
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 4, 2008

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Council Meeting Hampton, VA: January 29-31, 2008

The public is invited to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's January 2008 meeting to be held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, 1610 Coliseum Dr., Hampton, VA 23666 (telephone 888-484-4722). Below is the meeting agenda.

Tuesday, January 29

11:00 - 1:00

Bycatch Committee

- Review use of circle hooks in various fisheries
- Review hook manufacturing survey results
- Review use of buoy gear to reduce bycatch
- Address bycatch consequence of highgrading

1:00 - 3:00

Research Set-Aside Committee

- Discuss alternative approaches to reviewing project final results and incorporating them into the management process
- Discuss restructuring the RSA program to a "Cooperative Agreement" instead of traditional "Grant"
- Discuss development of a Mid-Atlantic Consortium, similar to the Northeast Consortium

3:00 - 5:00

Ecosystems Committee

- Receive EPA report on National Coastal Condition
- Receive and discuss MSA Ecosystem Workshop report

Wednesday, January 30

8:00 - 9:00

Protected Resources Committee

- Receive report on Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team activities
- Receive status update on Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Program

9:00 - 10:30

Executive Committee

- Review outcome from Council Coordination Committee meeting
- Review proposed changes to Council's SOPP regarding SSC

10:30 - 12:00

Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Committee

- Consider issues/actions to be addressed in Amendment 14

12:00 - 1:00

Lunch

1:00

Council convenes

1:00 - 2:00

Marine Debris Presentation by Sarah Morison, National Ocean Service

2:00 - 4:30 pm

NEAMAP Trawl Survey Presentation

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Public Hearing Regarding Amendment 1 to Tilefish Fishery Management Plan

Thursday, January 31

9:00

Council convenes

9:00 - 1:00 pm

Business Session

- Approval of December Minutes
- Actions from December

Organizational Reports

- NMFS Regional Administrator
- NMFS NEFSC Director
- NOAA Office of General Counsel
- Federal Enforcement Officials (NMFS and USCG)
- ASMFC Executive Director

Liaison Report

- New England Council Report

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Furlong

Status of MAFMC FMPS - Mr. Seagraves

Committee Reports

- Highly Migratory Species
- Bycatch
- Research Set-Aside (RSA)
- Ecosystems
- Protected Resources
- Executive
- Surfclam/Ocean Quahog

Continuing and New Business

- Approve change to Council's SOPP regarding SSC

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.