



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

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 27, 2017
To: Council
From: Julia Beaty
Subject: Chub mackerel amendment update

This memo summarizes progress that has been made on the chub mackerel amendment since April 2017. It is anticipated that the Council will discuss scoping comments; Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT), Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and Advisory Panel (AP) recommendations; and an initial range of alternatives at the December 2017 meeting.

- 1) After reviewing the response to the request for proposals for a chub mackerel stock assessment, **Council staff decided not to fund a contract at this time and instead prioritize data collection to support future stock assessments.** A memo summarizing this decision is available at: http://www.mafmc.org/s/Chub_RFP_outcome.pdf.
- 2) Six public scoping hearings were held in May 2017. **The Council received 10,523 scoping comments**, 55 of which were unique comments (as opposed to signatures on form letters). A summary of these comments, scoping hearing transcripts, and all written comments are available at: <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/chub-mackerel-amendment>.
- 3) The chub mackerel FMAT held their first meeting on June 19, 2017. **The FMAT discussed available data, research recommendations, and management measures.** A summary of the meeting is available at: http://www.mafmc.org/s/Chub_FMAT_mtg1_summary.pdf.
- 4) At their July 2017 meeting, **the SSC discussed potential approaches for developing chub mackerel ABCs and research recommendations.** A summary of their discussion will be posted to: <http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/august-2017>.
- 5) On August 1, 2017, **a panel of experts on the diets of highly migratory species (HMS) will meet via webinar** to discuss the importance of chub mackerel to the diets of recreationally-important HMS in U.S. waters. More information is available at: <http://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2017/chub-hms-webinar>. A summary of this meeting will be posted to <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/chub-mackerel-amendment> as soon as it is available.