



Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan

Amendment 5

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

Marine Fisheries Commission | Jeff Dobbs, Holly White, Anne Markwith | August 2025



Amendment 5 Management Input from MFC

- Topics Identified by DMF
- Scoping Overview
- Next Steps
- MFC Input



Topics Identified by DMF

Recreational Topics

- Managing Southern Flounder Separate From Other Species
 - Both ocellated flounder (Summer and Gulf flounder) combined
 - Single species (Summer and Gulf flounder, separately)
- Timing of Southern Flounder Season
 - Optimize access and season length



Topics Identified by DMF

Commercial Topics

- How to manage shrinking mobile gear allocation
- Phase out large-mesh gill nets [for flounder]
- Trip limits and gear restrictions
- Seasonality

Adaptive Management

- Adjust management to rebuilding stock



Scoping Overview

(occurred March 1 – 31, 2025)

Recreational

- Strong support for single species management
- Support for non-southern flounder ocean season prior to fall



Scoping Overview

(occurred March 1 – 31, 2025)

Commercial

- Re-evaluate commercial sub-allocations and seasons
- Either supported maintaining access for all fishery segments OR gear eliminations
- **Outside the box ideas**
 - Support for commercial only gigs
 - Replace fall anchored gill net season with summer runaround gill net season



Next Steps



- Division will develop a timeline
- Division continue to develop management options and write first draft of Amendment 5
- Solicit FMP AC members
- Hold FMP AC workshop to refine Plan



MFC Meetings With Division Staff

- Division scheduled meetings with individual commissioners as their availability allowed to discuss flounder management (July/August);
- Purpose: To prepare Commissioners for discussion at business meeting
- Ideas discussed:
 - Toolbox limited for southern flounder
 - Re-evaluate existing strategies
 - Need to think outside the box

Additional MFC Input

This is the best opportunity to provide ideas for inclusion in Amendment 5



Additional MFC Input



How should the southern flounder fishery look?



What do we keep because it's working? What needs to be changed?



What out of the box ideas do you have?

Questions?

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