



Atlantic Chub Mackerel Amendment



Scoping Hearing
May 2017

Scoping



- Early opportunity for public input
- Alternatives have not yet been developed or analyzed
- Establishes the overall focus and direction of the amendment

Goal of Amendment

Develop management measures for Atlantic chub mackerel fisheries

- Prevent overfishing
- Achieve optimum yield
- Ensure long-term sustainability

Biology/Life History

- Small, schooling, pelagic species
- Opportunistic predators
- Frequent prey for tunas and billfish in Mid-Atlantic
- Also likely prey for spiny dogfish, monkfish, summer flounder, marine mammals, and sharks



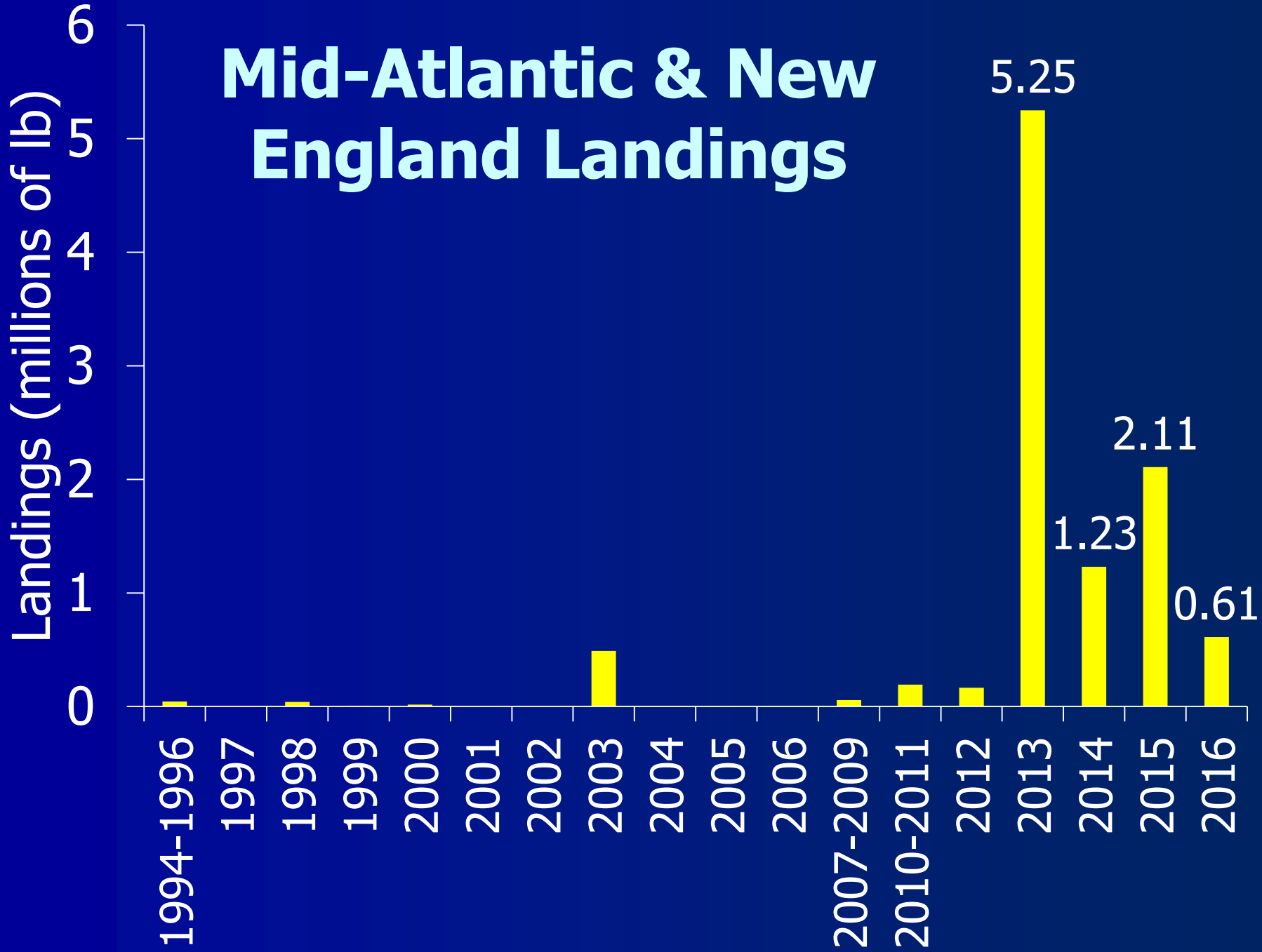
Alessandro Ducci

Biology/Life History

- Widely distributed
- Evidence of spawning in NC-FL, larvae in straits of FL
- Large fluctuations in abundance & availability around the world – likely driven by environment

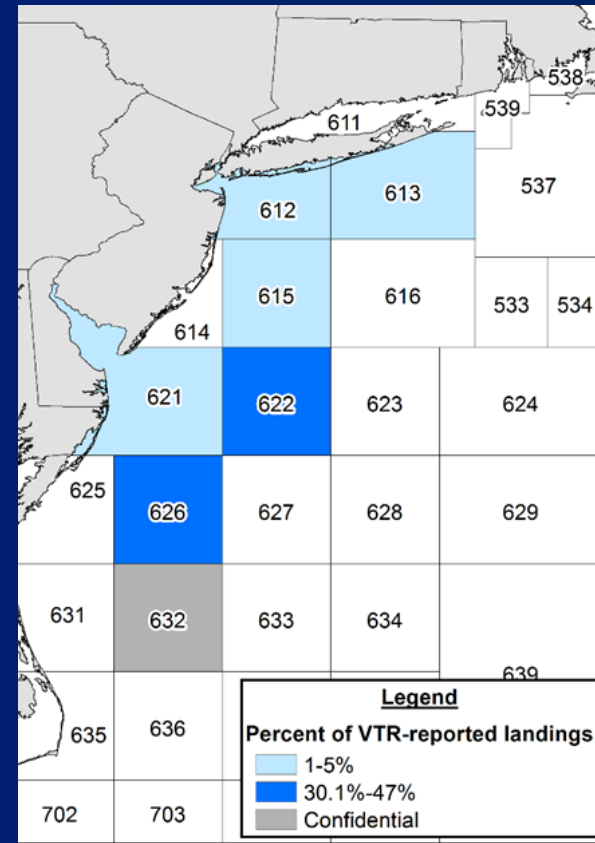


Mid-Atlantic & New England Landings



Fishery

- >95% landings June-October
- 90% from bottom trawls
- ≤ 29 vessels/year, ≤ 8 dealers/year
- Most landings from south of Hudson Canyon in stat areas in or near shelf break
- Some recreational landings throughout east coast and in Gulf of Mexico



Amendment Rationale

- Existing targeted fishery
- Temporary measures through forage amendment
 - 2.86 million lb/year, then 40K lb possession limit
- Goal of this amendment: longer-term mgmt.
- EAFM Guidance Document



EAFM Guidance Document

- Council policy “to support the maintenance of an adequate forage base in the Mid-Atlantic to ensure ecosystem productivity, structure and function and to support sustainable fishing communities”
- May consider using more restrictive management measures for forage species than otherwise required

Stock in the Fishery

Required management measures under the Magnuson-Stevens Act

- Acceptable biological catch (ABC)
- Annual catch limits (ACLs)
- Accountability measures (AMs)
- Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Management unit



Discretionary Measures

- Permit requirements
- Limited access provisions
- Annual catch targets
- Landings limits (e.g. quotas)
- Possession limits
- Minimum fish size restrictions
- Gear restrictions
- Reporting requirements
- Seasonal closures

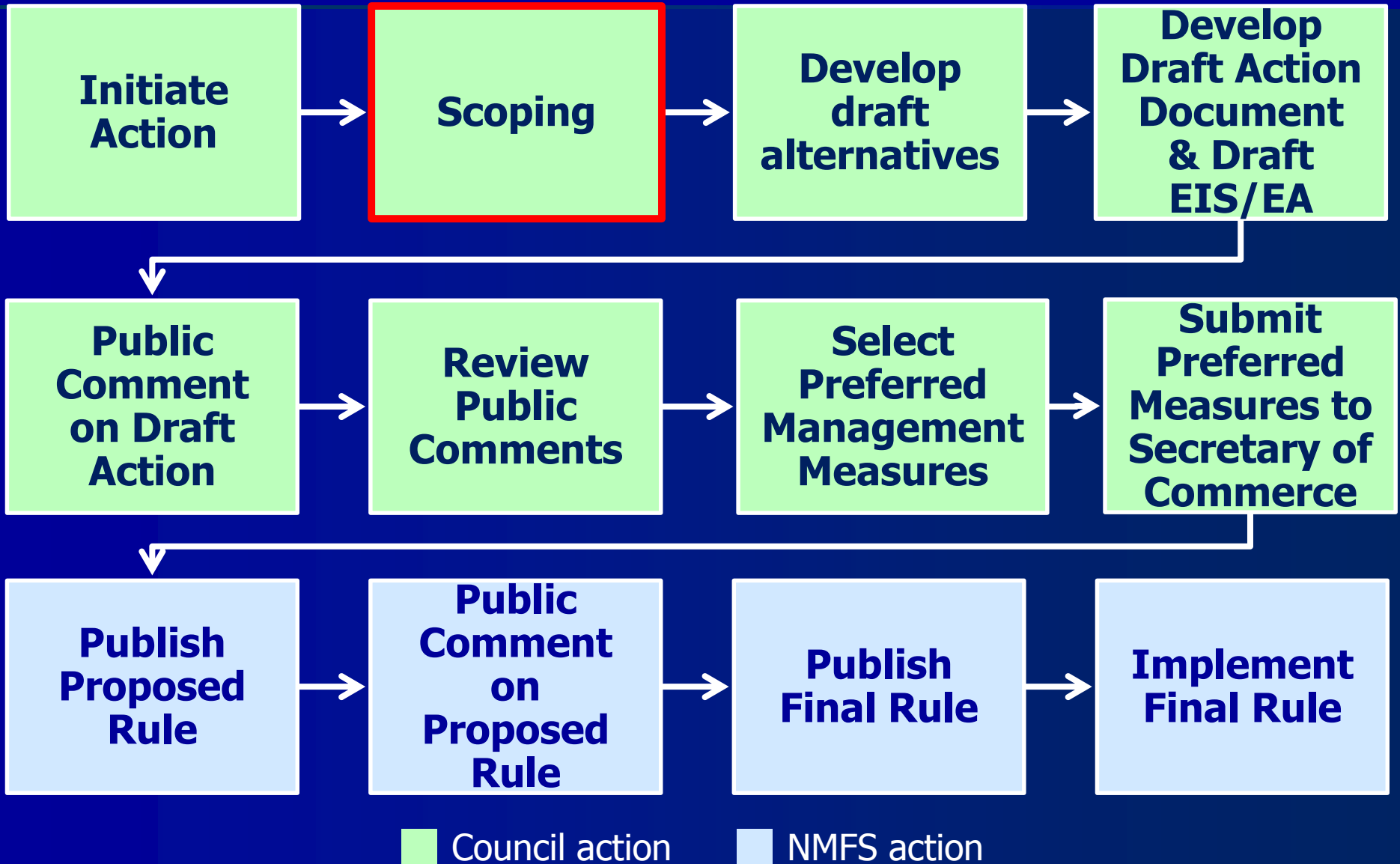
- How should the Council take ecosystem considerations into account when setting catch limits?
- What ecological & socioeconomic tradeoffs should the Council consider when developing management measures?



- Should management measures apply beyond the mid-Atlantic?
- What types of accountability measures are most appropriate?
 - Closures?
 - Gear restrictions?
 - Deductions from catch limit or quota in following year?
 - Possession limit adjustments?

- Is limited access necessary?
- Are possession limits necessary?
- Are recreational management measures necessary?
 - Recreational harvest limit
 - Possession limit
 - Open/closed seasons seasons
 - Minimum fish sizes

Amendment Development Process



Questions/Comments

For the record, please state:

- Your name
- If applicable, the name of any organization or agency for which you are acting as a spokesperson