



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** November 15, 2022  
**To:** Chris Moore  
**From:** Jason Didden, Council staff  
**Subject:** *Illex* Permits next steps

NMFS disapproved the Council's action to reduce the number of permits in the *Illex* squid fishery, which was intended to reduce excess capacity in the fishery and mitigate the rapid use of annual quota seen in recent years.

During Amendment development, the action's Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) identified that an Individual Transferrable Quota (ITQ) system (referred to in the Magnuson Act as a Limited Access Privilege Program) allows market-based incentives to improve efficiency and address overcapitalization. Developing a follow-on action that considers the potential appropriateness of an ITQ for *Illex* appears to staff to be the most direct way to address excess capacity in the *Illex* fishery given NMFS' disapproval of the Council's action. The Council could also task the action's FMAT to consider if other approaches could remedy the issues identified by NMFS while achieving the same goals of reducing excess capacity and mitigating the rapid use of the quota.