



## 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:** May 4, 2021  
**To:** Chris Moore, Executive Director  
**From:** Jessica Coakley, Staff  
**Subject:** 2022 Specifications Review for Surfclam and Ocean Quahog

As part of the 2021-2026 multi-year specification process for Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council will review the most recent information available to determine whether modification of the 2022 specifications is warranted. The NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center provided an update of the commercial fishery data for surfclam and ocean quahog to support this review. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 clam survey was not conducted, therefore no survey data was available for review this year. The survey is scheduled to be conducted in 2021.

Based on a review of the information provided, staff recommends no change to the 2022 fishing year specifications. In order to maintain status quo measures for 2022, the Council would need a motion recommending the surfclam minimum size be suspended by the Regional Administrator (i.e., an annual requirement in the regulations). The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office reviewed the landings information and biological sampling data for surfclams since the previous size analysis (August 2019 through July 2020), and determined the proportion of surfclams in the fishery smaller than 4.75 inches does not exceed the 30 percent trigger for the minimum size requirement.

In 2022, the Council will again review available information and may consider modifications to the 2023 specifications, if warranted.