



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## **REVISED 2018-2019 SPECIFICATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SKATE FISHERY**

### **Framework Adjustment 6**

*Effective Date: February 15, 2019*

We have approved and implemented Framework Adjustment 6 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan. Framework Adjustment 6 reduces the management uncertainty buffer between the annual catch limit and catch target from 25 to 10 percent, allowing for an increase in the total allowable landings in the wing and bait fisheries for the 2018 and 2019 fishing years.

A summary of the revised measures for the skate wing and skate bait fisheries is provided below in Tables 1 and 2.

TABLE 1 – TOTAL ALLOWABLE LANDINGS FOR FISHING YEARS 2018-2019

| Total Allowable Landings (TAL) |                                   | mt    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Skate Wing Fishery             | Season 1 (May 1 – August 31)      | 5,984 |
|                                | Season 2 (September 1 – April 30) | 4,515 |
| Skate Bait Fishery             | Season 1 (May 1 – July 31)        | 1,629 |
|                                | Season 2 (August 1 – October 31)  | 1,962 |
|                                | Season 3 (November 1 – April 30)  | 1,698 |

Unused wing TAL from Season 1 has been rolled-over to Season 2, and the unused bait TAL from Seasons 1 and 2 has been rolled-over to Season 3. As a result, for 2018, the Season 2 wing TAL is increased to 6,009 mt and the Season 3 bait TAL is increased to 2,760 mt.

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*

TABLE 2 – POSSESSION AND LANDING LIMITS FOR FISHING YEARS 2018-2019

| Skate possession limits*                               |                                   | Trip Limits (lb) |              |                           |                            |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
|  |                                   | Skate Wings      | Whole Skates | Barndoor**<br>Skate Wings | Whole Barndoor**<br>Skates |
| NE Multispecies, Scallop, or Monkfish Day-At-Sea (DAS) | Season 1 (May 1 – August 31)      | 2,600            | 5,902        | 650                       | 1,476                      |
|  | Season 2 (September 1 – April 30) | 4,100            | 9,307        | 1,025                     | 2,327                      |
| NE Multispecies B DAS                                  | May 1 – April 30                  | 220              | 500          | 0                         | 0                          |
| Non-DAS  | May 1 – April 30                  | 500              | 1,135        | 0                         | 0                          |
| Whole skate with bait Letter of Authorization          | May 1 – October 31                | 0                | 25,000       | 0                         | 0                          |
|  | November 1 – April 30             | 0                | 12,000       | 0                         | 0                          |

\*Possession and landing limits may be modified in-season in order to prevent catch from exceeding quotas.

\*\*Barndoor skate trip limits are within the overall skate possession limit for each trip, not in addition to it.

We are closely monitoring the Season 2 wing fishery landings relative to the revised seasonal TAL. We will consider implementing the 500-lb incidental trip limit when 85 percent of the 2018 TAL (8,924 mt) is projected to be reached. We will notify wing fishery participants of this change in a subsequent letter.