
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 20, 2009

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Council Meeting in Galloway, NJ: February 11-13, 2009

The public is invited to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's February 2009 meeting to be held at the Marriott Seaview Resort and Spa, 401 South New York Road, Galloway, NJ 08205 (telephone 609-652-1800). Below is the meeting agenda.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Protected Resources Committee with Advisors**
- Discuss industry request to modify Bottle Nose Dolphin Take Reduction Team (TRT) Plan to add one month to current "tending requirement" period for medium gillnet fisheries
 - Review and discuss Atlantic Trawl TRT strategy for pilot whales and common dolphin
- 10:30 - 12:00 p.m. ACL / AM Committee**
- Review and discuss NMFS final rule on ACL / AM
 - Review and discuss table of current Council control rules
 - Address action plan and associated timeline for implementation of ALC / AM
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Law Enforcement Committee**
- Discuss regulatory implications of transfer-at-sea authorizations
 - Discuss regulatory implication of monitoring other than a daily trip limit in party/charter boat fisheries
 - Address implication of Maine's study / report on fixed gear vertical line locations and densities
- 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Research Set-Aside Committee**
- Convene public fact finding and comment period on the Council's RSA program
- 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Ecosystems / Ocean Planning Committee**
- Receive report on Northeast Fishery Science Center's recent efforts regarding development of an ecosystem based approach to fishery management (Dr. Michael Fogarty)
 - Develop Committee work plan for 2009
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Scoping session for Amendment 14 to Surfclam / Ocean Quahog FMP**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Surfclam / Ocean Quahog Committee**
- Review and discuss scoping comments to decide and adopt management measures to be included in Amendment 14
- 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee**
- Review and discuss outcome of January Committee meeting to determine and select preferred alternatives for Council consideration and inclusion in the Public Hearing document for Amendment 11
- 10:00 a.m. Council convenes**
- 10:00 - 11:00 p.m. Business Session**
- Approval of December minutes
 - Actions from December meeting

Organizational Reports

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

11:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Report by Dr. Paul Rago on "Annual Discard Report for 2008 and the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Prioritization for 2009"

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Award Presentation and Recognition

- Fisheries Achievement Award - James Donofrio

1:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Report by Dr. Weinberg (NMFS NEFSC) on the NE Data Poor Stocks Peer Review Meeting

- Receive results regarding NE Data Poor Stocks Working Group (includes scup and black sea bass among others)

2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Public Workshop to encourage early adoption of voluntary fishing practices to reduce butterfish bycatch in the *Loligo* squid fishery

- Amendment 10 - if approved by NMFS - would establish a butterfish bycatch mortality cap for the *Loligo* squid fishery in 2011
- To mitigate against possible future closures of the *Loligo* fishery owing to attainment of the butterfish mortality cap, current fishing practices should be reviewed with the intent to identify "dirty" practices
- Information and data will be presented as catalysts for discussion purposes regarding problem identification and possible solutions thereto

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7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

NMFS Stakeholder Forum - Strategic planning for Cooperative Research Programs in the Northeast

- Discuss and address emerging management needs and research gaps for purposes of identifying collaborative research priorities over the next three to five years

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee

- Review outcome of State-Federal Alignment Work Group meeting
- Receive results from SSC Committee actions
- Review agenda for Council Coordination Committee meeting

10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

**Status of MAFMC FMPs - Mr. Seagraves
Executive Director's Report - Mr. Furlong
Committee Reports**

- Protected Resources Committee
- ACL/AM Committee
- Law Enforcement Committee
- RSA Committee
- Ecosystems / Ocean Planning Committee
- Surfclam / Ocean Quahog Committee
- Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee
- Executive Committee

**Liaison Report - New England Council (February 9-11, 2009 Meeting)
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.