

*Summary of Science and  
Statistical Committee Meeting  
on July 22-23, 2020*

Presentation

to

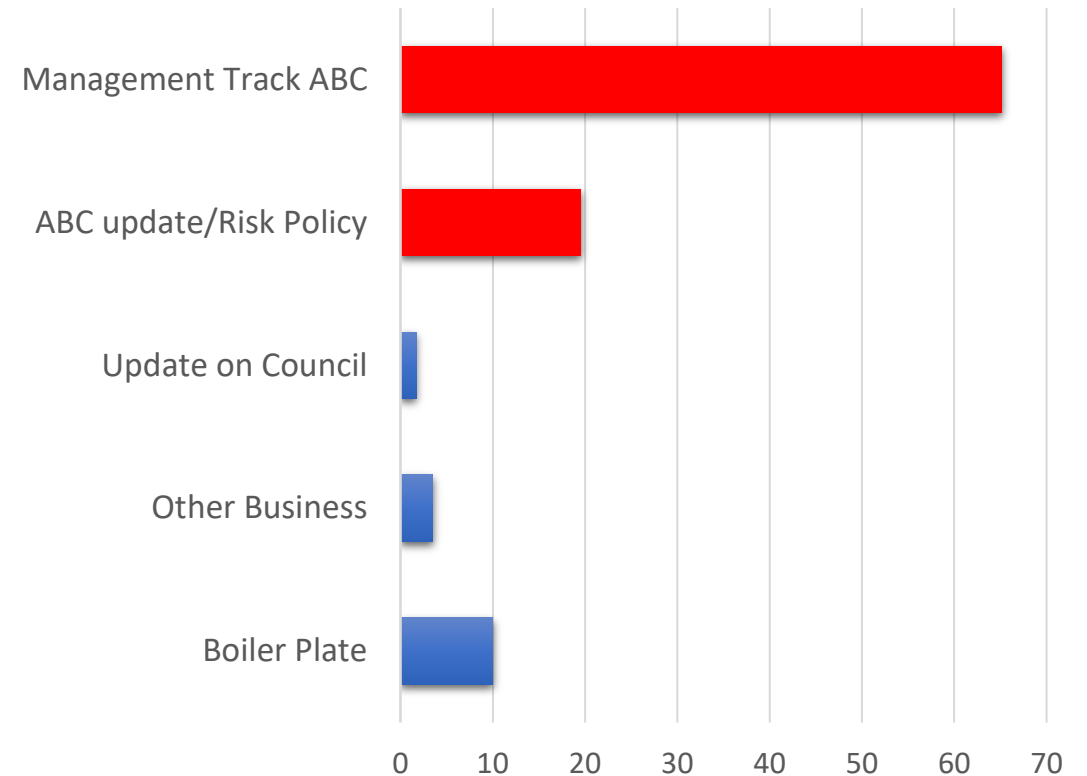
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

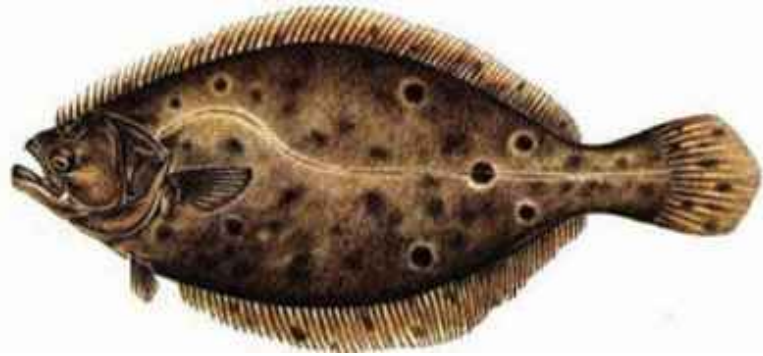
August 13, 2020

# *Primary Topics (word count, %)*

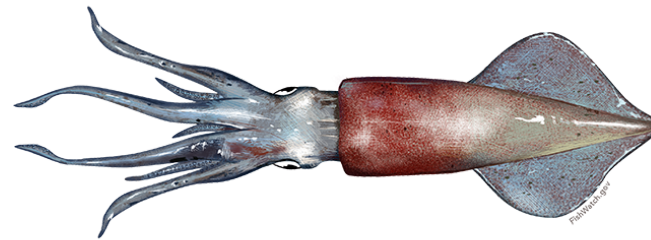
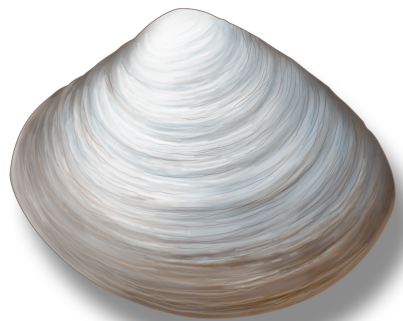
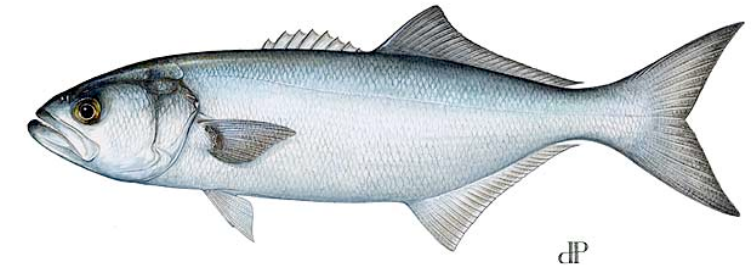
- Review of Management Track Assessments and ABC (10,884, 65.2%)
- Update of ABC for Revised Risk Policy (3,278, 19.6%)
- Update on Council Amendments (282, 1.7%)
- Other Business (583, 3.5%)
- Boiler Plate (1663, 10%)

Percent of SSC Report





- 4 Management Track Assessments
- 3 Implementations of OFL CV template
- 5 Data updates
- 5 ABC Revisions per new Risk Policy
  - 2 at Status Quo (Mackerel, Bluefish)
  - 3 Increased (Fluke, Scup, Black Sea Bass)



Species	Process	OFL CV (%)	2021 ABC (mt)	P star = P(overfishing)
Surfclam	Level 3 Management Track	100	47,919	0.47
Ocean Quahog	Level 1 Management Track	100	44,031	<b>0.49</b>
Butterfish	Level 2 Management Track	100	11,993 (time varying)	0.35
Longfin Squid	Level 3 Management Track	NA	23,400	NA
Atlantic Mackerel	Data Update	100	29,184	0.386
Bluefish	Data Update	100	7,385	0.183
Summer Flounder	Data Update	60	12,297	0.39
Scup	Data Update	60	15,791	0.49
Black Sea Bass	Data Update	100	7,916	0.49

## *Update on Council Amendments*

- Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP
- Bluefish FMP
- SSC expressed concerns about exclusion of alternatives based on economic benefits had been excluded. Example, Pacific halibut shares routinely traded between commercial and recreational users.

# *Other Business:*

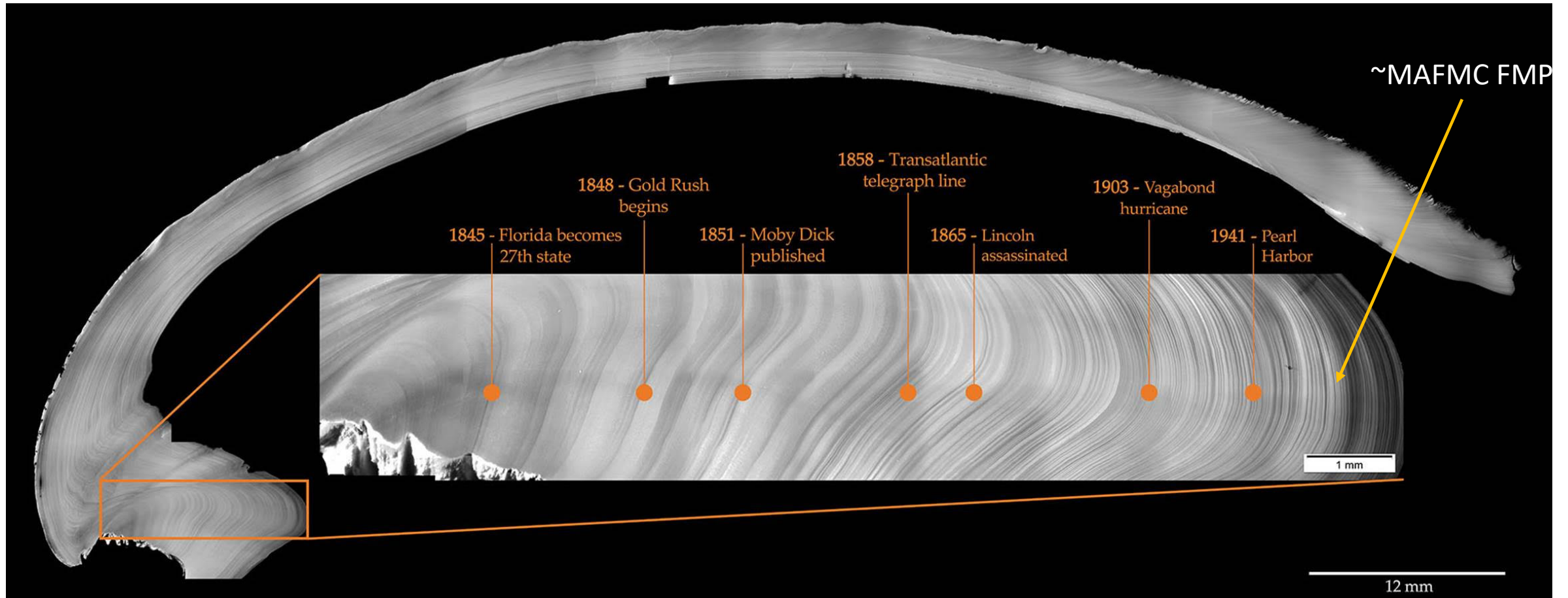
## *Socio Economic Working Group*

- Many issues might benefit from greater input from SSC economists and social scientists:
  - Reallocation of quotas among user groups
  - Wind energy development
  - Ecosystem considerations
- Information Sources:
  - White Paper presented to Council in August 2019
  - Socioeconomic Aspects in Stock Assessments Workshop. Report Pending
- **Proposal—Form Working Group to better define role of economists in setting of ABCs consistent with National Standards.**

# *Other Business*

## *Concerns about Council Risk Policy*

- Ocean Quahog: ~500 yr lifespan is more than 10x longer than other species that Council manages



# *Other Business*

## *Concerns about Council Risk Policy*

- Ocean Quahog: ~500 yr lifespan is more than 10x longer than other species that Council manages
- Under current risk policy, the stock may be fished at level that has a 49% risk of overfishing.
- Current fishing mortality is low, but scientist's estimates of overfishing threshold are uncertain. (It's only been studied for about 5% of the maximum lifespan)
- **SSC recommends flexibility in the risk policy to account for the unusual characteristics of this species.**