

DECISION DOCUMENT

for

Framework Adjustment 2

to the

Northeast Skate Complex

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

**NORTHEAST SKATE
COMPLEX**



**NEFMC Council Meeting
January 28, 2014**

The following decision tables in this document appear in the same order as the sections in the Draft Framework 2 document; page numbers are provided for reference.

**Section 4.1 – Updates to Annual Catch Limits
(p. 20)**

Skate Committee Motions:

- The Committee recommends that for Section 4.1.1, the Council selects Option 2 as its Preferred Alternative

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Three Alternatives (Option 3 included for NEPA analysis)
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Survey Data • Updates Discard Mortality rate estimates
Option 3 (included for NEPA analysis)	Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications using old catch/biomass medians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Survey Data.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . 	
Skate Committee Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Skate AP Comments/Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AP provided guidance at the Joint AP/Committee meeting that contributed to the Committee recommendation. 	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SSC approved the specifications outlined in Option 2 and supported using the final discard mortality rate estimates for winter, little, smooth and thorny skate for trawl gear only. • Option 3 is included for NEPA analysis; it does not utilize the best available science and the PDT does not support setting specifications outlined in Option 3. • Biological impacts: p. 94 • Habitat impacts: p. 100 • Endangered and other protected species impacts: p. 103 • Economic impacts: p. 106 • Social impacts: p. 113 	

Section 4.2 – Skate Wing Possession Limit Alternatives
(p. 23)

Skate Committee Motions:

- The Committee recommends that for Section 4.2, the Council selects Option 1 as its Preferred Alternative

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Three Alternatives (Option 3 included for NEPA analysis)
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	Revised Skate Wing Possession Limit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1 to Aug 31: 1,500 lbs • Sep 1 to Apr 30: 2,400
Option 3 (included for NEPA analysis)	Revised Skate Wing Possession Limit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,000 lbs.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
•	
Skate Committee Recommendations	
•	
Skate AP Comments/Recommendations	
• The AP provided guidance at the Joint AP/Committee meeting that contributed to the Committee recommendation.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on landings in previous fishing year, the TAL is unlikely to be exceeded under the No Action wing possession limit. PDT recommends No Action to allow the fishery to achieve its TAL. • Option 3 is included for NEPA analysis and is not recommended as a viable option as it is projected to trigger the incidental trip limit before the end of the fishing year. • Biological impacts: p. 96 • Habitat impacts: p. 101 • Endangered and other protected species impacts: p. 103 • Economic impacts: p. 107 • Social impacts: p. 113 	

Section 4.3 – Bait Possession Limit Alternatives (p. 23)

Skate Committee Motions:

- The Committee recommends that for Section 4.3, the Council selects Option 1 as its Preferred Alternative

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	Revised Skate Bait Possession Limit
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
•	
Skate Committee Recommendations	
•	
Skate AP Recommendation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AP provided guidance at the Joint AP/Committee meeting that contributed to the Committee recommendation. 	
Other Important Considerations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This alternative is included to meet M-SA requirements. PDT recommends the No Action alternative. Biological impacts: p. 98 Habitat impacts: p. 101 Endangered and other protected species impacts: p. 104 Economic impacts: p. 112 Social impacts: p. 114 	

**Section 4.4 – Skate VTR and Dealer Reporting Codes
(p. 24)**

Skate Committee Motions:

- The Committee recommends that for Section 4.4, the Council selects Option 2 as its Preferred Alternative

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes unclassified code for bait fishery • Removes unclassified, little, little/winter, smooth, and rosette skate codes for wing fishery
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Skate Committee Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Skate AP Comments/Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AP provided guidance at the Joint AP/Committee meeting that contributed to the Committee recommendation. 	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological impacts: p. 98 • Habitat impacts: p. 102 • Endangered and other protected species impacts: p. 104 • Economic impacts: p. 112 • Social impacts: p. 114 	