



## Potential Redevelopment of the Mid-Atlantic Council’s Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program

### *Decision Tree Tables*

February 2022

Draft answers to top tier priority questions identified by the Research Steering Committee during the January 18, 2022 Committee meeting<sup>1</sup> are identified in **orange font**. Additional priority question alternatives and suggested language changes recommended by the Committee are identified in **green font**.

<b>Topic #1 - Who is involved in the RSA program</b>	
Top Tier/Highest Priority Questions	
1A.	Allow commercial sector participation only
1B.	Allow commercial and for-hire sector participation (no private recreational fishermen)
1Bi.	Phase-in participation by one sector
1C.	Allocation of quota across sectors or keep separate
2A.	Fixed percentage of ABC for each fishery (i.e., different percentages for each fishery)
2B.	Fixed percentage of ABC across all fisheries
2C.	Fixed number of pounds for each fishery
3A.	Allow participation only by federally-permitted vessels
3B.	Allow participation by federally-permitted and state-permitted vessels
3Bi.	Phase-in participation by permitted (state) vessels
3Bii.	Appropriate/standardized reporting for all vessels
3C.	Do not allow participation by vessel owners that are also dealers unless dealer has a physical address for place of business
4.	Allow states to opt out of shoreside participation in an RSA program (e.g., providing required state exemption permits, etc.)
5A.	Cap the number of vessels that can participate within each state
5Ai.	Cap by sector (depending on alternatives 1A-1C)
6A.	Require Allow observers/state staff onboard all RSA compensation fishing trips
6B.	Require Allow all vessels to be equipped with VMS or AIS

<sup>1</sup> The January 18, 2022 Research Steering Committee meeting summary, which includes Committee rationale for the priority question alternatives selected, can be found at: <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2022/research-steering-committee-jan18>.

<b>Topic #2 - How would you allocate/divide RSA quota</b>
Top Tier/Highest Priority Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1A. RSA applies to all fisheries/species</li> <li>1B. RSA only for select fisheries/species</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2A. Allow specific percentage of projected revenue from species quota sale to be used for research on other species</li> <li>2B. All revenue from species quota sale can only be used for research related to that species</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3A. Funding mechanism should include ability to use both bilateral agreements and third party auctions</li> <li>3B. Funding mechanism should include the use of only bilateral agreements or third party auctions (only one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3A-Bi. Conduct periodic review of funding mechanism(s) to determine approach supports or undermines project or program objectives</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Secondary Tier Priority Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4A. Single species quota lots only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4Ai. Allow specific percentage of revenue from species quota sale to be used for other species research</li> <li>4Aii. All revenue from species quota sale can only be used for that species</li> </ul> </li> <li>4B. Bundled and single species quota lots</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5A. Support short-term projects only (2-3 years max)</li> <li>5B. Support short- and long-term projects (i.e., monitoring)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6A. Proposals need to identify scientific need and how results will reduce uncertainty</li> <li>6B. Proposals need to identify how results will address a timely/relevant management issue</li> <li>6C. Proposals need to include a detailed data sharing/management plan</li> </ul>

<b>Topic #3 - What does an RSA trip look like</b>
Top Tier/Highest Priority Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1A. Compensation harvest completely decoupled from funded research (i.e. vessels harvesting RSA quota are not vessels conducting research)</li> <li>1B. Compensation harvest decoupled from research activity, but vessels harvesting RSA quota also participate in research trips</li> <li>1C. Where feasible, compensation harvest is coupled with research activity</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2A. Require RSA harvest to occur on separate trips from non-RSA harvest</li> <li>2B. Allow both RSA and non-RSA harvest on the same trip</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3A. Limit RSA offloads to specific ports in each state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3Ai. Limit RSA sales to specific dealers in each state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3Ai(1). Limit RSA sales to only federally permitted dealers</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>3B. Require all RSA quota to be offloaded at the same port from pre-trip notification</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Limit RSA offloads to specific hours (e.g., 6am-8pm)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5A. Require all participating vessels to submit a pre-trip notification 24hrs in advance to declare intent to harvest RSA quota that includes port and anticipated day/time of landing.</li> <li>5B. Require all vessels to report port of landing, amount of RSA quota onboard, and complete an electronic trip report at least six hours prior to landing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6A. Allow RSA trips to land quota after the regular season closes</li> <li>6B. Allow RSA trips to increase trip limits during the regular season</li> <li>6C. Allow RSA trips flexibility in both the timing and landings throughout the year</li> </ul>
Secondary Tier of Priority Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7A. Unlimited transfer/leasing of RSA quota between vessels</li> <li>7B. Do not allow transfer/leasing of RSA quota except under catastrophic circumstances.</li> <li>7C. Allow for one or limited number of transfers/leases of RSA quota between vessels</li> </ul>