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# Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 13, 2009

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## Council Meeting in Alexandria, VA August 4-6, 2009

The public is invited to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's August 2009 meeting to be held at the Embassy Suites Alexandria, 1900 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, VA 22314 (telephone: 703-684-5900). Below is the meeting agenda.

### Tuesday, August 4

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Protected Resources Committee with Advisors**
- Develop comments for Council consideration and action regarding NMFS' Sea Turtle Strategy
- 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Research Set-Aside Committee**
- Finalize Council's research priorities for 2011 RSA grant program
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- 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Committee**
- Review and address MPA designations published in the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Federal Register
  - Consider adding or deleting MPA designations per NMFS guidance
- 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Lunch**
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Bycatch and LAPP Committee**
- Receive update on Catch Shares Task Force activities
  - Receive report on bycatch reduction activities in BSB pot fishery
- 1:30 - 2:30 Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee**
- Address bycatch of river herring in mackerel fishery for possible future amendment
  - Address update of *loligo* control date for possible future catch share program
- 2:30 Council Convenes**
- 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Report by Dr. Weinberg (NMFS NEFSC) on the 48<sup>th</sup> Stock Assessment Review Committee**
- Ocean Quahog, Tilefish, and Weakfish
- 3:15 - 5:15 p.m. Finalize Scup Management Measures for 2010 in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board**
- Review SSC and Scup Monitoring Committee's recommendations for 2010
  - Adopt recommendations for 2010 commercial and recreational harvest levels and commercial management measures

### Wednesday, August 5

- 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Executive Committee**
- Review Ricks E Savage Award criteria and nomination process
  - Review allocation of FY 09 funds for ACL / AM activities
- 9:00 a.m. Council Convenes**
- 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. Finalize Summer Flounder Management Measures for 2010 in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board**
- Review SSC and Summer Flounder Monitoring Committee's recommendations for 2010
  - Adopt recommendations for 2010 commercial and recreational harvest levels and commercial management measures
- 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Update on USCG Activities in the 5th District by its new Commander [Rear Admiral Wayne Justice] and a presentation on vessel stability by Lieutenant Commander Brown**
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Finalize Black Sea Bass Management Measures for 2010 in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, scup, and Black Sea Bass Board**
- Review SSC and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee's recommendations for 2010
  - Adopt recommendations for 2010 commercial and recreational harvest levels and commercial management measures

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**Finalize Bluefish Management Measures for 2010 in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Bluefish Board**

- Review SSC and Bluefish Monitoring Committee's recommendations regarding harvest levels and associated management measures
- Adopt recommendations for harvest levels and associated management measures

**Thursday, August 6**

8:00 a.m.

**Council Convenes**

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

**Presentation by NMFS Officials regarding proposed rule for Amendment 3 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan Omnibus Amendment on ACL / AM**

9:00 - 12:00 p.m.

- Receive and discuss SSC's Report on Scientific Uncertainty and Risk
- Review and select management alternatives to establish ABCs, ACLs and AMs for continued Amendment development regarding each of the Council's FMPs species
- Discuss risk policy development regarding setting of ABCs and ACLs

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**Lunch**

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Business Session**

- Approve June 2009 Minutes
- Address any outstanding actions from June 2009 meeting

**Liaison Reports**

- **New England Council**
- **South Atlantic Council**

**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)
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)

**Executive Director's Report**

**Status of Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Fishery Management Plans**

**Committee Reports**

- Highly Migratory Species
- Scientific and Statistical
- Monkfish [Update on Amendments]
- Protected Resources [Sea Turtle Strategy position]
- Research Set-Aside [2011 Research Priorities]
- Ecosystem and Ocean Planning [Review MPA actions]
- Bycatch/LAPP [Update on Bycatch Practices and status of Catch Share initiative]
- Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee [River herring and *loligo* control date]
- Executive Committee [Awards and funding]

**Continuing and New Business**

- Approve Council comments regarding NMFS' Proposed Rule on its Sea Turtle Strategy
- Address update of Council's multi-year research priorities (2010-2014)

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.