



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org
Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 21, 2018
To: Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: Jessica Coakley and José Montañez, Staff
Subject: Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Management Measures (Review of 2019)

As part of the 2018-2020 multi-year specification process for Atlantic surfclams and ocean quahogs, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council review the most recent information available to determine whether modification of the 2019 specifications is warranted. The following is included for Council consideration on this subject:

- 1) Report of the May 2018 SSC Meeting – See SSC Report Tab 14
- 2) Staff Recommendations Memo (behind this Tab)
- 3) [Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Advisory Panel Fishery Performance Report¹](#)
- 4) [Surfclam Fishery Information Document¹](#)
- 5) [Ocean Quahog Fishery Information Document¹](#)

Neither staff nor the SSC recommended any changes to the 2019 specification for surfclam and ocean quahog.

Should the Council wish to maintain its previously recommended measures for 2019, the minimum surfclam size is the only measure that requires an annual recommendation from the Council to suspend. After the Council makes a recommendation, a report is prepared for the Regional Administrator to determine if the size composition of the landings indicates that 30 percent of the surfclams are smaller than 4.75 inches (12.065 cm). The report for 2017 indicated that approximately 10.4% of the surfclam landings were smaller than 4.75 inches (Georges Back=6.1%, New Jersey=7.8%, and Delmarva=22.7%).

¹ To access these files electronically, either click on the hyperlink in the document, or go to:
<http://www.mafmc.org/ssc-meetings/2018/may-8-9>



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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 23, 2018
To: Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: Jessica Coakley and José Montañez, Staff
Subject: Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Management Measures (Review)

As part of the 2018-2020 multi-year specification process for Atlantic surfclams and ocean quahogs, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council will review the most recent information available to determine whether modification of the 2019 specifications is warranted.

The NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center provided data updates for surfclams and ocean quahogs to support this review.¹ This update includes fishery dependent information (i.e., catch, landings-per-unit-effort, etc.), as well as additional information that was requested by the SSC and Council. For surfclams, this additional information included swept area biomass estimates and survey information, and a discussion of research and analyses that may improve our understanding of survey catchability and reduce the uncertainty in the absolute estimates of surfclam abundance.

Based on a review of the information provided, staff recommends no change to the 2019 fishing year specifications.

In 2019, the SSC and Council will review the 2020 specifications.

¹ Available at: <http://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2018/may-2018-ssc-meeting>