

Atlantic Chub Mackerel Amendment



**Council Meeting
March 16, 2017**

Goal of Amendment

- Consider adding Atlantic chub mackerel as a stock in the MSB FMP
- Would require ABCs, ACLs, AMs, EFH, etc.



Amendment Development

- FMAT formed
- RFP issued for assessment work
- Brief SSC discussion
- Scoping plans

Scoping Hearings

Date	Location
May 4	Brooklyn, NY Kingsborough Community College
May 15	Newport News, VA Virginia Marine Resources Commission
May 16	Ocean City, MD Princess Royale Resort & Conference Center
May 23	Cape May, NJ Congress Hall Hotel
May 24	Narragansett, RI URI Bay Campus
May 25	Webinar

Scoping Document

- Intro
- Why is the Council pursuing this action?
- What is a stock in the fishery?
- Issues for consideration
- How to get involved
- Background and recent fishery developments
- Types of management measures which may be considered
- Next steps

Biology/Life History

- Small, schooling, pelagic species
- Opportunistic predators
- “Frequent” prey for tunas and billfish in Mid-Atlantic
- Also likely prey for spiny dogfish, monkfish, summer flounder, marine mammals, and sharks

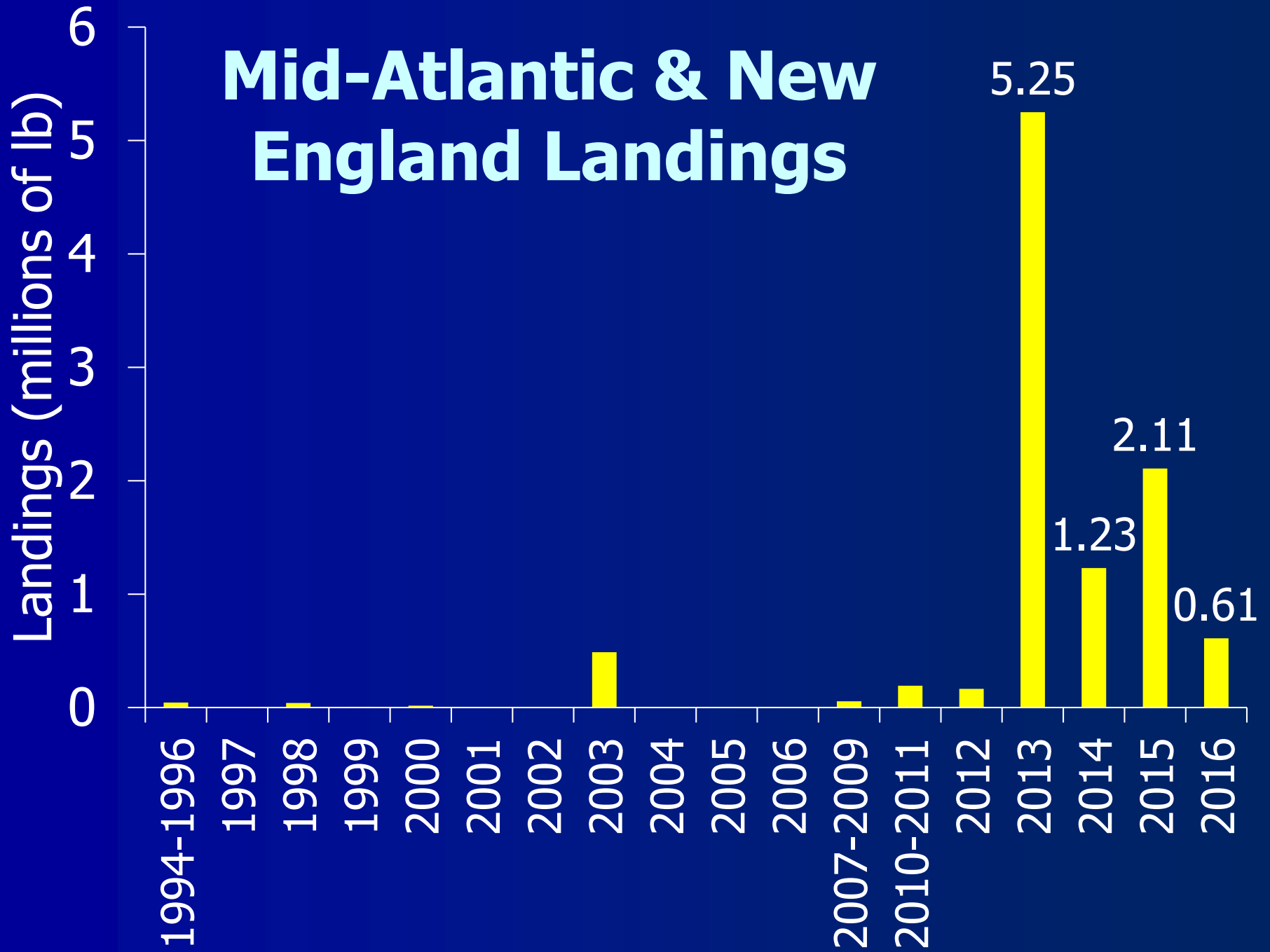


White marlin (Peter Allinson)

Biology/Life History

- S. New England through Gulf of Mexico (and beyond, including eastern Atlantic)
- Evidence of spawning in NC-FL, larvae in straits of FL
- Large fluctuations in abundance & availability around the world – likely driven by environment

Mid-Atlantic & New England Landings



Fishery



- >95% landings June-October
- 90% of landings from bottom trawls
- ≤ 29 vessels/year, ≤ 8 dealers in ≤ 5 states/year
- Most landings from *Illex* vessels
- Most landings from south of Hudson Canyon in stat areas in or near shelf break
- Some recreational landings throughout east coast and Gulf of Mexico

Amendment Rationale

- Existing targeted fishery
- Temporary measures in forage amendment
- Goal of this amendment: longer-term mgmt.
- EAFM Guidance Document

EAFM Guidance Document

- Council policy “to support the maintenance of an adequate forage base in the Mid-Atlantic to ensure ecosystem productivity, structure and function and to support sustainable fishing communities”
- May consider using more restrictive status determination criteria for forage species than otherwise required

Stock in the Fishery

- Council not considering other designations
- MSA requirements
 - ABCs
 - ACLs
 - AMs
 - EFH
 - Mgmt unit



Other Measures

- Permit requirements
- Limited access provisions
- ACTs
- Landings limits (quotas, RHLs)
- Possession limits
- Minimum fish size restrictions
- Gear restrictions
- Reporting requirements
- Seasonal closures
- Control dates

Public Comments

3 comments (Wild Oceans and 2 VA rec fishermen)

- General support of amendment
- Should elaborate on biological/economic impacts of commercial fishery on recreational HMS fisheries
- Should describe recreational HMS fisheries
- Should elaborate on EAFM and OY
- Should highlight specific questions to focus scoping comments

Draft Timeline

Date	Task
May 2017	Scoping
~June 2017 – Jan/Feb 2018	Contract assessment work
June – Nov 2017	FMAT alternative development
Nov/Dec 2017	AP and Committee meetings
Dec 2017	Council meeting – review scoping and FMAT, AP, and Committee recommendations
March 2018	SSC meeting - ABCs

Decision Points

- Edits to scoping document?
- Modifications to scoping plans?

