

Other Business – Dogfish

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Spiny Dogfish Management Process

(b) *Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee recommendation.* The Councils' Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee shall review the recommendations of the Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee. Based on these recommendations, requests for research quota, and any public comments, the Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee shall recommend to the Councils a TAL, and possibly other measures, including those specified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (8) of this section, necessary to ensure that the ACL specified in §648.230 will not be exceeded in any fishing year (May 1-April 30), for a period of 1-5 fishing years.

(c) *Council recommendations.* (1) The Councils shall review these recommendations and, based on the recommendations and any public comments, recommend to the Regional Administrator a TAL and other measures necessary to ensure that the ACL specified in §648.230 will not be exceeded in any fishing year, for a period of 1-5 fishing years. The Councils' recommendations must include supporting documentation, as appropriate, concerning the environmental, economic, and other impacts of the recommendations. The Regional Administrator shall initiate a review of these recommendations and may modify the recommended quota and other management measures to ensure that the ACL specified in §648.230 will not be exceeded in any fishing year, for a period of 1-5 fishing years. The Regional Administrator may modify the Councils' recommendations using any of the measures that were not rejected by both Councils.



Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- The Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee recommended using the new MAFMC SSC ABC recommendation to formulate 2021/2022 fishing year quotas.
- This would increase the commercial quota by 8% from the current specifications and 27% from the specifications for 2021 originally adopted in 2019, to 13,408 mt (29.56 million lbs.).
- As part of the Monitoring Committee recommendations, the MAFMC staff reported that “due to workload constraints, ... MAFMC staff would likely not be able to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) needed to consider substantial trip limit changes”. And that, “potentially [the] New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) staff could develop an EA if the NEFMC deemed trip limits to be a high priority.

Other Considerations

- If the NEFMC considers whether the EEZ trip limit should be increased in the fishing years 2021-2022 specifications, it should also consider the following:
 - The NEFMC might have to complete the Environmental Assessment for any action. The MAFMC is expected to undertake an analysis of the potential impacts of changing the federal trip limit which might assist in completing an EA.
 - Any change in the trip limit would not be implemented by the May 1 beginning of the 2021 fishing year. It could be implemented later that year and would remain in place at least until May 1, 2022, barring specific action to change it further.

Other Information / Meetings

- The MAFMC Spiny Dogfish Committee will meet as a committee-of-the-whole on Oct. 6 (9:00 a.m.) to consider the Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee recommendations for the FY 2021 and 2022 Specifications.
- Also, the MAFMC will consider as a work priority in response to EO 13921, an analysis of the potential impacts of changing the federal trip limit.

Questions / Discussion

