Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog (SCOQ)

SSC Meeting

May 12, 2021
Today’s Review (2022 Measures)

- Surfclam fishery info doc (fishery data update)
- Fishery performance report (both SCOQ)
- Staff recommendations for surfclam
- Repeat for ocean quahog...
- Received Level 3 SC and Level 1 OQ Management Track Assessments last year
Surfclam Fishing Mortality
Surfclam Info Doc

[Diagram showing landings by year and location, with bars for SVA, DMV, NJ, LI, SNE, GBK, and Other.
Surfclam Info Doc
Surfclam Info Doc
2020: 43 vessels (same as 2019)

7 processors SCOQ in 3 states

Decrease in overall ex-vessel value
  - $23 million in 2020
  - Down $5 million from 2019
Surfclam Landings (thru May 5)
Fisheries Performance Report

- Covers both SCOQ
- Advisors met April 22, 2021
- Asked series of trigger questions
- AP identified several “Critical Issues”
- Also note, advisors would like status quo quotas (quota stability = fishery/market stability)
A. COVID-19:

- Sales to restaurants/retail low
- Processors continuing to operate
- Causing inventories to rise – causing storage costs/expenses to increase
- Distribution is starting to increase in anticipation of improved sales, but hasn’t helped bottom line at this point yet
- Expect these effects to be ongoing, longer lasting

Source: CDC/Alissa Eckert, MSMI, Dan Higgins, MAMS
Fisheries Performance Report

B. Research:

- Important Council support research in Great South Channel Habitat Management Area (Nantucket Shoals/Southern New England area)

- SCOQ AP recommends NEFMC and MAFMC pursue cross Council workshop to,
  
  1) review the management process, 2) better understand what research is being conducted, 3) describe the process for ongoing management, and 4) develop understanding what this means for process of managing these clam access areas.
C. Access to Fishing Grounds:

- Development of wind energy and aquaculture areas, protected marine areas and historic monuments, and other offshore ocean uses have become a critical issue for our industry.

- All of these activities have potential to reduce safe access to historically used fishing ground resulting in a greater concentration of fishing effort in smaller areas.
Fisheries Performance Report

Other Important Issues:

- The SCOQ AP would like to request that surfclam and ocean quahog AP members have two seats on Fishery Management Act Teams (FMATs) for issues related to these fisheries.
SSC Recommendation 2021-2026

- SSC-modified OFL probability distribution
- Coefficient of variation (OFL CV) of 100%
- Based on report for Level 3 Management Track Assessment
- 2021 $p^* = 0.47$
Atlantic Surfclam Flowchart

- Overfishing Limit (OFL)
- Scientific Uncertainty

Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) = Annual Catch Limit (ACL) = Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

Management Uncertainty

Annual Catch Target (ACT)
## Surfclam SSC/Council Recommendations

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>OFL</th>
<th>ABC</th>
<th>ACL</th>
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<th>Commercial Quota</th>
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Surfclam Staff Recommendations

- No changes to measures for 2022
  - Council will need motion to recommend RA suspend minimum size (required annually)
Quahog Biomass
Quahog Fishing Mortality
Quahog Info Doc
2019: 15 non-ME vessels, 8 ME

7 processors SCOQ in 3 states

Decrease in overall ex-vessel value
- $16 million in 2020
- Down $3 million from 2019
Quahog Landings – Non-Maine (thru May 5)
Quahog Landings – Maine (thru May 5)
SSC Recommendation 2021-2026

- SSC-modified OFL probability distribution
- Coefficient of variation (OFL CV) of 100%
- Based on report for Level 1 Management Track Assessment
- 2021 \( p^* = 0.49 \)
Ocean Quahog Flowchart

- Overfishing Limit (OFL)
- Scientific Uncertainty
- Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)
- Annual Catch Limit (ACL)
- Total Allowable Catch (TAC)
- Management Uncertainty
- Annual Catch Target (ACT) Non-Maine Fishery
- Annual Catch Target (ACT) Maine Fishery
## Quahog SSC/Council Recommendations

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* For combined Maine and non-Maine quahog fishery.
Quahog Staff Recommendations

- No changes to measures for 2022