

From: [thomas mullins](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Flounder regs
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022 10:03:54 PM

How can you justify this insult of a limit of 2 17 to 17.99 and 1 over 18 inches everywhere in new jersey when you can go fishing anywhere and bring 3 per person into cape may over 17 inches? Please explain! Whoever came up with this should be fired immediately. If we are getting 16% more fish quota how are you justifying this travesty to fisherman of the state?

Thanks for your time
Tom Mullins

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Ray Miller](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fluke
Date: Friday, April 8, 2022 9:27:43 AM

Why option5. Ridiculous. NJ fishermen will be tossing back 18" fluke meanwhile Connecticut and NY will be harvesting more than ever. States plans should be more in sync. I think this will hurt the party boat industry in NJ. Personally I'll drive over to NY.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Capt. David Showell](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opinion Flounder Options 2022
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 9:42:58 AM

April 6, 2022

New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council

Please forward to all members, thank you

Attn: Fisheries Council Members,

I would like to express my personal opinion on the options for the upcoming 2022 Summer flounder Season. I hope to get thru on tomorrow's virtual meeting, however I feel that this is important enough to make sure my opinion is heard. The last I heard there were five options for the season. I understand that additional options have been added during the Flounder Advisories Committee meeting and these options will be announced at the Thursday meeting. What ever Options are proposed, from my position as owner of Absecon Bay Sportsman Center, selling bait and tackle and guiding back bay fishing trips as Absecon Bay Fishing Safaris my primary interest is that the Summer Flounder season be as long as possible. Of the original approved options, I feel that the one including a "Slot Limit" would be by far the best option for the recreational saltwater fishing industry state

wide and particularly in South Jersey.

This option includes a "Slot Limit" of "2 Flounder 17" to 17.99" and 1 fish 18" or greater ". This would allow a season length of 150 days as opposed to the 2022 season length of 120 days. The only other option that has a longer season would maintain the three fish at 18" minimum size. I think it is time to make a change in fisheries management and it would be a very good step to take the chance and add a Slot Limit into the possibilities for management in the future.

The following is a post I made publicly on Facebook which gathered a lot of attention and explains my opinion in more detail. The LINK here will take you to the actual Post where you can see related comments.

[\(20+\) Facebook](#) :

Is it time for a slot limit on Summer Flounder? It appears that we might finally get a chance to answer that question. As related in the March 21, 2022 article in "The Fisherman Magazine" by Jim Hutchinson Jr. One of the approved Options for the 2022 Flounder Season includes a "Slot Limit" of "2 Flounder 17" to 17.99 and 1 fish 18" or greater ". This would allow a season length of 150 days as opposed to the 2022 season length of 120 days. According to the chart provided and extrapolating for the "Waves" this year's season would most likely be May 12th thru October 8th.

As the owner of the bait and tackle Shop, Absecon Bay Sportsman Center and a guide on the water as Absecon Bay Fishing Safaris, this season length would be of great value to my business. This date range covers just about all of the time that I consider optimal Recreational Flounder Fishing. It is my "Feeling" that the most important aspect of Recreational Flounder is the open season when anglers are legally allowed to harvest flounders. It is that desire to harvest and eat summer flounder that brings these anglers thru my door to purchase bait and tackle and gets them out on the water.

As to the actual "Slot Limit", on first glance I a one inch slot appears very restrictive. We would be putting a lot of pressure on a very narrow one inch segment of the flounder population and many of that size class would be taken out of that population. However if the assumption that male summer flounder do not grow beyond eighteen inches is true, and I have not heard of any scientific contradiction of that assumption, then we would be harvesting a large number of adult males that have reached their maximum size. From personal experience there are always a large percentage of releases that would fit into this slot. These fish would never grow into our recreational size limits under regulations from the recent past.

As for our one "Doormat" possibility, over eighteen inches. How will that affect our recreational fishery? In recent years there has become a "Trophy Flounder" fishery that has begun targeting large "Breeding Female Fluke" and has done well putting fish over eighteen inches in the coolers. I am sure we will hear from many of them that how easy these fish are to catch and that they should be able to continue to kill the egg layers of the population. I feel the average recreational fluke fishermen under current regulations has been happy to put one legal fish in the box and over all how many of your flounder dinners came from fish just over the legal limit?

In closing, Is this Slot Limit Perfect? Absolutely not. We will still be forced to release countless perfectly edible fourteen inch to seventeen inch flounder to put a few on the table. (Remember you can buy fourteen inch commercially caught flounder on your way home from a SKUNK when you released a couple dozen flounders just short of the

limit.) It is a start! I feel that we have to look at changes in the way we handle fisheries management and if we don't we will have more and more recreational anglers give up and throw in the towel that they never even filled with fish slime.

Follow this link.

March 21, 2022 by Jim Hutchinson, Jr.

From <<https://www.thefisherman.com/nj-fluke-sea-bass-porgy.../...>>

Capt. David Showell , Owner

Absecon Bay Sportsman Center

81 Natalie Terrace

Absecon, NJ 08201

609-484-0409, private cell 609-513-1568

Email: tackle@abseconbay.com

www.abseconbay.com

www.facebook.com/abseconbay

From: [Christopher O'Donnell](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Slot limit fluke
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022 9:39:46 PM

Is this for real?

THIS IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN EVERY DAY... 1 or more most likely more guys on a boat will get an 18" or so fish. They then catch bigger one. The bigger one goes in the box and the 18" goes overboard. Catch a bigger one? Yup repeat! Please, please, please, tell me this mindless overreach of government is not true.

Its common sense!

-Christopher O'Donnell

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Brust, Jeffrey \[DEP\]](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Flounder regs
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:31:38 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: william collins <wcolls@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 8:04 PM
To: Brust, Jeffrey [DEP] <Jeffrey.Brust@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Flounder regs

Thought the preferred regs by the committee was the best option

From: [Brust, Jeffrey \[DEP\]](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Flounder Season
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:19:14 AM

From: Joseph cook <acjoefish@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 4:37 PM
To: Brust, Jeffrey [DEP] <Jeffrey.Brust@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Flounder Season

I would prefer May 1 to middle of September, 18" minimum, and 3 limit. I would rather have the season earlier than later. Reason being flounder migrate to ocean and the weather in September has been horrendous. People with small boats can't get out. Your days are very limited later in September. (Tropical Storms, Hurricanes, SE/SW winds)
Thank you
Joe & Myra Cook

From: [Brust, Jeffrey \[DEP\]](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Flounder
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:14:16 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: David London <scrapmetalbuyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 7:22 AM
To: Brust, Jeffrey [DEP] <Jeffrey.Brust@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Flounder

As an recreational fisherman who when young before no bag limits as a kid, seeing my Dad catching unlimited numbers of Flounder, I agree with the vote adopting option #2 as NJ's new regs.

I hope the new Regs. produces more flounder for future generations to enjoy fishing for Flounder and eventually increase bag limits with increased numbers of new fish.

Time will tell.

Well Done!

David

David London
GreenEnergyAssetMgmt.com

Please excuse any misspelled words.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brust, Jeffrey \[DEP\]](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fluke and Sea bass regs
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:14:08 AM

From: Anglerpmh <anglerpmh@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 11:15 PM
To: Brust, Jeffrey [DEP] <Jeffrey.Brust@dep.nj.gov>; Brust, Jeffrey [DEP] <Jeffrey.Brust@dep.nj.gov>; Clarke, Peter [DEP] <Peter.Clarke@dep.nj.gov>; Clarke, Peter [DEP] <Peter.Clarke@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fluke and Sea bass regs

Even though I'm extremely disappointed with the fluke regs I want to thank both of you for all the effort you put in to this. I'm glad the sea bass regs worked out better though. However, doesn't the ASMFC normally frown upon just a 4 day closure? Paul H.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

From: [Brust, Jeffrey \[DEP\]](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] NJ summer flounder
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:14:42 AM

From: Philaay fishing <ultraphil150@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 8:28 AM
To: Brust, Jeffrey [DEP] <Jeffrey.Brust@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NJ summer flounder

In all my years of fishing the back bays this is the most upset I have ever been after seeing the backdoor deal that happened last night for the slot fish regulations. The preferred option that was originally proposed was good for everyone. Everyone gained some and even fish and game liked it. I am not sure how you folks got elected to this position but after last night I believe its our turn as sportsmen and the public to fight back to see that those seats that were filled with people who care more about lining their pockets then the public. I am truly disgusted by what I seen last night. Do you have any idea how many bigger fish will be culled when people are fishing so they can keep the biggest fish of the day? Usually, I know hey we might get a little screwed but no big deal but last night was a Rape job. Ya lets all put \$300.00 in gas to fish and only keep 1 fish over 18 and throw back 25s and 26s all day. Its time we start to really push back for change on that committee with real recreational guys that actually fish and know what they are doing.

From: [Brust, Jeffrey \[DEP\]](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for attending NJ Marine Fisheries Council - April 2022
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:31:47 AM

From: Bpercopo <bpercopo@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 9:22 PM
To: Brust, Jeffrey [DEP] <Jeffrey.Brust@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thank you for attending NJ Marine Fisheries Council - April 2022

The new fluke refs as I under stand them are 3 fish. Two at 17-17.99" and one OVER 18". I have two issue: 1 I've never seen increments less than 1/4 in. 1 / 100th" will be a nightmare for inforcement. And 2 given the wording an 18" fluke could not be kept. I still believe that if you went with the original proposal of 3 fish over 17.5" but dropped it to 17" almost all of the attendees would have been on board. Both ocean and bay anglers would have been satisfied.

Bob Percopo
Angling chairman
Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club
732 996-8154
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2022, at 8:00 PM, Jeffrey Brust <customercare@gotowebinar.com> wrote:

We hope you enjoyed our webinar.

Please send your questions, comments and feedback to:
jeffrey.brust@dep.nj.gov.

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From: [Brust, Jeffrey \[DEP\]](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Seabass regulations
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:19:22 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Arthur Strassler <arthurstrassler@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 4:49 PM
To: Brust, Jeffrey [DEP] <Jeffrey.Brust@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Seabass regulations

I am 64 years old and have been fishing since I was 4 years old I currently have been fishing on party boats Most often for Seabass regulations I appreciate and respect the time and effort put in for conservation My preference would be choice 3 for Seabass Most importantly making it worthwhile to fish as I do in the winter months when the Seabass seem most plentiful and nicest quality Thanks for allowing me to comment

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Steve Wolfe](#)
To: [DEP Marine Fisheries Council \[DEP\]](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2022 flounder regulations
Date: Saturday, April 9, 2022 9:09:19 AM

Dear ladies and gentlemen of the council, I'm sure you have been receiving many emails complaining about the new flounder regulations. I would like to add my objection to the regulation also. My wife and i flounder fish extensively. And i can state with certainty that this regulation will add to release mortality. Once you have your 18+inch limit on the boat, searching for those fish in a ONE INCH SLOT is going to prove much more difficult than people would have you believe. Not to mention then increase in mortality of larger fish that must now be thrown back. In addition, I've already read several threads where people are planning to keep the 18+ inch fish in their livewells so they can swap out large fish when they catch them. This is not a friendly conservation practice. Those fish are stressed enough. Then they will be placed on a livewell for HOURS before being released for a larger fish. I was in complete support of any of the season lengths and possessions on ALL of the non slot options. But this regulation is absurd, detrimental to conservation, and a nightmare to enforce. Please consider another public survey method before implementing this regulation. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely Steve Wolesslagle

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)