

2009 Recreational Summer Flounder Options for Consideration by the Department of Natural Resources

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources must cut the recreational summer flounder fishery in Maryland by 32% to account for exceeding their harvest target in 2008. To do this, the Department intends to make the necessary adjustments to minimum size limits, creel limits and fishing season in order to achieve this reduction.

The Department is soliciting input from recreational fishermen on management options for the upcoming season. The following tables provide you with the options that accompany each management measure being considered at this time.

1. Size Limit and Creel

Option	Description	Size Limit and Creel
A	Statewide Management	3 fish @ 18 inches
B	Split-Area Management	(Atlantic) – 3 fish @ 18 inches; and (Chesapeake Bay) – 1 fish @ 16.5 or 17 inches *

* - The Department is considering 17 inches in the Chesapeake Bay as a risk adverse approach to achieve the 2009 statewide harvest target of 61,000 fish.

2. Season Closures

Option	Description	Statewide - Open Season
A ¹	Closes the Spring Fishery	June 1 - Sept 30
A ²	Closes the Spring Fishery	June 10 - Oct 10
A ³	Closes the Spring Fishery	June 15 - Oct 21
A ⁴	Closes the Spring Fishery	June 21 - Dec 31
B ¹	Closes the Fall Fishery	April 15 - Sept 13
B ²	Closes the Fall Fishery	May 1 – Sept 17
B ³	Closes the Fall Fishery	May 15 - Sept 21
C ¹	Closes the Mid-Summer Fishery	Jan 1 – Aug 5 & Aug 26 – Dec 31
C ²	Closes the Mid-Summer Fishery	Jan 1 – July 23 & Aug 15 – Dec 31

*A public meeting to discuss these options has been scheduled for Monday, February 23rd at 5:30 at the Ocean Pines Library (11107 Cathell Rd, Berlin, MD 21811). **The Department must choose ONE combination of size and creel limit plus a season closure to submit as a proposed regulation in the coming weeks.** This meeting will assist us in narrowing the options for consideration. If you have any questions regarding this meeting or the options proposed please contact Steve Doctor at 410.213.1531. Thank you.*