



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: 7/9/2018
To: Memo for file
From: Jason Didden
Subject: 6/25/18 FMAT Meeting Summary

FMAT Participants: J. Didden, D. Richardson, K. Curti, D. Palmer, T., and D. Christel.

Other and/or Public: A. Pitts, C. Adams, L. Hendrickson, K. Wilke, D. Boelke, Z. Greenberg, P. Bennett-Nickerson

J. Didden (Council staff) noted the primary outstanding tasks: RH/S Timeline/cap options and possible discretion for NMFS on closing the fishery. Also one question from M. Lapp.

Findings, recommendations, and/or tasks of/for the FMAT included:

-FMAT reviewed previous RH/S caps. Cap amount is a policy choice. No action, and scaling caps with quotas and previous ratios seems like a reasonable range. The trigger option used in 2015 is reasonable to consider. Staff should continue to note that since RH/S cap is not tied biologically to RH/S, as RH/S abundances change so will the difficulty/ease of staying within the cap.

-Closure options need to be clear about what situations lead to different consequences.

-NMFS prefers less discretion for closures or clear goals to guide discretion. J. Didden and D. Christel will refine language and suggest inserting into action.

-Regarding a question emailed from Meghan Lapp, either a 50%-50% split or deducting 10,000 MT for Canada seems justifiable. Since Canada acts after the U.S. it's hard to predict what is the best option. 10,000 MT would be generally consistent with recent approaches and may be more simple to adapt if necessary.