



Save The Summer Flounder Fishery Fund



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For Immediate Release

S.S.F.F.F HELPS FUND NEW STUDY

Recreational hook and line selectivity in the summer flounder fishery

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The Save The Summer Flounder Fishery Fund is a not-for-profit organization that was formed eight years ago to help ensure that the public had fair and reasonable access to one of the most important recreational Atlantic Coast marine species.

Our founding mission statement was to help our Council members and NMFS fisheries managers have the best possible tools at their disposal. Documented scientific facts that would allow them to make sound management decisions. To date we have invested close to \$200,000 in donated funds to help create more accurate science. These funds have originated from a variety of sources, including organizations like the American Sport Fishing Association, fishing tackle dealers and recreational fishing boat operators. Most of the funding has come from recreational saltwater anglers who share our concerns that poor stock information is causing unnecessary restrictions on a healthy and robust fishery.

SSFFF, and Scientist from both Rutgers and Cornell University along with partners from the commercial fishing community, are now working together to create a new sex-based stock assessment model that will, when completed, more accurately portray the size and gender breakdown of the summer flounder stocks.

The new hook and line Selectivity project is a key component in the creation of the stock model that the Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund has pledged to deliver.

When completed these new studies will shed much needed light on questions that managers were never previously able to definitively answer. Knowing the sex and size of the fish that are recreationally caught, whether kept or released, is paramount to understanding the health and composition of the fishery. Good management decisions can only be made after scientists are clearly able to understand the size of the flounder biomass, its sexual composition, and the extent of the yearly harvest.