



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 26, 2020
To: Chris Moore
From: Jason Didden
Subject: Spiny Dogfish Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)

Spiny Dogfish is in multi-year specifications for 2019-2021. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is scheduled to review the 2021 dogfish ABC (year 3 of 3) during its September 2020 meeting. The Dogfish ABC is scheduled to increase from 14,126 MT (31.1 million (mil) pounds (lbs)) in 2020 to 16,043 MT (35.4 mil lbs) in 2021, per earlier recommendations.

Given the cancelation of the spring trawl survey, there is no separate document from NMFS with a data update. Updated landings data 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. A total of 91% (18.6 mil lbs) of the 2019 quota (20.5 mil lbs) was landed.

Staff does not perceive any substantial change in this fishery since it was last reviewed by the SSC. The Council did pass an updated risk policy, which tolerates a slightly higher risk of overfishing and generates higher ABCs. Using the updated risk policy with the projections previously conducted would result in a revised 2021 ABC of 17,498 MT (38.6 mil lbs). The presumed 2021 overfishing level given previous projections and ABCs (assuming the ABCs were caught) would be 25,077 MT (55.3 million pounds). The original P*s for 2019-2021 were 0.269, 0.274, and 0.296. The revised P* for 2021 would be 0.333. Projections have not been fully redone since dead discard information is not available – the revised ABC is just a result of the new risk policy.

Staff recommends updating the 2021 ABC to 17,498 MT (38.6 mil lbs) per the Council's revised risk policy. Staff also recommends that the same ABC recommendation be considered for the 2022 fishing year. We are expecting a research track assessment in 2022, and there could be substantial administrative efficiencies by setting specifications now for both 2021 and 2022.