



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 30, 2021
To: Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: Julia Beaty and Brandon Muffley, staff
Subject: Thread herring exempted fishing permit

In June 2021, the Council discussed an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application submitted by Lund's Fisheries to the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO). The application requested the ability to catch up to 3,000 MT (6.6 million pounds) of Atlantic thread herring in 2022. This requires an exemption from the 1,700-pound possession limit implemented through the Council's Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment. The stated goal of the EFP is to demonstrate the potential for a commercial thread herring purse seine fishery in Mid-Atlantic federal waters.

Based on the June 2021 Council meeting discussion, the following next steps are proposed. The SSC will review the EFP application during their September meeting. The Ecosystem and Ocean Planning (EOP) Committee will meet later in September to consider SSC recommendations and develop their own recommendations regarding the EFP. A summary of the SSC and EOP Committee meetings will be provided to the full Council in October.

Lund's Fisheries may decide to revise and resubmit their EFP application to GARFO after considering the advice of the SSC and EOP Committee. Once GARFO publishes a Federal Register Notice with an associated public comment period, the Council may decide to submit a comment letter based on the SSC and EOP Committee recommendations.