



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org
Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 11, 2020
To: SSC, file
From: J. Didden
Subject: May 11, 2020 MSB AP Summary

The Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Advisory Panel (AP) met to provide a final round of input on the materials provided to the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) regarding the 2020 and 2021 *Illex* Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC).

AP members attending included: Gerry O'Neill, Katie Almeida, Joseph Gordon, William Bright, Sam Martin, Pam Lyons Gromen, Katie Almeida, Greg DiDomenico, Howard King, Jeff Kaelin, Meghan Lapp, Robert Rühle. Others attending included Jason Didden, Peter Hughes, Eric Reid, Ed Houde, Andrew Jones, Wayne Reichle, Mike Roderick, Brooke Wright, Dan Farnham Jr, Paul Rago, Ryan Clark, Alissa Wilson, Marin Hawk, Aly Pitts, Drew Minkiewicz, Brendan Mitchell, and Doug Christel.

J. Didden first provided an overview of the documents being considered by the SSC.

Overall, there were no objections voiced by the AP regarding the staff *Illex* ABC recommendation provided to the SSC. Specific ideas/concerns voiced by AP members included:

-The Study Fleet data was not included in the data mapping table – please ensure that its potential utility is not lost. (Staff noted that the table focused on mandatory data collections, and the Study Fleet data can be added as an existing voluntary data collection source.)

-The three main processors are willing to provide additional catch/weight data in near real-time – staff mentioned that if the SSC endorses such an approach, the data collection procedures would be developed collaboratively.

-There was some concern expressed how potential ecological impacts from an increase in *Illex* ABC/catches could be analyzed, and how the effects of any potentially higher catch could be tracked over time. There was also concern about recent quota overages, and staff noted the Monitoring Committee would be discussing the overages.

-There was substantial discussion about the processes that could affect quota changes. Staff noted that 2020 flexibility is effectively constrained by the range from the 2018-2020 Specification Environmental Assessment (EA) (up to 30,000 MT), but the EA for 2021 could explore a wider range around any preferred ABC.