Atlantic Chub Mackerel Amendment

Council Meeting
March 16, 2017
Consider adding Atlantic chub mackerel as a stock in the MSB FMP

Would require ABCs, ACLs, AMs, EFH, etc.
Amendment Development

- FMAT formed
- RFP issued for assessment work
- Brief SSC discussion
- Scoping plans
## Scoping Hearings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| May 4    | **Brooklyn, NY**  
           Kingsborough Community College |
| May 15   | **Newport News, VA**  
           Virginia Marine Resources Commission |
| May 16   | **Ocean City, MD**  
           Princess Royale Resort & Conference Center |
| May 23   | **Cape May, NJ**  
           Congress Hall Hotel |
| May 24   | **Narragansett, RI**  
           URI Bay Campus |
| May 25   | **Webinar** |
Scoping Document

- Intro
- Why is the Council pursuing this action?
- What is a stock in the fishery?
- Issues for consideration
- How to get involved
- Background and recent fishery developments
- Types of management measures which may be considered
- Next steps
Biology/Life History

- Small, schooling, pelagic species
- Opportunistic predators
- “Frequent” prey for tunas and billfish in Mid-Atlantic
- Also likely prey for spiny dogfish, monkfish, summer flounder, marine mammals, and sharks
S. New England through Gulf of Mexico (and beyond, including eastern Atlantic)

Evidence of spawning in NC-FL, larvae in straits of FL

Large fluctuations in abundance & availability around the world – likely driven by environment
Mid-Atlantic & New England Landings

Landings (millions of lb)

- 1994-1996: 0
- 1997: 0
- 1998: 0
- 1999: 0
- 2000: 0
- 2001: 0
- 2002: 0
- 2003: 0.61
- 2004: 0
- 2005: 0
- 2006: 0
- 2007-2009: 0
- 2010-2011: 0
- 2012: 2007
- 2013: 5.25
- 2014: 2.11
- 2015: 1.23
- 2016: 0.61
Fishery

- >95% landings June-October
- 90% of landings from bottom trawls
- ≤29 vessels/year, ≤8 dealers in ≤5 states/year
- Most landings from *Illex* vessels
- Most landings from south of Hudson Canyon in stat areas in or near shelf break
- Some recreational landings throughout east coast and Gulf of Mexico
Amendment Rationale

- Existing targeted fishery
- Temporary measures in forage amendment
- Goal of this amendment: longer-term mgmt.
- EAFM Guidance Document
Council policy “to support the maintenance of an adequate forage base in the Mid-Atlantic to ensure ecosystem productivity, structure and function and to support sustainable fishing communities”

May consider using more restrictive status determination criteria for forage species than otherwise required
Stock in the Fishery

- Council not considering other designations
- MSA requirements
  - ABCs
  - ACLs
  - AMs
  - EFH
  - Mgmt
  - unit
Other Measures

- Permit requirements
- Limited access provisions
- ACTs
- Landings limits (quotas, RHLs)
- Possession limits
- Minimum fish size restrictions
- Gear restrictions
- Reporting requirements
- Seasonal closures
- Control dates
3 comments (Wild Oceans and 2 VA rec fishermen)

- General support of amendment
- Should elaborate on biological/economic impacts of commercial fishery on recreational HMS fisheries
- Should describe recreational HMS fisheries
- Should elaborate on EAFM and OY
- Should highlight specific questions to focus scoping comments
## Draft Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Task</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Scoping</td>
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<tr>
<td>~June 2017 – Jan/Feb 2018</td>
<td>Contract assessment work</td>
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<tr>
<td>June – Nov 2017</td>
<td>FMAT alternative development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov/Dec 2017</td>
<td>AP and Committee meetings</td>
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<td>Dec 2017</td>
<td>Council meeting – review scoping and FMAT, AP, and Committee recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2018</td>
<td>SSC meeting - ABCs</td>
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Decision Points

- Edits to scoping document?
- Modifications to scoping plans?