

---

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

# PRESS RELEASE

---



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 11, 2005

PRESS CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong  
(302) 674-2331 x19

## Dogfish Specifications Recommended for Three Years

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in Southampton, NY from October 4 through October 6. During its meeting it convened five of its committees, adopted dogfish management measures for the fishing years starting in 2006 through 2008, elected officers for the 2005/2006 Council year, selected recipients for its 2005 Fishery Achievement Award, and received three presentations on matters of interest from various organizations.

The Council elected Ronal W. Smith as its Chairman and Robert H. Pride as its Vice-Chairman. Following their elections, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman assigned committee officers and members. No new committees were established, nor were any committees eliminated or consolidated. New Council members Pete Jensen (Maryland) and Scott Holder (New York) were sworn into Council office for a three-year appointment term, as were reappointed members Pat Augustine (New York), Gene Kray (Pennsylvania) and Jimmy Ruhle (North Carolina).

The Council adopted an incidental take allowance of 2,000,000 pounds for spiny dogfish. The 2,000,000 pound incidental take allowance is divided into two periods, May 1 through October 31 (1,158,000 pounds) and November 1 through April 30 (842,000 pounds). The Council set the possession limit for both periods at 600 pounds. These dogfish management measures are to be applicable for three years, i.e., the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 fishing years, unless changed by future Council action based on changes to the status of the spiny dogfish stock.

The Council voted to initiate the development of a scup fishery rebuilding plan and include in this rebuilding action the development of a standardized bycatch reporting methodology for scup. Owing to the fact that this action was necessitated by being declared an overfished stock by the Secretary of Commerce, a consequence of this action is that the scup rebuilding effort will now become Amendment 14 to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Previously, Amendment 14 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP was to address all aspects of the summer flounder fishery including the issue of allocation between the commercial and recreational sectors of the fishery. That effort will now be referred to as 'Amendment 15' and include an even broader charge to not only comprehensively address summer flounder but to also address scup and black sea bass issues as well.

**more**

Conservation Officer Sean Reilly of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's Law Enforcement Division, the officers and crew of the USCG Cutter Ibis and personnel of the USCG Station Manasquan Inlet Virginia Marine Resources Commission were unanimously selected by the Council as recipients of its Fishery Achievement Award. The award recognizes individuals or organizations that the Council deems to have exhibited outstanding professionalism, diligence, and effort to protect the living marine resources and/or fisheries governed by the Council.

During the committee meeting for squid, mackerel and butterfish the committee received an update on the status of Amendments 9 and 10, and learned that Framework 5, i.e., the butterfish rebuilding action, would have to be addressed as an amendment. Hence, Amendment 10 will now replace Framework 5 and address butterfish rebuilding and Amendment 11 will now address the limited entry system for mackerel (formerly Amendment 10). This change in sequence of FMP actions was also discussed and communicated to NMFS by the Council.

Given the timing of the Council's scoping meetings regarding an ecosystems-based approach to fishery management, the Ecosystems Committee decided to postpone its comments on the Oceans Conservation, Education and National Strategy for the 21st Century Bill (H.R. 2939) until its meeting in December.

The Council also established Research Set-Aside (RSA) priorities for the 2007 calendar year. A request for proposals (RFP) will be submitted to National Marine Fisheries Service in November that reflects the actions taken by the Council.

**end**