
Dewey Hemilright Comments for SAFMC SSC -Blueline Tilefish

From Francis Hemilright <fvtarbaby@embarqmail.com>

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Judd,

Please forward to SAFMC SSC and others.

Thanks

Dewey

Sedar 92-Blueline Tilefish

May 20,2025

North of Cape Hatteras to MAFMC Region

Allocation % proportion

The recent discussion of the SSC Sub-committee and eventually choosing to use the SADL survey along with adding the area of unknown habitat proportion to increase the formula with outcome of 70/30 is a drastic % change from the 56/44 in 2019 and also its influencing the amount of fish given between the two regions

Past % proportion of 56/44 allocated 100k# pounds to MAFMC area which is allocated to rec/com 73/27% and 60k # to the Slither as it was called [North of Cape Hatteras to Va line]which is allocated to Rec/Com 49/51%

The now Sub-Committee recommendation is 70/30% split
Allocating 452,200 # to MAFMC area and 193,800 to slither

With Recs/Com which is allocated 49/51%

I've think another way to determine proportion % that is fairer until necessary habitat information is available and continually avgs of SADL survey for both areas in the future

You take the first 2017 MAFMC tile survey outcome of 56/44% that was used in Sedar 50 and the SADL survey 2023,2024 of 70/30%

MAFMC-56% 70%-----126% divided by 2=63%

Slither in SAFMC area 44% 30%-----74% divided by 2=37%

The numbers of 63%/37% is still giving an increase to the MAFCA area but not quite as drastic of a shift.

Keep in mind the only reason for increase in quota in SEDAR 92 was the decision made to switch from Delpfi to MRIP which increased the stock abundance on paper. The uncertainty of MRIP data and high PSE's which always been and on NOAA website shouldn't be used for management

Here are two Graphs showing Uncertainty from MAFMC region

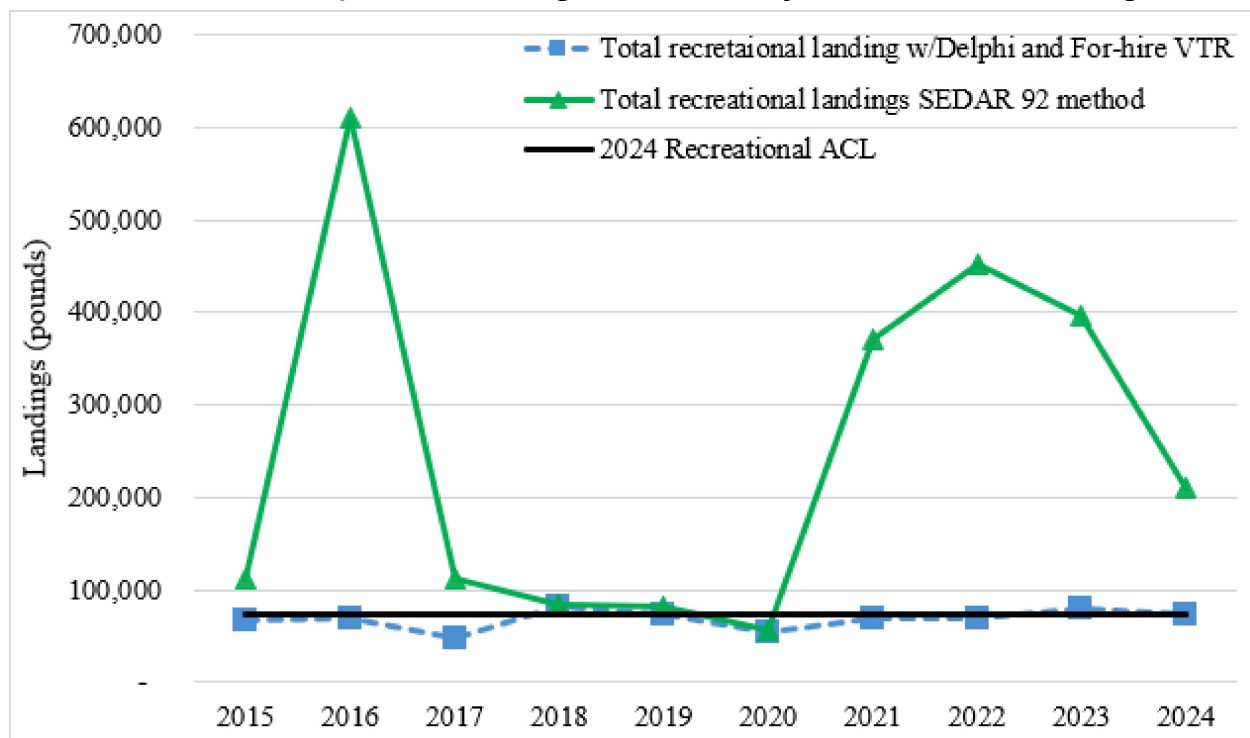


Table 1. 2015-2024 Recreational blueline tilefish MRIP landings and discard estimates and associated percent standard of error by mode from Maine-Virginia by mode. Source: NMFS unpublished MRIP data.

Year	Mode	MRIP Landings (# of fish)	Landings PSE	MRIP Discards (# of fish)	Discards PSE
2015	Headboat	0	-	0	-
	Charter	0	-	0	-
	Private/Rental	4,663	77.2	0	-
2016	Headboat	0	-	0	-
	Charter	1,222	51.9	0	-
	Private/Rental	97,477	38.2	19,356	88.4
2017	Headboat	0	-	0	-
	Charter	0	-	0	-
	Private/Rental	12,122	79.8	0	-
2018	Headboat	6	94.5	5	100
	Charter	2,083	64.5	310	75.3
	Private/Rental	2,989	107.8	0	-
2019	Headboat	0	-	7	22.5
	Charter	2,272	85.0	21	107.8
	Private/Rental	4,839	85.9	0	-
2020*	Headboat	41	94.8	47	69.4
	Charter	1,062	74.4	10	123.9
	Private/Rental	481	104.1	0	-
2021	Headboat	0	-	0	-
	Charter	5,772	33.7	2,887	38.1
	Private/Rental	44,199	40.2	4,595	64
2022	Headboat	0	-	7	17.9
	Charter	23,885	34.2	72	107.6
	Private/Rental	65,715	54.8	19,871	85.4
2023	Headboat	0	-	6	25.6
	Charter	18,229	37.0	0	-
	Private/Rental	45,918	49.0	706	97.7
2024	Headboat	0	-	0	-
	Charter	3,385	91.5	0	-
	Private/Rental	34,749	79	315	106

*2020 MRIP estimates were likely impacted by limited sampling efforts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Until further work has been done or really known data researched for Habitat of Blueline Tilefish it is very premature to assume that large areas of bottom mean more fish isn't always the case , Blue tilefish aren't everywhere and as they are in habitat pockets given my years of fishing and discussion with other fishermen etc.

Inclosing the proposed 70/30 %allocation split by Sub-committee is to drastic of shift of 14% from past and is unfair based on formula+larger area,

It should be closer to 63/37% with avg's of all surveys to date

2017,2023,2024 and continue to get avg with future surveys.
I will be giving additional public comments during the SAFMC SSC meeting.

Thanks for your time,
Dewey Hemilright