Date: August 30, 2017
To: Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: Jason Didden, Staff
Subject: Spiny Dogfish Specifications Review for 2018 Fishing Year

Dogfish is in multi-year specifications for 2016-2018 (the 2018 fishing year ends April 30, 2019). The Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is scheduled to review the 2018 dogfish ABCs (year 3 of 3) during its September 2017 meeting. The Dogfish ABC is scheduled to decrease from approximately 51 million pounds in 2017 to 50 million pounds in 2018 under multi-year specifications.

A data update from NMFS’ Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), a fishery information document that supported the Advisory Panel’s meeting, and the Advisory Panel’s Fishery Performance Report have been posted to http://www.mafmc.org/ssc.

Staff recommends no changes to 2018 dogfish ABCs. While the historically-low 2017 spring survey data point does give pause for concern, the biology of dogfish does not lend itself to rapid changes in biomass given the moderate catches observed in recent years. The industry members of the Advisory Panel also have not reported any substantial changes in catch rates.