



Chub Mackerel Fishery Performance Report

April 2023

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Advisory Panel met via webinar on April 26, 2023 to review the 2023 Chub Mackerel Fishery Information Document and develop the following Fishery Performance Report. The meeting also addressed butterfish. A separate report was generated for butterfish.

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, Emerson Hasbrouck, Meghan Lapp, Pam Lyons Gromen, Gerry O'Neill

Others present: Carly Bari (GARFO), Julia Beaty (MAFMC staff), Jason Didden (MAFMC staff), Maria Fenton (GARFO), Melanie Griffin (Mass DMF), Mark Holliday (SSC member)

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 the specifications currently in place for 2024.

Advisors said commercial landings remain very low because the vessels that have landed notable amounts of chub mackerel in the past have been focusing on other species, namely *Illex* squid. One advisor said some of these vessels have been focusing on loligo squid in the summer, which makes them even less likely to catch chub mackerel than when they are fishing for *Illex*.

Advisors recommended no changes to the current research recommendations.

One advisor asked whether the ongoing [Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment](#) would provide more information on chub mackerel. Staff noted that the amendment will at a minimum consider fisheries-independent trawl survey data, including more recent years of data than were previously analyzed for chub mackerel.