

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting

July 17, 2018
Terms of Reference

For Chub Mackerel, the SSC will provide a written report that identifies the following for fishing years 2021-2023:

- 1) The level of uncertainty that the SSC deems most appropriate for the information on which the acceptable biological catch (ABC) determination was made, based on criteria listed in the Omnibus Amendment;
- 2) If possible, the level of catch (in weight) associated with the overfishing limit (OFL) based on the maximum fishing mortality rate threshold or, if appropriate, an OFL proxy, and the geographic range associated with the OFL;
- 3) The level of catch (in weight) and the probability of overfishing associated with the ABC for the stock, and the geographic range associated with the ABC, the number of fishing years for which the ABC applies and, if possible, interim metrics that can be examined to determine if multi-year specifications need reconsideration prior to their expiration;
- 4) The most significant sources of scientific uncertainty associated with determination of OFL and/or ABC;
- 5) Any ecosystem considerations, particularly with regard to Chub Mackerel's role as forage for predators in the Mid-Atlantic, that the SSC took into account in determining the ABC, including the basis for those considerations;
- 6) Prioritized research or monitoring recommendations that would reduce the scientific uncertainty in the ABC recommendation and/or improve the assessment level;
- 7) The materials considered in reaching its recommendations;
- 8) A certification that the recommendations provided by the SSC represent the best scientific information available.