

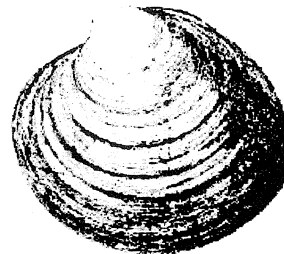
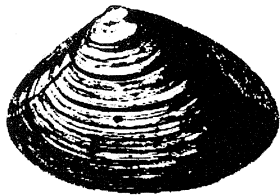
**AMENDMENT 13**

**TO THE**

**ATLANTIC SURFCLAM AND OCEAN QUAHOG FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**(Includes: Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Regulatory Impact Review, Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, Social Impact Assessment, and Essential Fish Habitat Assessment)**

**VOLUME 1**



**JUNE 2003**

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
in cooperation with the  
National Marine Fisheries Service**

**Draft adopted by Council: May 1, 2002  
Final adopted by Council: January 22, 2003  
Final approved by NOAA: December 16, 2003**



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*A Publication of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council pursuant to  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA57FC0002*

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

SEP 26 2003

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), we enclose for your review the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for Amendment 13 to the Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan. This document is also available at <http://www.mafmc.org/mid-atlantic/publications>.

The Council has prepared this FSEIS under NEPA to assess the potential effects of the proposed actions on the human environment. There are five issues addressed in this Amendment: 1) a new surf clam overfishing definition, 2) analyses of fishing gear impacts on essential fish habitat, 3) the ability to suspend or adjust the surf clam minimum size limit through a framework adjustment, 4) multi-year fishing quotas, and 5) inclusion of a vessel monitoring system, when such a system is economically viable.

Any written comments or questions you have should be submitted to Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Federal Building, Room 2115, 300 South New Street, Dover, Delaware, 19904-6790 by November 10, 2003, or faxed to 302-674-5399. Also, one copy of your comments should be sent to NOAA Office of Strategic Planning in Room 15603, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Sincerely,

Joyce Wood  
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure





**Supplement to the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis  
for Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan  
for Atlantic Surf Clams and Ocean Quahogs**

**Prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
in Cooperation with the Northeast Regional Office  
of the National Marine Fisheries Service**

**August 2003**