Atlantic Chub Mackerel
2023-2025 ABC

SSC Meeting
May 11, 2022

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Meeting Objective

- Review
  - Management history
  - Recent fishery information
  - AP Fishery Performance Report

- Recommend 2023-2025 ABCs
Management

- First measures implemented through Unmanaged Forage Amendment (effective Sept 2017).
- Amendment 21 to MSB FMP.
  - ABC, ACL, ACT, TAL.
  - Vessel (commercial and party/charter), and dealer permit and reporting requirements.
  - Commercial possession limits only after 90% and 100% of TAL projected to be landed.
  - No recreational possession limit.
  - No commercial or recreational fish size, gear, or season restrictions.
Previous ABC Recommendation

- Insufficient info exists to assess status and trends in NW Atlantic.
- OFL cannot be specified.
- ABC = 2,300 MT = 5.07 mil lb.
  - Based on expert judgement.
  - Based loosely on historic high for landings and assumptions about discards.
  - Prevents fishery from reaching historic high, but allows higher catch than in all other years.
  - Unlikely to result in overfishing given general productivity of species worldwide combined with low fishery capacity in this region.
- ME-FL catch applies to ABC.
- Reviewed in 2020 and 2021. No changes recommended.
Other Previous SSC Input

- Much additional data needed.
  - More intensive monitoring of landings for size and age comps (see Leaf 2020, Daley and Leaf 2019 in supplemental materials).

- Consider relevance of fisheries in other areas, including closely related *Scomber japonicus*.
  - See other supplemental briefing materials.

Robert Leaf
2020-2022 Specifications

Expected SC-FL Catch
0.08 mil lb
38 mt

Management Uncertainty
4% of ACL
0.20 mil lb
90 mt

Expected Dead Discards
6% of ACT
0.29 mil lb
130 mt

Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)
5.07 mil lb
2,300 mt

Annual Catch Limit (ACL)
4.99 mil lb
2,262 mt

Annual Catch Target (ACT)
4.79 mil lb
2,171 mt

Total Allowable Landings (TAL)
4.50 mil lb
2,041 mt
Quota: 4,499,486 lbs

90% of quota

Landings (lbs)

Previous Year  Current Year

Commercial Fishery

- Overlap with *Illex* squid fishery
  - Vessels, time of year, area
  - “Bailout” species/alternative fishery
- 95% of com. landings over past 20 years from fewer than 5 vessels, fewer than 3 dealers
- 91% landings from bottom trawl, 9% from midwater trawls (fed VTRs)
- 97% landings from June-October
- $0.53/lb on avg, 2002-2021 (adjusted to 2021 $)
Recreational Fishery

On avg. 2017-2021:
- 56% harvest from state waters, 44% federal.
- Most harvest in NY (42%), RI (28%), NJ (18%), CT (8%).
- 57% private/rental, 38% party/charter, 5% shore.
- Most harvest July-Aug (57%), Sept-Oct (40%).
Commercial fleet has not targeted chub mackerel in recent years. Focusing on Illex.

Increasing recreational catch likely due to increased availability with warming waters.
No changes recommended to any mgmt. measures for 2023.

No data to suggest changes are needed. Hopefully can have more data for next cycle of setting ABCs.

Emerging fishery.
- Mgmt is overly precautionary.
- Should prioritize and support development of sustainable emerging fisheries.
- Need to adapt to a changing environment.

Recommend research on range of the species, especially regarding climate change.
Discussion

- Recommend 2023-2025 ABCs

Stratified mean#/tow low with spike in 1996.

Have become more prevalent since 2013.