



*A report published by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council - August 2011*

**The Council Report summarizes major issues voted on or discussed at each regularly scheduled MAFMC meeting. The Council met most recently on August 16-18 in Wilmington, DE.**

**At its August meeting, the Council addressed issues related to summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, bluefish, monkfish, research set-aside (RSA), and the Visioning Project. The Council also elected officers and swore in new and re-appointed members.**

### **Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish**

#### **2012 Specifications**

The Council recommended harvest limits using the process detailed in the recently approved Annual Catch Limit and Accountability Measure Amendment. Based on the Council's recommendation, the summer flounder quota and harvest limit would increase 7% compared to 2011 levels - the commercial quota would be 18.95 million pounds and the recreational harvest limit 12.63 million pounds for the 2012 fishing year.

For the 2012 scup fishery, the Council recommended a commercial quota of 34.43 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 10.85 million pounds for the scup fishery. These limits are 66% and 86% higher for the commercial and recreational fisheries, respectively, compared to 2011.

The Council recommended the same commercial quota for the 2012 black sea bass fishery as 2011, 1.76 million pounds. However, they recommended a lower limit of 1.36 million pounds for the recreational fishery to address the management uncertainty associated with that fishery.

For the 2012 bluefish fishery, the Council recommended a commercial quota of 10.50 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 17.19 million pounds. These levels are about 1% higher compared to the 2011 limits.

A Research Set-Aside (RSA) of up to 3% of the TAL was also approved for each of the four species considered. Under the RSA program, these landings would be used to fund research activities.

### **Monkfish**

#### **Amendment 6 Update**

An update on Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP was presented by Joint Monkfish Oversight Committee Vice-Chair Howard King. The Council decided to re-establish its Mid-Atlantic Monkfish Committee which will meet on an ad-hoc basis and communicate regional concerns to the Joint Oversight Committee.

### **Committees and Other Business**

#### **Visioning**

The Visioning Committee met to receive an overview and expected outcomes of the Visioning Project, an update on the communications and data gathering plan, discussed data gathering logistics, and maximizing stakeholder participation in the project.

**Research Set-Aside**

The Council reviewed changes submitted by staff, Council and ASMFC regarding the 2013 RSA Program Research Priorities List. The list will then be submitted to NMFS for their review and then NMFS will publish a Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement for 2013 incorporating the changes to the priorities list. The FFO provides information for those who would like to submit proposals for research activities.

**Executive**

The Executive Committee met to receive an update from Jason Link on the SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee activities to date.

**Other**

In addition to the Committee meetings and regular Council business, the Council received a presentation from Jim Weinberg of the NMFS NEFSC regarding the Report of the 52nd SAW/SARC which includes Southern New England, Mid-Atlantic, Georges Bank, and Gulf of Maine winter flounder. The Council also agreed to appoint Dr. Doug Vaughn to the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

**Election of Officers and Swearing in of New and Reappointed Members**

The Council held its yearly election of officers and re-elected Richard B. Robins, Jr. of Virginia as its Chairman and Dr. Lee G. Anderson of Delaware as its Vice-Chairman. The Council swore in new Council members Laurie A. Nolan from Montauk, NY and G. Warren Elliott from Chambersburg, PA. The Council also swore in re-appointed members Howard J. King of Queenstown, MD and Jule D. Wheatly of Beaufort, NC.

**Materials on the Web**

Meeting materials related to the above issues and any presentations that accompanied the briefings provided to the Council at its June meeting are located on the Council's website at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org). Audio files of the full meeting discussions will be posted at <http://mafmc.org/actions/audio/audio.htm>.

**Next Council Meeting - October 11-13, 2011  
Galloway, NJ**