
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2007

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Council Meeting Ocean City, MD: April 17-19, 2007

The public is invited to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's April 2007 meeting to be held at the Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842-2745 (telephone 410-524-7777). Below is the meeting agenda.

TUESDAY, April 17

8:00 - 1:00 pm Research Set Aside [RSA] Committee

- Review technically evaluated 2008 RSA project proposals
- Provide recommendations regarding which proposals best meet Council priorities for 2008
- Evaluate and comment on effectiveness / utility of RSA program as a fisheries management resource

* **NOTE** - the Research Set-Aside Committee will be meeting privately with officials from NMFS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:00 -11:00 am Ecosystems Committee

- EEZ artificial reef management
 - Review responses to March 9 solicitation letter to member states
 - Develop Committee position (or not) on need to create SMZs for artificial reefs
- Receive NMFS' Northeast Fisheries Science Center presentation on current status of its ecosystem efforts

11:00 - 1:00 pm Protected Resources Committee with Advisors

- Review and discuss NMFS' Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on sea turtle conservation
- Review and discuss impacts of the Atlantic Trawl Gear Take Reduction Team's (ATGTRT) efforts to reduce the incidental take of pilot whales and dolphins

1:00 - 2:00 pm Lunch

2:00 - 5:30 pm Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee

- Review and update outcomes from March 21 Committee meeting on Amendment 11

7:00 - 8:30 pm NMFS Scoping session regarding Annual Catch Limits and associated National Standard 1 Guidelines

WEDNESDAY, April 18

8:00 - 9:00 am Executive Committee

- Review outcomes of meeting with NMFS' NER officials regarding impacts of MSA Reauthorization Act of 2006
- Review status of Council's FY 2007 budget
- Review status of Council's Advisory Panel surveys and related actions

9:00 am Council Convenes

9:00 - 10:30 am National Fisheries Institute's Scientific Monitoring Committee Presentation on results from its Supplemental Finfish Survey and Loligo Net-Testing Study

10:30-11:30 am Public Hearing for Phase 1 of the New England Council's Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment

11:30 - 12:00 pm USCG Activities and Command Changes - Admiral Larry Hereth

12:00- 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 - 3:30 pm Business Session

- Approve February 2007 Council Meeting Minutes
- Actions from February 2007

Organizational Reports

- NMFS Regional Administrator
- NMFS NEFSC Director
- NOAA Office of General Counsel
- US Fish & Wildlife
- Federal Enforcement Officials (NMFS and USCG)
- ASMFC's Executive Director

Status of MAFMC FMPs - Rich Seagraves

Executive Director's Report - Daniel T. Furlong

New England Council Liaison Report - Jimmy Ruhle

3:30 - 4:30 pm **Framework 7 to Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP
[Meeting 2]**

- Review, select, and approve options / alternatives regarding mechanisms to change biological reference points during the specification setting process following peer reviewed stock assessments

4:30 - 5:00 pm **Limited Access Privilege Programs: Where Are We? - Jason Didden**

THURSDAY, April 19

8:00 - 10:00 am **Surfclam / Ocean Quahog Committee with Advisors**

- Review cost recovery options for surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries
- Solicit input from advisors regarding 2008, 2009, and 2010 quota specifications

10:00 am **Council Convenes**

10:00 - 10:30 am **MSA and NEPA Integration - Daniel T. Furlong**

- Presentation on Section 107 of MSA Reauthorization Act of 2006

10:30 - 12:00 pm **Committee Reports**

- Highly Migratory Species
- Trawl Survey Panel
- Joint Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology
- Research Set Aside
- Ecosystems
- Protected Resources
- Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish
- Executive
- Surfclam/Ocean Quahog

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.