



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

January 24, 2023

Michael Luisi, Chairman
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mike:

On behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, I have approved Amendment 23 to the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (RIN 0648-BL75), including all the management measures recommended by the Council in this amendment. As you know, Amendment 23 revises the Atlantic mackerel rebuilding plan and establishes new 2023 Atlantic mackerel specifications, which include:

- An acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 8,094 mt;
- ABC deductions for expected Canadian catch (2,197 mt), recreational catch (2,143 mt), and estimated commercial discards (115 mt);
- A resulting commercial quota of 3,639 mt;
- A 20-fish per person recreational possession limit (including private anglers and for-hire crew);
- A status quo river herring and shad catch cap of 129 mt; and
- A modified commercial fishery closure approach.

We expect to publish a final rule implementing the measures in Amendment 23 imminently.

We appreciate the efforts of the Council and staff to develop this amendment and ongoing efforts to improve the management of the mackerel, squid, and butterfish fisheries. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator

Cc: Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

