



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** June 16, 2020  
**To:** Council  
**From:** J. Didden  
**Subject:** June 15, 2020 MSB Monitoring Committee Summary

The Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Monitoring Committee (MC) met to make recommendations for *Illex* specifications, and consider follow-up MC evaluation of potential measures to avoid quota overages.

The MC concluded that:

*The improved projecting (integrating estimated increased landings due to observed reporting lag) discussed by GARFO should take care of most of the risk of ongoing overages. Reducing the time lag of reporting (to daily or 48-hour reporting) will also reduce the possibility of overages, and have benefits related to future real-time data collection and/or in-season management. Lowering the closure threshold would further reduce the possibility of overages. For the closure threshold 93%-95% seem reasonable paired with the other measures above, but having it change in-season (as previously proposed by staff) is too complicated currently.*

Daily reporting could follow the general timing of current VMS reporting - landings from one day could be required to be reported the next day. Public comment noted that given how *Illex* trips are offloaded/frozen, this model of daily reporting would not be feasible.

A 48-hour reporting deadline would be a new timeframe for dealers<sup>1</sup> and may complicate communication/outreach/compliance. The four primary *Illex* dealers have informally reported to MAFMC staff that they can accommodate 48-hour reporting, but it may lead to some instances of reporting being required on a weekend (landings on any Friday that cannot be reported that same day would need to be reported on a Saturday or Sunday). The nuances previously recommended by staff for a 48-hour reporting timeline (only after July 15 and only for trips over 50,000 pounds) were designed to minimize burden, but may further complicate communication/outreach/compliance.

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<sup>1</sup> Staff follow-up: this would match the proposed 48-hour eVTR reporting for vessels recently adopted by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils.