

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2007

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

Council Meeting Hampton, VA: June 12-14, 2007

The public is invited to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's June 2007 meeting to be held at Embassy Suites, 1700 Coliseum Dr., Hampton, VA 23666 (telephone 757-827-8200). Below is the meeting agenda.

Monday, June 11

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Joint Council Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Committee

Review revised SBRM Amendment document, including the environmental assessment

- Select preferred alternatives
- Develop Councils' final position regarding Secretarial Submission of proposed SBRM Amendment

Tuesday, June 12

9:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Research Set-Aside (RSA) Committee with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Cooperative Research Staff

Review Mid-Atlantic RSA program performance and discuss future directions

- Discuss ways to improve program effectiveness, dissemination of results, and coordination with other cooperative research efforts
- Initiate discussion on research priorities for the 2009 program year
- Develop comments as appropriate for Council consideration

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Ecosystems Committee

Review "Taking the Bait"... A Blueprint for Councils to Protect the Ocean Forage Base

11:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Law Enforcement / Vessel Safety Committee

- Address National Standard 10 in context of recent Congressional Hearing on commercial fishing vessel safety
- Review Fisheries Achievement Award process and timeline for 2007

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee with Advisors

- Review Monitoring Committee's recommendations for 2008 quota levels and associated management measures
- Develop 2008 quota specifications and associated management measures for Council consideration and action
- Receive status updates on Amendments 9 and 10

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Executive Committee

- Review Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting agenda and actions
 - Budget outcome from CCC meeting and its impact on Council's 2007 operations
 - Council member training / mentoring
 - Status of NMFS Regulatory Streamlining Program efforts
- Review Northeast Regional Coordinating Council (NRCC) meeting agenda and actions
- Discuss role of Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)
- Discuss practicability and applicability of an interactive web site for Council
- Review Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety issues

Wednesday, June 13

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Bycatch / Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) Committee

- Discuss, develop, and adopt Council position regarding Secretarial submission of proposed Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Amendment
- Receive update on LAPP and discuss the likelihood and timing of a NMFS policy / proposed rule implementing the LAPP

- 9:00 a.m.** Council convenes
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.** Presentation by Shannon Simpson of NOS on Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Amendments Act of 2007
- 9:30 - 12:00 p.m.** Business Session
- Approve April Council meeting minutes
 - Review Actions from April Council meeting
- Organizational Reports**
- NMFS Regional Administrator
 - NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Director
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of General Counsel
 - Federal Enforcement (NMFS and U.S. Coast Guard)
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)
- Executive Director's Report - Mr. Furlong**
- Status of Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Fishery Management Plans (FMP) - Rich Seagraves**
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.** Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Specifications
- Review staff's recommendations for 2008, 2009, and 2010 quota specifications and associated management measures
 - Develop and adopt quota specifications and associated management measures for multi-year specification program covering three years
- 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.** Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Specifications
- Review committee's recommendations for 2008 quota specifications and associated management measures
 - Develop and adopt 2008 quota specifications and associated management measures for Atlantic mackerel, squids and butterfish
- Thursday, June 14**
- 8:00 a.m.** Council convenes
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.** Presentation by Dr. John Boreman of NMFS on Status of Recreational Data Collection Initiative
- 9:00 - 12:00 p.m.** Amendment 1 to Tilefish
- Review alternatives associated with various measures proposed and select preferred alternatives
 - Review and adopt public hearing document (PHD) and associated draft environmental impact statement (DEIS)
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.** Omnibus Amendment for Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)
- Review and approve Amendment for Secretarial Submission
- 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.** Review and consider actions taken by ASMFC regarding Amendment 15 to Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP
- 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.** Council Committee Reports
- Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish
 - Highly Migratory Species
 - Research Set-Aside
 - Ecosystems
 - Law Enforcement
 - Executive
- 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.