



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org
Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

#4

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 25, 2018
To: Council
From: Jason Didden
Subject: Spiny Dogfish Committee Meeting Summary

The Spiny Dogfish Committee (Committee) met on September 21, 2018 to consider making recommendations to the Councils on spiny dogfish specifications for the 2019-2021 fishing years.

Committee members in attendance: Stew Michels (Chair), Melanie Griffin (for David Pierce), Dewey Hemilright, Joe Cimino, Ward Slacum, Rob O'Reilly, Terry Stockwell, Rick Bellavance, Chris Batsavage, Mike Ruccio (for Mike Pentony), and Michael Luisi (ex-officio).

Others in attendance: Jason Didden, Fiona Hogan, Pete Burns, Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Cynthia Hanson, James Fletcher, and June Lewis.

Jason Didden, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's spiny dogfish staff lead provided an overview of the recent spiny dogfish assessment update, the Scientific and Statistical Committee's recommendations, and the Monitoring Committee's recommendations.

The Committee discussed several aspects of spiny dogfish management including the specifications and trip limits. Discussion of trip limits centered around what the appropriate regulatory vehicle would be for considering changes to the federal trip limit. NMFS and Council staff communicated that a framework or amendment appeared most appropriate for making substantial changes to trip limits beyond simple and moderate increases or decreases.

The Committee also discussed the question of availability versus abundance regarding the NMFS trawl survey and how these issues may impact stock status and catch limits. Public comments on the call reinforced this concern. Council staff noted that there are a number of recent and ongoing studies that consider the issue of dogfish availability for the fishery and/or survey, and those studies will be considered and likely incorporated into the next benchmark assessment, currently scheduled for 2021.

Based on a public comment, there was also discussion of whether the Council should support an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) that would allow a fishery for male dogfish. No motions were made, and the Council could decide to provide support for such a project once details were available, or the Council could allow such a fishery through the normal Council processes. Staff

note: the possibility of a male fishery/quota was investigated in a recent master's degree project and could also be considered during the upcoming benchmark.

The motions made by the Committee included:

1. I move that the Committee recommend the ABCs and other specifications associated with the staff/SSC/Monitoring Committee recommendation:

Specifications	Basis	2019 (pounds)	2019 (mt)	2020 (pounds)	2020 (mt)	2021 (pounds)	2021 (mt)
OFL (from SSC)	Projected Catch at Fmsy	0	0	na	na	na	na
ABC (from SSC)	Council Risk Policy	28,470,497	12,914	31,142,499	14,126	35,368,761	16,043
Canadian Landings	= 2017 estimate	108,027	49	108,027	49	108,027	49
Domestic ABC	= ABC – Canadian Landings	28,362,470	12,865	31,034,473	14,077	35,260,734	15,994
ACL	= Domestic ABC	28,362,470	12,865	31,034,473	14,077	35,260,734	15,994
Mgmt Uncert Buffer	Ave pct overage since 2011	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	= ACL - mgmt uncert buffer	28,362,470	12,865	31,034,473	14,077	35,260,734	15,994
U.S. Discards	=3 year average 15-16-17	7,661,064	3,475	7,661,064	3,475	7,661,064	3,475
TAL	ACT – Discards	20,701,406	9,390	23,373,409	10,602	27,599,671	12,519
U.S. Rec Landings	= 2017 estimate	178,574	81	178,574	81	178,574	81
Comm Quota	TAL – Rec Landings	20,522,832	9,309	23,194,835	10,521	27,421,096	12,438

O'Reilly/Hemilright, 8/1/0

2. I move that the Committee recommend to the Council that an action be considered as soon as possible regarding trip limits that includes removing the federal trip limit (no changes to the federal trip limit of 6,000 pounds would be made via this specification action). Hemilright/Batsavage, 9-0-0

[Staff note: the intent of this motion was to recommend that the Council consider a separate, future action (framework or amendment) to consider changes to the federal trip limit that were deemed to be outside of the scope of the annual specifications process.]

3. I move that the Committee recommend for the Council to recommend to the NMFS Science Center that a proactive approach for the planned spiny dogfish assessment be taken, similar to the butterfish/mackerel assessments. Hemilright/O'Reilly, no objections