



Chub Mackerel Fishery Performance Report

April 2024

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Advisory Panel met via webinar on April 19, 2023 to review the [2024 Chub Mackerel Fishery Information Document](#) and develop the following Fishery Performance Report. The meeting also addressed *Illex* squid, longfin squid, butterfish, and Atlantic mackerel. Separate Fishery Performance Reports were generated for these species.

The primary purpose of this Fishery Performance Report is to contextualize catch histories for the Scientific and Statistical Committee by providing information about fishing effort, market trends, environmental changes, and other factors.

Advisor comments described below are not consensus or majority statements unless otherwise indicated.

Advisory Panel members present: Katie Almeida, Greg DiDomenico, Daniel Farnham Jr., Emerson Hasbrouck, Jeff Kaelin, Meghan Lapp

Others present: Julia Beaty, Alan Bianchi, Conor Davis, Jason Didden, Gavin Fay, Maria Fenton, Rich Malinowski, Tom Miller, Will Poston

Discussion questions:

1. What factors influenced recent catch (markets/economy, environment, regulations, other factors)?
2. Are the current fishery regulations appropriate? How could they be improved?
3. What would you recommend as research priorities?
4. What else is important for the Council to know?

Summary of Advisor Comments

Advisors agreed that no changes are needed to any management measures or research priorities for chub mackerel for 2025. As in other recent prior years, chub mackerel was not targeted by commercial fishermen in 2023.

One advisor asked about the market for landings in the South Atlantic and the gear types used to harvest chub mackerel in the South Atlantic. Staff followed up to note that Florida accounts for virtually all chub mackerel landings in the South Atlantic. Recreational bait is likely the largest market for those landings, unlike in the Mid-Atlantic where commercial landings are also used for human food exports. Based on an analysis of 1998-2017 dealer data done for Amendment 21, about 38% of the landings in Florida were caught with cast nets, 28% with purse seines, and 25% with hand lines.

The same advisor also asked if the regulations require pound for pound paybacks of chub mackerel overages. Staff noted that ACL overages do require pound for pound paybacks. However, catch has been so far below the ACL that paybacks have not been needed for this fishery to date.