



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

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Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** December 13, 2021  
**To:** Chris Moore  
**From:** Jason Didden, staff  
**Subject:** Mackerel Rebuilding Considerations – Framework or Amendment?

On December 8, 2021, the Council received a letter from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts expressing concerns about mackerel rebuilding, including suggesting additional public and state input. During subsequent discussions, Council and NMFS staff have considered whether the mackerel rebuilding action should proceed via a framework or amendment. To facilitate additional public input and measure development, Council staff recommends that the Council switch the “vehicle” for this action from a framework to an amendment. To meet the required January 1, 2023 implementation, staff recommends the following timeline:

### 2021

**December Council Meeting** – review states’ letter and possibly switch to an Amendment

### 2022

**January** – two webinars to get general input from the public related to rebuilding, likely total catch restrictions, and measures under consideration

**Late January to early February** – MSB Committee meeting to review webinar input and provide additional input on potential alternatives

**March 16** – SSC locks in ABCs for the Council’s already-identified rebuilding options based on updated projections. Final ABCs will transfer into quotas and other measures, allowing clearer delineation of expected outcomes and impacts. The likely quotas have already been presented to the Council but may change based on the final projections.

**Late March** – MSB Committee meeting refines alternatives given the SSC’s recommendations

**April Council Meeting** – Council confirms and/or modifies alternatives from Committee

**Late April Hearings** – Possibly Cape May, NJ; New Bedford, MA; Gloucester, MA; Portsmouth, NH; and Brunswick, ME (will consult with states before finalizing)

**Early May MSB Committee** – review hearings, consider any final changes and/or analyses

**Late May MSB Committee** – develop recommendations for the Council

**June Final Council Action** (should allow January 1, 2023 implementation)