



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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MEMORANDUM

Date: July 30, 2020
To: Council
From: J. Didden, staff
Subject: River Herring and Shad (RH/S)

Based on staff's understanding of Council intent regarding the RH/S cap, no changes appear warranted if the Council also maintains the current mackerel specifications. The cap is currently set at 129 MT. At the current cap, the mackerel fishery can operate if it achieves a historically relatively low bycatch ratio (as has occurred in 2020), but will be shut down early if it achieves a relatively high bycatch ratio (e.g. 2018 and 2019). As discussed in the MSB Monitoring Committee summary, the cap will limit RH/S catch in the mackerel fishery, but the cap is not biologically based and cap estimates may have high uncertainty depending on the number of observed trips (6 so far in 2020 with a cap estimate of 21 MT).

Staff still plans on completing a series of discussion papers on RH/S later in the year, which may suggest some additional options regarding RH/S caps (New England alignment, cap modifications based on survey trends, geographic bycatch hot spots, etc.).