



The Watch

Doug MacPherson, Chairman



The RISAA Legislative Committee’s mission is to provide, in partnership with the Affiliated Clubs, a forum for improving the knowledge and understanding of fishery-related and government issues that affect recreational anglers. An informed membership encourages involvement and advocacy. The Legislative Committee will strive to advocate responsible fishery decision.

The Committee is comprised of RISAA Members and delegates from the Affiliated Clubs. The Committee meets two or three times a year, depending on the number of fishery and/or legislative issues that develop.

MRIP Data Raising Rec Catch Estimates

Last month I outlined how the newly adopted baseline data for MRIP, and how its resulting calculations are resulting in a “recalibration” of recreational harvest dating back to 1981.

The set of graphs below for three very popular recreational species give a clear example of the consistently higher recreational catch calculations.

As of this date we are not certain of the magnitude of changes this will result in for the 2020 season, - Happy New Year - but the numbers we have seen coming out ASMFC and MAFMC are likely to have major impacts, not only on the average recreational fisher, but on the Party & Charter section and the results for all of us will not be good.

UPCOMING WORKSHIOP AND HEARING TO SET 2020 REGULATIONS

There will be a RIDEM workshop on Jan. 9, 2020 for all finfish regulations except for striped bass which will have its own workshop on Jan. 13, 2020.

Both of these meeting will be held at the Coastal Institute, URI Bay Campus on South Ferry Rd, Narragansett.

The final regulatory public hearing for the recommendation

of new regulations to the Director of DEM by the Rhode Island Fisheries Council will be held on February 10, 2020 at Corless Auditorium, also at the URI Bay Campus. I know you have

heard it already, but we really need YOUR VOICES and ideas, especially at the workshops.

The Next Step

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are developing a joint amendment to reevaluate and potentially revise the commercial and recreational **sector allocations** in the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan.

This action was initiated, in part, to address the allocation-related impacts of the revised recreational catch and landings data provided by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).

This process well likely take at least an estimated two years to

get underway. The entire recreational fishing industry will be seeking input when this comes to public hearings in the future and we will likely see some serious changes coming out of this before we are done.

