

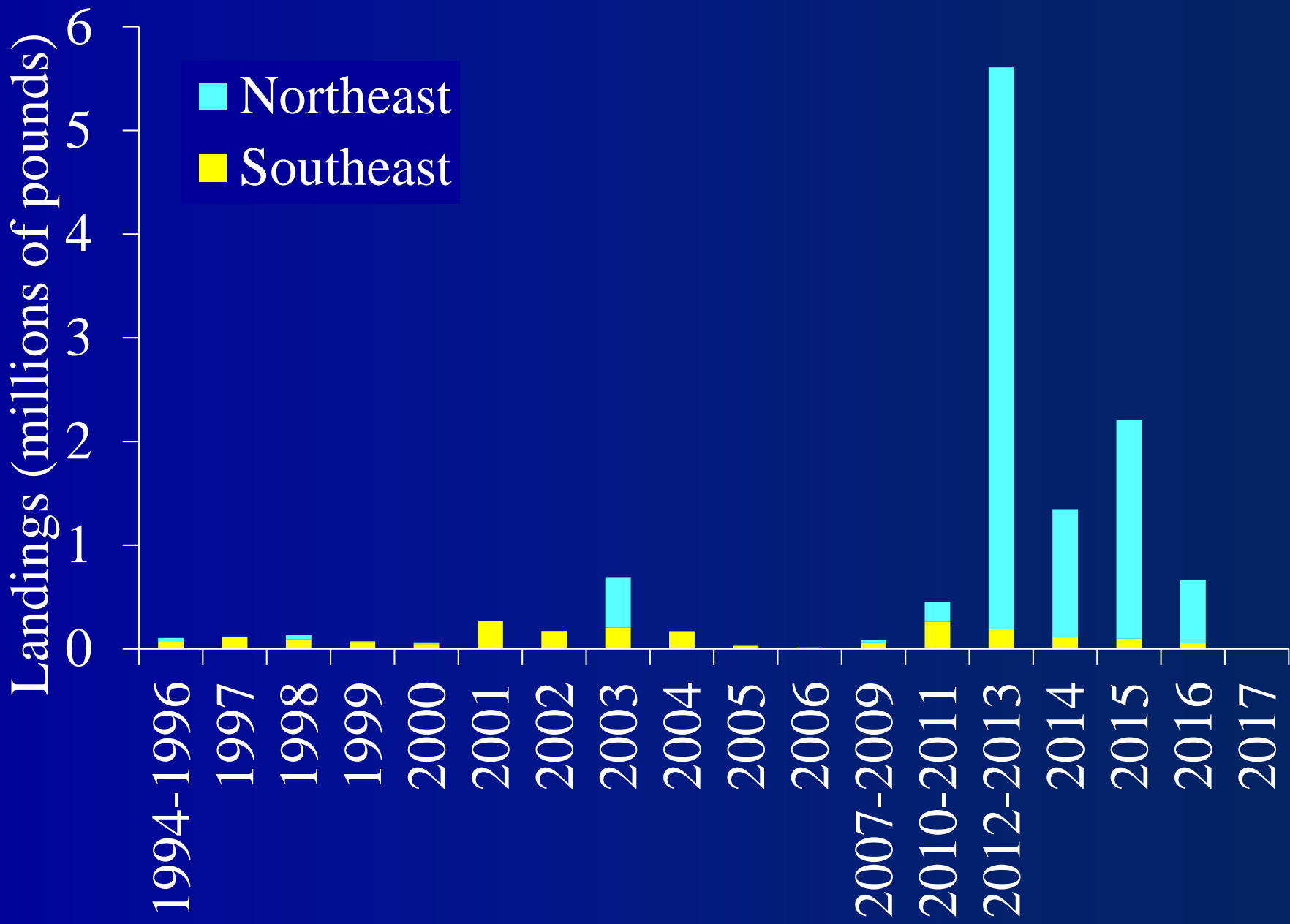


Chub Mackerel Amendment

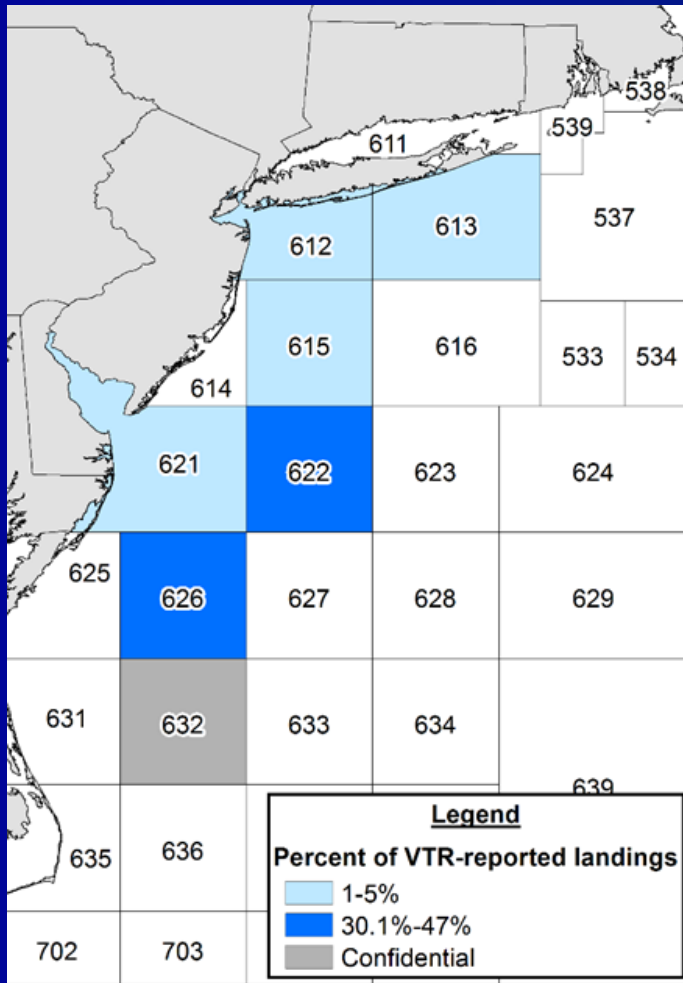


HMS AP Meeting

March 9, 2018



Commercial landings



Atlantic mackerel



Chub mackerel



**Frigate
mackerel/tuna**



**Bullet
mackerel/tuna**



Photos Atl. mackerel: Hans Hillewaert. Chub mackerel: Alessandro Duci. Bullet mackerel: Jack Randall. Frigate mackerel: Robertson & Van Tassell.



Commonly Confused Mackerel & Tuna Species

Atlantic mackerel, *Scomber scombrus*

- Other common names: tinker mackerel, Boston mackerel, common mackerel
- Up to 2 feet

Usually has a broken faint to dark stripe along sides below wavy bars on upper body



VTR CODE: MACK

No spots on lower sides

Chub mackerel, *Scomber colias*

- Other common names: tinker mackerel, hardhead, bullseye
- Up to 22 inches

Stripes on upper body less defined than in Atlantic mackerel



VTR CODE: MACC

Dusky spots on sides below striped area

Frigate mackerel/tuna, *Auxis thazard*

- Up to 2 feet

Height of the scaled area under the second dorsal fin is 1-5 scales



VTR CODE: MACF

Pectoral fins extend past the beginning of the scaleless, striped area

Bullet mackerel/tuna, *Auxis rochei*

- Up to 20 inches

Height of the scaled area under the second dorsal fin is 10-15 scales



VTR CODE: MACB

Pectoral fins do not reach the beginning of the scaleless, striped area

Atlantic bonito, *Sarda sarda*

- Up to 3.2 feet
- Body covered in scales; larger scales below striped area
- Sharp teeth

Small space between 1st & 2nd dorsal fins



VTR CODE: BON

Straight, oblique stripes on upper sides sometimes underlain with lighter vertical bars

Little tunny, *Euthynnus alletteratus*

- Other common name: false albacore
- Up to 3.5 feet
- No sharp teeth

Dorsal fins connected (not clearly visible in picture)



VTR CODE: LTA

Several spots on sides near pectoral fins

Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*

- Up to 3.8 feet
- No scales on upper striped area

Small space between 1st & 2nd dorsal fins



VTR CODE: SKJ

4 - 6 horizontal stripes on lower sides, may be broken or solid

For more information, contact:
NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region
Sustainable Fisheries Division
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
978-281-9300
greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE, 19501
302-674-2331
malmc.org



NOAA
FISHERIES



Photos Atl. mackerel: Hans Hillewaert. Chub mackerel: Alessandro Duoi. Bullet mackerel: Jack Randall. Frigate mackerel: Robertson & Van Tassell. Bonito: MBL/Flesher Collection. Little tunny: J. T. Williams. Skipjack: R. Freitas.

To receive email updates: www.mafmc.org/actions/chub-mackerel-amendment



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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- Chub Mackerel Amendment Scoping Hearing #6 (Webinar)**
Thursday, May 25, 2017
6:00pm – 7:30pm
- Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish (MSB) Advisory Panel Meeting**
Friday, June 2, 2017
9:00am – 1:00pm
- June 2017 Council Meeting**
Tue, Jun 6, 2017, 9:00am – Thu, Jun 8, 2017, 1:00pm
The Main Hotel - Norfolk, VA (map)
- Northeast Trawl Advisory

QUICK LINKS

- Council Meetings

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Chub Mackerel Amendment

Overview

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has initiated an amendment to consider adding Atlantic chub mackerel (*Scomber colias*) to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squids, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The amendment will consider potential catch limits, accountability measures, and other conservation and management measures required for stocks to be considered "in the fishery." This action is needed to achieve optimum yield for, and prevent overfishing of, Atlantic chub mackerel in United States Exclusive Economic Zone.




Photo Credit: Alessandro Duci

In August 2016, the Council approved an annual landings limit and a possession limit for chub mackerel as part of the [Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment](#). Once implemented (expected in mid-2017), these will be the first regulations on chub mackerel fisheries off the east coast. These measures are temporary and will expire three years after implementation. The Chub Mackerel Amendment aims to develop alternatives for longer-term management of chub mackerel fisheries to ensure sustainability.

Contact

Julia Beaty, (302) 526-5250, jbeaty@mafmc.org

Action Status

This amendment is in the early stages of development. The Council will hold six scoping hearings in May 2017 to gather public input on the scope of alternatives to be considered in this amendment. See the [Meetings](#) section below for a list of hearing dates and locations.

[Chub Mackerel Amendment Scoping Document](#)

The Council is also seeking proposals for contract work on analysis of chub mackerel stock status. Proposals are being accepted through [http://mafmc.org/contract-work](#) for details.

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