



**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 | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman

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

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 25, 2022  
**To:** Chris Moore, Executive Director  
**From:** Jessica Coakley, Staff  
**Subject:** 2023 Specifications Review for Surfclam and Ocean Quahog

As part of the 2021-2026 multi-year specification process for Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council will review the most recent information available to determine whether modification of the 2023 specifications is warranted. The NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center provided an update of the commercial fishery data for surfclam and ocean quahog to support this review. The 2021 clam survey was not completed; therefore, no survey data was available for review this year. The survey is scheduled to be conducted in 2022.

Based on a review of the information provided, staff recommends no change to the 2023 fishing year specifications. To maintain status quo measures for 2023, the Council would need a motion recommending the surfclam minimum size be suspended by the Regional Administrator (i.e., an annual requirement in the regulations). The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office reviewed the landings information and biological sampling data for surfclams since the previous size analysis (August 2020 through July 2021) and determined the proportion of surfclams in the fishery smaller than 4.75 inches does not exceed the 30 percent trigger for the minimum size requirement.

In 2023, the Council will again review available information and may consider modifications to the 2024 specifications, if warranted.