MEMORANDUM

Date: May 30, 2019
To: Council
From: Jason Didden, Staff
Subject: Canadian Quota and Atlantic Mackerel Specifications

The Council will be considering mackerel specifications at its June 2019 meeting. A 10,000 MT\(^1\) deduction is proposed for expected Canadian landings - the expected Canadian quota has been used recently as a deduction. There is also some unmonitored Canadian catch but no accepted proxy quantity has been established and unmonitored catch has not been included in any recent assessments.

Canada just announced that it is decreasing its quota to 8,000 MT for 2019 (see next page). Theoretically this decrease could be used to justify a decreased deduction for Canadian landings (and higher U.S. quota). However, given the current uncertainty related to rebuilding and signs of low recruitment, staff recommends maintaining the current 10,000 MT deduction (in 2019 and 2020), at least until 2019 Canadian fishery performance can be evaluated and the assessment update is completed in early 2020. An in-season adjustment could be pursued during 2020 if the assessment update indicates stock recovery is proceeding favorably.

\(^1\) 1 metric ton (MT) = 2,204.6 pounds. Other ways of conceptualizing metric tons are that 1,000 MT = 2.2 million pounds and 100 MT = about 220,000 pounds.
TO: ATLANTIC MACKEREL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AMAC)/
AU: COMITÉ CONSULTATIF DE MAQUEREAU ATLANTIQUE (CCMA)

ATLANTIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019

The Minister has set the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the Atlantic Mackerel fishery for 2019.

The 2019 TAC for the commercial catch is set at 8,000 tonnes under a one-year management plan.

Please be advised that the department will implement new gear restrictions and reporting requirements to improve monitoring of landings in the commercial and bait mackerel fisheries for some fleets in Atlantic Canada and Quebec.

The minimum fish size for commercial mackerel retention will increase from 263 to 268mm as determined by the new stock assessment.

The temporary freeze on the issuance of new commercial mackerel licences for fixed and mobile gear effective July 27, 2017 will continue. This includes the addition of new gear types to existing commercial licences.

PLAN DE GESTION 2019 - MAQUEREAU DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Le Ministre a fixé le total autorisé des captures (TAC) pour le maquereau de l'atlantique pour l'année 2019.

Le TAC pour les prises commerciales est fixé à 8 000 tonnes pour l’année 2019 dans le cadre d'un plan de gestion d'un an.

Veuillez noter que le département mettra en oeuvre de nouvelles restrictions concernant les engins et les nouvelles exigences en matière de rapport afin d'améliorer la surveillance des débarquements dans la pêche commerciale et d'appât de maquereau pour certaines flottes du Canada atlantique et du Québec.

La taille minimale des prises commerciales de maquereaux aux fins de rétention augmentera de 263 à 268 mm, comme le déterminé par la nouvelle évaluation du stock.

Le gel temporaire sur la délivrance de nouveaux permis de maquereau commercial pour les engins fixes et mobiles mis en place depuis le 27 juillet 2017 est toujours en vigueur. Le gel inclut l'ajout de nouveaux types d'engins aux permis commerciaux existants.

Brian Lester
Chair/Président