

**Summer Flounder Advisory Panel
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2007
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Wakefield, RI**

There were 22 people in attendance (*primary advisory panel member; ^ alternate member)

Dave Preble, Chair	Donald Fox ^A	Stephen Parente	Jason McNamee
Al Conti*	Bob Mattiucci ^A	Paul Westcott	Brian Murphy
Carl Granquist*	Ian Parente ^A	John Curzake Jr.	
Chris Brown*	Alan Glidden ^A	Ken Ketcham	
Jim Low*	Joe Harvey	Jerry Shepherd	
Ed Cook*			

Commercial quota for 2008

The meeting opened with discussion on the commercial quota for 2008. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council adopted a TAL of 15.77 million pounds for 2008, which is about an 8% reduction from the 2007 TAL of 17.11 million pounds. Assuming there are no overages in 2007, the RI commercial quota in 2008 will be about 4% lower than what was available in 2007. The panel was also informed that there has been indication that NMFS will adopt a lower quota for federal waters which would result in an earlier closure for federal permit holders.

- Three written proposals were submitted in regards to the commercial fishery in 2008.
 1. Two proposals for status quo, one submitted by Robert A Mattiucci and a second submitted by the RI Commercial Rod & Reel Angler's Association
Comments: Management in 2007 was a success because the fishery stayed open throughout the summer. Management in 2007 was not successful because the fishery closed for two months in the fall.
Vote: 4 in favor; 5 opposed
 2. Submitted by Chris Brown to split the May 1 through October 31 period into two periods (May 1 – July 31 and Aug 1 – Oct 31) and divide the allocation equally into both periods.
Vote: 5 in favor; 4 opposed
- The panel also voted on providing Chris Brown with the opportunity to present a proposal to the Council. The proposal is entitled “sector allocation pilot program.”
Vote: 7 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstention

Additional Comments: There was a request for a legal opinion on the call in requirement for fluke and documentation on the court case concerning the issue.