



Mackerel Closure Framework

June 2018 – 2nd Framework Meeting

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Summary 1/2

- Framework (FW) meeting 1 was April
- June is FW meeting 2
- Issue: Currently, if mackerel reaches 100%, the trip limit becomes zero
 - Key potential impact: Atlantic herring fishery if/when mackerel closes (Nov/Dec)
- A very simple action in June can likely be implemented by Nov/Dec

Summary 2/2

- FW has 2 action alternatives for when the quota reaches 100%:
 - 5,000 pound daily trip limit
 - 10,000 pound daily trip limit
- Neither likely to cause ACL overage due to 2.3 million pound management uncertainty buffer

Trip Limits

- 5,000 pound trip limit
 - Estimated to use about 17% of buffer
- 10,000 pound trip limit
 - Estimated to use about 23% of buffer
- Note: all projections for mackerel rebuilding (August action) assume entire buffer is caught, so making a dent in the buffer shouldn't derail mackerel rebuilding

Staff Recommendation

- 5,000 pound trip limit
- Should minimize impacts on herring fishing or mackerel stock/rebuilding
- Higher trip limit means more incentive to target and more difficult to predict final catch.

Motion (last slide)

- “I move that the Committee recommend to the Council that the post-100% mackerel trip limit be changed from zero to 5,000 pounds for all permits.”
- There was discussion regarding increased targeting by incidental permits, but left for future consideration.