



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting

September 7, 2021

Terms of Reference

For Atlantic Mackerel, the SSC will provide a written statement that identifies the following:

- 1) Given the most recent mackerel assessment, provide best science recommendations regarding recruitment assumption(s) for rebuilding projections and approaches to achieve stock rebuilding in 10 years with 50%, 60%, and 75% probabilities, including what Frebuilds are most consistent with the target rebuilding probabilities;
- 2) Provide OFL CV and recruitment assumption recommendations so that a standard risk policy P^* ABC calculation can be made, as well as advice on how long P^* would take to rebuild the stock (if practicable at this time);

Note for ToR #1 and #2 above: based on Council input, regarding an emergency action request, and consideration of likely rebuilding implementation timing, assume the initiation of rebuilding (via Frebuild or P^*) is January 1, 2023 with catches of 15,512 MT for 2021 and 2022.

- 3) The most significant sources of scientific uncertainty associated with a determination of rebuilding ABCs;
- 4) Ecosystem considerations accounted for in the stock assessment, as appropriate, and any additional ecosystem considerations that the SSC deems relevant for consideration in determining rebuilding ABCs;
- 5) Research recommendations that would reduce the scientific uncertainty in determining rebuilding ABC recommendations and/or could be considered for the 2023 management track assessment, including advice related to identifying whether regime changes have occurred that could warrant calculating reference points with recruitment time series other than currently used (1975-terminal year).