**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:** August 30, 2021

**To:** Chris Moore, Executive Director

**From:** Jason Didden, Staff

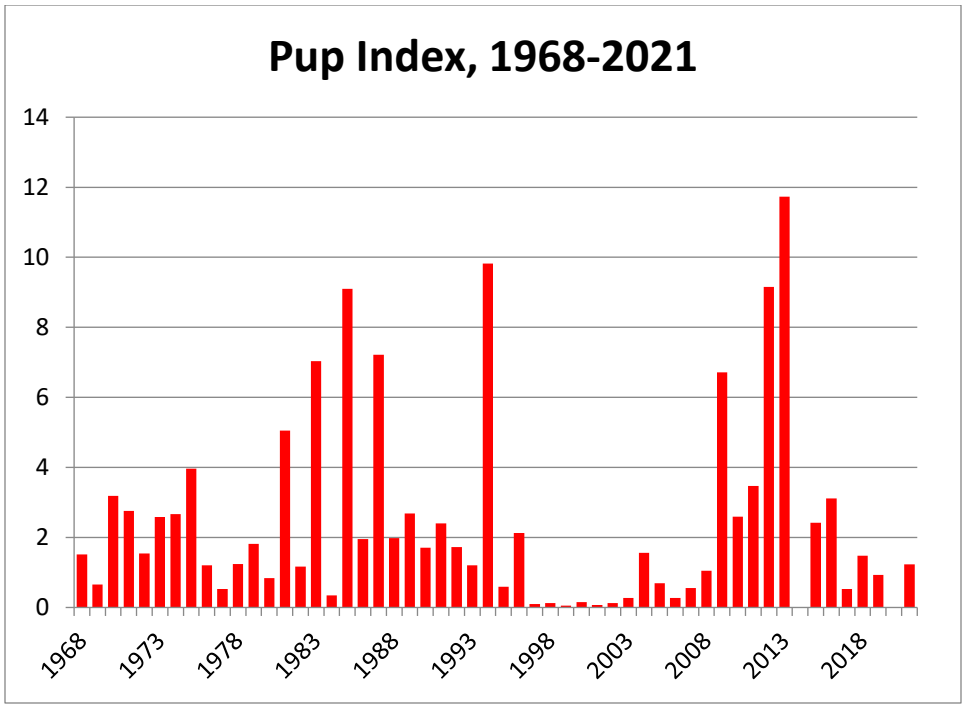
**Subject:** Spiny Dogfish Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)

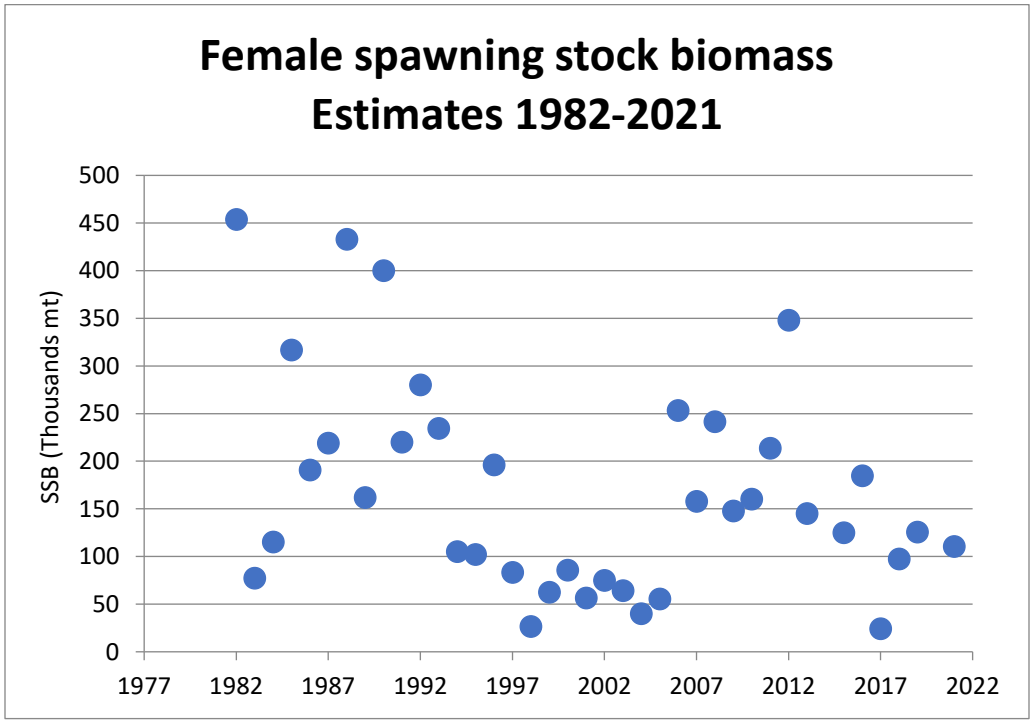
The spiny dogfish fishery is in multi-year specifications for the 2021-2022 fishing years with an ABC of 17,498 metric tons. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is scheduled to review the 2022 dogfish ABC during its September 2021 meeting.

Given the recently-commenced research track assessment and management track assessment scheduling, NMFS' Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) did not produce any specific documents for spiny dogfish for this meeting. However, the results of the 2021 NEFSC spring trawl survey for pups and female spawning stock biomass are attached below. Also, updated landings are available in the fishery information document, which has been posted to the SSC meeting page, along with the Advisory Panel's Fishery Performance Report.

Staff has some concern about this fishery. Both landings and trawl survey results have been trending down since the post-FMP peaks in 2012. Prices declined substantially from 2012 to 2013 but have been trending up since 2013. The 2021 spring survey results were nearly evenly divided between the two preceding data points (2018/2019) for both pups and biomass. However, the 2021 spring survey missed four strata south of Virginia representing about 2.7% of the total area surveyed (K. Sosebee pers. comm.). No adjustments were made for the missing area with the current data, but previous discussions have highlighted that Mid-Atlantic strata are important for spiny dogfish during the spring survey.

Given that the 2021 survey data point is about midway between the preceding two data points, staff recommends maintaining the previously-recommended ABC.


Pup Index, 1968-2021
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1968
1973
1978
1983
1988
1993
1998
2003
2008
2013
2018


Female spawning stock biomass
Estimates 1982-2021
SSB (Thousands mt)
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
1977
1982
1987
1992
1997
2002
2007
2012
2017
2022