
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2008

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Council Meeting Annapolis, MD: April 7-10, 2008

The public is invited to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's April 2008 meeting to be held at the Sheraton Annapolis Hotel, 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 (telephone 410.266.3131). Below is the meeting agenda.

Monday, April 7

10:00 - 5:00 pm

Orientation Session for Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) in Conjunction with SSC Review Working Group

- Review and discuss roles of Council, SSC, Monitoring Committees, NMFS, Council staff
- Review Council's current specification setting procedures and related timing issues
- Review ACL and AM requirements established by Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA)
- Discuss possible alternative specification procedures
- Discuss Terms of Reference (TOR) for SSC regarding annual specification setting process
- Evaluate and modify (if needed) current SSC composition by discipline/expertise
- Review SSC membership appointment protocol and need to expand Committee
- Discuss quality assurance/quality control measures for SSC appointment

Tuesday, April 8

9:00 -11:00 am

Ad Hoc Excessive Shares Committee

- Review and discuss meaning/interpretation of MSA National Standard 4
- Review and discuss meaning/interpretation of Section 303A(c)(5)(D)
- Review and discuss meaning/interpretation of Section 303A(c)(9)
- Develop ideas on and practical application of excessive shares concept

11:00 - 12:00

Mid-Atlantic Section of Joint Monkfish Committee

- Review and discuss proposed measures in Framework 6
- Select preferred alternative
- Develop Committee recommendation for Council consideration and action

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Protected Resources Committee

- Review Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team Activities (Amanda Johnson)
- Receive report on NMFS Protected Resources Public Outreach Program in the Mid-Atlantic (Glenn Salvador)

3:00 - 5:30 pm

Research Set-Aside (RSA) Committee

- Review draft document regarding Council's RSA program
- Review status of Mid-Atlantic Council's RSA projects/awards
- Discuss need for RSA programmatic reviews
- Discuss concept of establishing a Mid-Atlantic Consortium

Wednesday, April 9

8:00 - 9:30 am

Executive Committee

- Review discussions and outcomes from Northeast Regional Coordinating Council (NRCC) meeting
- Review, discuss, and address timeline associated with staff's preferred approach to satisfying MSA Section 303(a)(15)

9:30 - 10:00 am

Surfclam / Ocean Quahog Committee

- Receive update on commitments made at Amendment 14 Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) meeting

10:00 - 12:00 pm

Bycatch Committee

- Discuss measures to reduce bycatch mortality in recreational fisheries
- Review status of educational outreach initiative

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Lunch

- 1:00 pm** Council convenes
- 1:00 - 1:15 pm** Award Presentation and Recognition
- Ricks E Savage Award - Dr. James H. Gilford
- 1:15 - 3:15 pm** Business Session
- Approve January 2008 Council Meeting Minutes
- Organizational Reports**
- NMFS Regional Administrator
 - NMFS NEFSC Director
 - NOAA Office of General Counsel
 - Federal Enforcement Officials (NMFS and USCG)
 - ASMFC's Executive Director
- Liaison Reports**
- New England Council - Jimmy Ruhle (February 12-14 Meeting)
 - South Atlantic Council - Red Munden (March 3-7 Meeting)
- Executive Director's Report and Actions from Prior Meeting - Daniel T. Furlong**
- Status of MAFMC FMPs - Rich Seagraves**
- 3:15 - 4:00pm** Receive Update on New England Council's HAPC Initiative - Presentation by Chad Demarest
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm** Monkfish Framework 6
- Review and approve Framework for Secretarial submission
- Thursday, April 10**
- 8:00 - 9:30 am** Demersal Committee
- Review purpose and need of current list of potential actions to be addressed by Amendment 15
- 9:30 am** Council convenes
- 9:30 - 12:00 pm** Tilefish Amendment 1
- Review preferences for management alternatives based on public comments received for Amendment 1
 - Discuss and adopt preferred alternatives to be included in the FEIS supporting Amendment 1
 - Approve Amendment 1 and associated FEIS for Secretarial submission
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm** Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:30 pm** Tilefish Amendment 1 (continued)
- 2:30 - 4:00 pm** Committee Reports
- Highly Migratory Species
 - Trawl Survey Panel
 - Science and Statistical
 - Ad Hoc Excessive Shares
 - Protected Resources
 - Research Set-Aside
 - Executive
 - Surfclam / Ocean Quahog
 - Bycatch
 - Demersal
- Continuing and New Business**

The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change as necessary. Other items may be added, but the Council cannot take action on such items even if the item requires emergency action without additional public notice. Non-emergency matters not contained in this agenda may come before the Council and / or its Committees for discussion, but these matters may not be the subject of formal Council or Committee action during this meeting. Council and Committee actions will be restricted to the issues specifically listed in this agenda. Any issues requiring emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that arise after publication of the Federal Register Notice for this meeting may be acted upon provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The meeting may be closed to discuss employment or other internal administrative matters. In certain instances invited speakers may for whatever reasons be delayed or unable to make their presentations at the scheduled time and date. In these instances the Council may postpone or cancel such presentations.