



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
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 Richard B. Robins, Jr., Chairman | Lee G. Anderson, Vice Chairman  
 Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 24, 2015

**TO:** Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee, Councils

**FROM:** Jason Didden *JTD*

**SUBJECT:** Spiny Dogfish 2016-2018 Specifications

At the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) October 2015 meeting, in addition to passing a 2016 Spiny Dogfish ABC recommendation (16,765 mt) and associated management measures, the following motion was adopted: "Move that the Council request that the SSC, with guidance from the NEFSC, determine the OFL and the ABC for 2016 using a 3-yr average of mature female biomass for 2015, 2013, and 2012/2011 combined and any other options that the SSC/Center consider appropriate." [Pierce/Batsavage (24/0/0)]

Paul Rago (NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center) completed an evaluation (available at: <http://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2015/ssc-meeting-nov24>) of several smoothing options to deal with the missing 2014 data. The Council's SSC met November 24, 2015, and reviewed the evaluation and concluded that a Kalman filter was the best of the available smoothing methods. Application of the Kalman filter results in different ABCs and quotas than were recommended at the Council's October 2015 meeting. The table below describes the specifications that result from the same management measures (deductions for Canadian catch, discards, and recreational landings) as recommended previously by the Council, except applied against the new SSC ABC recommendations. The SSC report will be forwarded to the Councils as soon as possible. Additional background materials are available in the October 2015 briefing book: <http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/october-2015>.

| Specifications      | Basis                         | 2016<br>(pounds) | 2016<br>(mt) | 2017<br>(pounds) | 2017<br>(mt) | 2018<br>(pounds) | 2018<br>(mt) |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| OFL                 | Projected Catch at Fmsy       | 64,414,664       | 29,218       | na               | na           | na               | na           |
| New ABCs            | Council Risk Policy           | 52,066,572       | 23,617       | 50,805,528       | 23,045       | 49,901,633       | 22,635       |
| Canadian Landings   | = avg last 3 years (10,11,12) | 143,300          | 65           | 143,300          | 65           | 143,300          | 65           |
| Domestic ABC        | = ABC – Canadian Landings     | 51,923,272       | 23,552       | 50,662,228       | 22,980       | 49,758,333       | 22,570       |
| ACL                 | = Domestic ABC                | 51,923,272       | 23,552       | 50,662,228       | 22,980       | 49,758,333       | 22,570       |
| Mgmt Uncert. Buffer | Ave pct overage since 2011    | 0                | 0            | 0                | 0            | 0                | 0            |
| ACT                 | = ACL - mgmt uncertainty      | 51,923,272       | 23,552       | 50,662,228       | 22,980       | 49,758,333       | 22,570       |
| U.S. Discards       | =3 year average 12-13-14      | 11,494,167       | 5,214        | 11,494,167       | 5,214        | 11,494,167       | 5,214        |
| TAL                 | ACT – Discards                | 40,429,105       | 18,338       | 39,168,060       | 17,766       | 38,264,165       | 17,356       |
| U.S. Rec Landings   | = 2014 estimate               | 68,343           | 31           | 68,343           | 31           | 68,343           | 31           |
| Comm Quota          | TAL – Rec Landings            | 40,360,761       | 18,307       | 39,099,717       | 17,735       | 38,195,822       | 17,325       |