



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 15, 2022
To: Council
From: José Montañez
Subject: Review of the development of the Excessive Shares Amendment 20 – Proposed Rule

On Tuesday, October the 4th, the Council will receive a refresher on the history of the development of Amendment 20 to the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan. The Council initiated work on this action in 2004 and after many years of work and deliberations it approved the amendment for submission to NMFS in December 2019.

The Council developed this action to limit the amount of surfclam or ocean quahog individual transferable quota share, or annual allocation in the form of cage tags, that an individual or their family members could hold. These changes are intended to ensure the management plan is consistent with requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and to improve the management of these fisheries. In addition, this action will adjust the maximum duration of multi-year specifications actions to match the stock assessment schedule. NMFS recently published proposed regulations to implement Amendment 20 (87 FR 51955, August 24, 2022) and they are available [here](#).