Thread Herring EFP Proposal – Process Overview

- April 2021 – Lund's Fisheries, H&L Axelsson Inc., and Axelsson Seiner Inc. submitted application to GARFO for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)
  - Goal: demonstrate potential for an EEZ purse seine fishery for thread herring
  - May 2022 anticipated start of experimental fishing
- Council discussed June 2021
  - Asked for SSC input on scientific and biological considerations and implications of proposal
  - Task EOP Committee to review EFP application, SSC input, and develop additional comments and recommendations
  - Will provide update to the full Council on October 7th
- Applicants may revise and resubmit application based on all input
- GARFO will then publish application in Federal Register for public comment
  - At that time, the Council could submit a letter to GARFO with any comments
- GARFO would then make decision on approving EFP

Thread Herring EFP Proposal – Potential Considerations

Omnibus Unmanaged Forage Fish Amendment

- Goal: prohibit development of new[..]directed commercial fisheries on unmanaged forage species in mid-Atlantic federal waters until the Council has had an adequate opportunity to assess the scientific information relating to any new[..]directed fisheries and consider potential impacts[..]
- Thread Herring designated as an Ecosystem Component (EC) species
- Restricted to the 1,700 pound incidental possession limit for EC species
- Requires an EFP with Council review as first step to consider whether to allow any new fisheries or expansion of existing fisheries for ECs

Thread Herring EFP Proposal – Potential Considerations

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Guidance Document

- Council recognized the important role forage plays in the ecosystem and new or different approaches should be applied to their management
- Forage Policy - support maintenance of an adequate forage base to ensure ecosystem productivity, structure, and function and to support sustainable fishing communities
- Forage Species Management Policy – trade-offs between *in situ* value versus their harvest market value