
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



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Council Holds First Public Listening Session

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) met in Annapolis, Maryland last week and held its first-ever public listening session on Wednesday evening. The Council initiated the public listening sessions to allow stakeholders an opportunity to ask questions and discuss any issues or concerns with Council leadership and NMFS representatives outside of the regular Council meeting agenda. Questions and comments were taken from both those attending in person and those attending virtually via the internet. About 50 people participated overall, with about an equal number evenly split between those two groups.

The Council appreciated the interest in this new outreach opportunity which ran longer than anticipated due to the number of participants and quality of questions and comments. Topics were wide ranging and included ecosystems based fishery management, scup GRA's, catch shares, and recreational management measures. Chairman Robins stated that "Public participation is a vitally important element of the Council process and the listening session format provides the public with a more direct and informal opportunity to share and discuss their concerns with the Council and NMFS leadership".