this rule will likely be felt by the 1,041 vessels that actively

participated (*i.e.*, landed these species) in these fisheries in 2002.

The Council estimated the total revenues derived from all species landed by each vessel during calendar year 2002 to determine a vessel's dependence and revenue derived from a particular species. This estimate provided the base from which to compare the effects of the proposed quota changes from 2003 to 2004.

The Council's analysis of the harvest limits in Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) indicated that these harvest levels would produce a revenue increase for 1,036 commercial vessels that are expected to be impacted by this rule. The remaining 5 vessels, which landed scup only, were projected to incur small revenue losses (*i.e.*, less

than 5 percent) due to the decrease in the adjusted scup quota. No vessels were expected to have revenue losses of greater than 5 percent.

The Council also analyzed changes in total gross revenue that would occur as a result of the quota alternatives. Assuming 2002 ex-vessel prices (summer flounder—\$1.51/lb; scup—\$0.66/lb; and black sea bass—\$1.73/lb), the 2004 quotas in Preferred Alternative 1 (after overages have been applied) would increase total summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass revenues by approximately \$4.4 million, \$165,000, and \$1.5 million, respectively, relative to 2003 revenues.

Assuming that the total ex-vessel gross revenue associated with the Preferred Alternative for each fishery is