

New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council
Recreational Summer Flounder Advisory Committee Report
September 7, 2022

Summer Flounder

A meeting of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council's Recreational Summer Flounder Advisory Committee was held via webinar on August 31, 2022 to discuss current fisheries performance occurring in the 2022 recreational season and possible management concepts for future New Jersey recreational summer flounder seasons in 2023.

2022 Season

Currently, the recreational NJ summer flounder season is open from May 2 through September 27 with a possession limit of 2 fish, 17 to 17.99 inches, and 1 fish, 18 inches or greater, referred to as a slot/trophy program. This management measure is unique for 2022 where in the past, a minimum size was implemented such as 3 fish at 18 inches. Advisors provided Council and staff with comments regarding the current 2022 performance of the fishery compared to previous years. Comments fell in two categories; 1. The fishery for 2022 was positive for the average angler and provided a longer season which benefits local tackle shops, liveries, businesses, and for-hire vessels, and 2. The fishery was not successful because it forced anglers to cull through larger fish to find the 2 slot fish which were abundant at the early part of the season but quickly became difficult to locate. Further discussion took place concerning the best time and method for to gather angler opinion for staff and committee members to continue development of future management measures. Staff will hold several more advisory committee meetings prior to setting 2023 summer flounder regulations considering the final outcome of the 2022 MRIP harvest estimates and 2023 RHL.