

### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Visioning Survey

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is looking to its constituents to help shape the future of our fisheries. Our objective is to gather as much information as possible about what is most important to you. The Council will use your input to develop a shared vision for the future of our fisheries and a strategic plan to accomplish the vision.

In this survey, "fisheries" refers to the species that the Council manages, the environment those species live in, the fishermen, and other people in related industries.

The Mid-Atlantic Council is responsible for managing fisheries in federal waters (3-200 miles from shore) between New York and North Carolina. The survey focuses primarily on these fisheries.

In addition to this survey, there are visioning surveys for each of the Council's managed species. All participants may complete one of each of the surveys. You may access the online versions of these surveys on the Council website.

The Mid-Atlantic Council is also reaching out to speak directly with its stakeholders at public events and meetings. If you would like to be involved in this aspect of the project, please check our visioning webpage (www.mafmc.org/vision) for upcoming events or contact Mary Clark at (302) 526-5261 or mclark@mafmc.org.

Because your time is very valuable to us, we have designed this survey to take about 15 minutes. Your input will have a real impact on how the Council operates and manages our fisheries. We hope that you will continue to be involved in this cooperative project and provide ongoing input into fisheries management going forward.

Before you take this paper survey, please consider taking the online version of the survey instead at <u>www.mafmc.org/vision</u>.

When you have completed the survey, please mail <u>or</u> scan and email it to:

Address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council C/O Mary Clark 800 North State Street Suite 201 Dover, DE 19901

Email: mclark@mafmc.org

|  | Demographics  |  |
|--|---|--|
| ) Which of the following role(   | s) do you play in Mid-Atlantic fi   | sheries? Check any that apply.   |
| <ul> <li>Recreational Fisherman</li> <li>Recreational Industry (bait and tackle, etc.)</li> <li>Commercial Industry or Association</li> <li>For Hire Operator or Crew</li> <li>Recreational User (boating, diver, etc.)</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Environmental Non-<br/>Governmental Organization<br/>(ENGO)</li> <li>Non-Governmental<br/>Organization (NGO)</li> <li>Academic Institution</li> </ul>  | □Federal Government<br>□State or Local Government<br>□Elected Government Official<br>□Interested Public<br>□Other:   |
| 2) Which of the following woul<br>(CHECK ONE)  | d best describe your PRIMARY  | role in Mid-Atlantic fisheries?  |
| <ul> <li>Recreational Fisherman</li> <li>Recreational Industry (bait and tackle, etc.)</li> <li>Commercial Industry or Association</li> <li>For Hire Operator or Crew</li> <li>Recreational User (boating, diver, etc.)</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Environmental Non-<br/>Governmental Organization<br/>(ENGO)</li> <li>Non-Governmental<br/>Organization (NGO)</li> <li>Academic Institution</li> <li>Federal Government</li> <li>State or Local Government</li> </ul> | □Elected Government Official<br>□Interested Public<br>□Other:  |
| 3) If you are a recreational fish  | erman, where do you USUALLY   | fish?  |
| □On shore<br>□Near shore (less than three m<br>□Off shore (more than three mi<br>4) If you are in the commercial   | -   | e you? (check any that apply)  |
| <ul> <li>Operator/Captain</li> <li>Vessel Owner</li> <li>Vessel Owner/Operator</li> <li>Vessel Crew</li> <li>Shoreside Labor</li> <li>Seafood Marketing/Sales</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>Fishing Industry<br/>Representative</li> <li>Fishing Association</li> <li>Restaurant Industry</li> <li>Industry Family Member</li> <li>Marine Equipment<br/>Supplier (vessels, motor,<br/>gear etc.)</li> </ul>      | <ul> <li>□General Supplier (bait, ice, fue</li> <li>□Vessel/Motor Maintenance</li> <li>□Seafood Processor (owner or employee)</li> <li>□Seafood Dealer (owner or employee)</li> <li>□Other:</li> </ul> |
| 5) If applicable, what types of f  | ishing gear do you use commer   | cially? (check all that apply)   |
| <ul> <li>Not applicable</li> <li>Gill Net</li> <li>Bottom Trawl</li> <li>Bottom Longline</li> <li>Hook and Line other than<br/>Bottom Longline</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Pound Net/Weir</li> <li>Otter Trawl</li> <li>Mid-Water Trawl</li> <li>Scallop Dredge</li> <li>Bottom Pots/Fish Traps</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Floating Fish Traps</li> <li>Clam Dredge</li> <li>Surface Longline</li> <li>Other:</li> </ul>   |

| 6) Where do you live?   |  |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| □New York   | □North Carolina                          | □Connecticut                                |  |  |  |  |
| □New Jersey   | $\Box$ Washington, DC                    | South Carolina                              |  |  |  |  |
| □Pennsylvania   | $\Box$ Maine                             |   |  |  |  |  |
|   | $\Box$ New Hampshire                     |   |  |  |  |  |
| □Maryland   | $\Box Massachusetts \qquad \Box Other:$  |   |  |  |  |  |
|   | $\square$ Rhode Island                   |   |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| 7) If you are a fisherman, where                                |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| □New York   | □North Carolina                          |   |  |  |  |  |
|   | □Washington, DC                          | $\Box$ South Carolina                       |  |  |  |  |
| □Pennsylvania   | □Maine                                   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Delaware  | □New Hampshire                           | □Florida                                    |  |  |  |  |
| □Maryland   | □Massachusetts                           | □Not applicable                             |  |  |  |  |
| □Virginia   | □Rhode Island                            | □Other:                                     |  |  |  |  |
| 8) How old are you?   |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| $\Box$ 19 years or below  | □40 - 59 years                           |   |  |  |  |  |
| $\square 20 - 39$ years   | $\square 60$ years or above              |   |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| 9) What language do you speak                                   | at home?                                 |   |  |  |  |  |
| □English  | □Portuguese                              |   |  |  |  |  |
| □Spanish  | □Other:                                  |   |  |  |  |  |
| 10) The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Ma<br>following species. Which are |  | es in the management of the                 |  |  |  |  |
| General   |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| $\Box$ I am broadly interested in all each $z$                  | ast coast fisheries management           |   |  |  |  |  |
| $\Box$ I am interested in the impacts/                          | ÷  | health of marine ecosystems                 |  |  |  |  |
| Mid-Atlantic Species  | □Bluefish                                | □Surfclam                                   |  |  |  |  |
| □Loligo Squid   | □Spiny Dogfish                           | □Ocean Quahog                               |  |  |  |  |
| □Illex Squid  | □Summer Flounder                         | □Golden Tilefish                            |  |  |  |  |
| $\Box$ Atlantic Mackerel  |  | $\Box$ Other:                               |  |  |  |  |
|   | $\Box$ Black Sea Bass                    |   |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| New England Species   | □Herring                                 | □Skates                                     |  |  |  |  |
| □Monkfish   | $\Box$ Groundfish                        | □Other:                                     |  |  |  |  |
| □Sea Scallops   | □Whiting                                 |   |  |  |  |  |
| South Atlantic Spacios  | 🗆 Bluolino Tilofich                      | King (Spanish Mackaral                      |  |  |  |  |
| _   |  |   |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| □Grouper  |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| South Atlantic Species<br>□Snapper<br>□Grouper                  | □Blueline Tilefish<br>□Dolphin<br>□Wahoo | □King/Spanish Mackerel<br>□Cobia<br>□Other: |  |  |  |  |

## 11) How often do you participate in the Council process? (Attendance, public comment, sending emails, etc.)

| □Never □Once                                 | a year 🛛 🗆 Around six times a | a year or |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------|
| $\Box$ Once every several years $\Box$ Arour | nd three times a year more    |           |

### 12) If you participate in the Council process less than once per year, are any of the following issues preventing you from participating more frequently?

| $\Box$ I don't know how or when to    | □My input won't make a         | □The Council process is working |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| participate                           | difference                     | and does not require my         |
| $\Box$ It's not easy to provide input | $\Box$ I am represented at the | participation                   |
| $\Box$ My schedule won't allow it     | Council by another             | □Other:                         |
|                                       | individual or an               |                                 |
|                                       | organization/association       |                                 |

**Goals and Priorities** 

#### 3) Please rate the importance of the following management objectives.

|  | Don't know<br>/ no opinion | Not<br>important | Less<br>important | Important | Very<br>important | Extremely<br>important |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Prevent overfishing  |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Fairly balance the concerns of users and non-<br>users of the resources impacted by the<br>Council's decisions |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Consider the economic impacts of individual management decisions   |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Consider the cumulative economic impact of regulations when making further decisions about new regulations     |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Consider the importance of an active and viable fishing industry to coastal communities                        |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Maximize commercial catch  |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Maximize jobs from the sea   |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Maximize commercial profits  |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Balance fishing capacity with resource availability  |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Help to ensure a safe and modern fleet   |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Promote long term flexibility in commercial fishing regulations  |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Improve the system for monitoring fishing activities   |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Reduce impacts from fishing on protected resources   |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Reduce impacts from fishing on habitats  |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Reduce bycatch   |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Consider how management decisions impact the ecosystem   |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |
| Fairly balance the concerns of commercial and recreational fishing interests                                   |                            |                  |                   |           |                   |                        |

| 14) In your view, what are the top three (3) challenges facing Mid-Atlantic fisheries today?  |
|---|
| 1:  |
|   |
|   |
|   |
| 2:  |
|   |
|   |
|   |
| 3:  |
|   |
|   |
|   |
| Congress requires the Council to manage fisheries for "optimum yield." Congress defined "optimum"<br>as providing the greatest benefits to the United States, particularly with respect to food production<br>and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems.<br>Optimum yield is based on the maximum sustainable yield from the fishery, as reduced by any<br>relevant economic, social, or ecological factor. |
| 15) Please rank these priorities according to your view of which is most important, with 1 being most important and 4 being least important.  |
| Food production   |
| Recreational opportunities  |
| Protection of marine ecosystems   |
| Economic and social factors   |
| 16) The Council will use the results of this survey to develop a vision for Mid-Atlantic<br>fisheries. In your view, what would successful fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic look like?   |
|   |

#### **Economic Performance**

## 17) How concerned are you that these issues threaten economic success in Mid-Atlantic fisheries?

| lisheries:   | 1                           | 1             | 1              | I                   | 1                  | 1                          |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|  | Don't<br>know/no<br>opinion | No<br>concern | Low<br>concern | Moderate<br>concern | Serious<br>concern | Very<br>serious<br>concern |
| Frequent changes in management measures and quotas                       |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Complicated regulations and<br>management measures                       |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Rules and regulations limiting innovation in fishing gear or technology  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Economic effects of overfishing on the commercial fishing industry       |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Economic effects of overfishing on the recreational industry             |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Lack of access to different fisheries (for new or existing participants) |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Inconsistent state and federal management                                |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Lack of representation of fisheries interests in ocean planning          |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Overly restrictive quotas  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Regulations affecting the price of fish                                  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Closed fishing seasons limiting fishing opportunities                    |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Overly restrictive trip/ bag limits                                      |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Costs (fuel, crew wages, insurance, etc.)                                |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Availability of labor  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Conflicts with other ocean user groups                                   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Lack of domestic fishing infrastructure limiting industry growth         |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Lack of coordinated marketing of domestic fish                           |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Imports of fish  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Excess fishing capacity  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |

# 18) If you are in the commercial industry, how can the Council make it easier for you to plan for your business? (if applicable)

### **Recreational Experience**

# 19) If you are a recreational fisherman, how concerned are you that these issues hinder your recreational experience?

| reereutionur experience:                               |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|  | Don't<br>know/no<br>opinion | No<br>concern | Low<br>concern | Moderate<br>concern | Serious<br>concern | Very<br>serious<br>concern |
| Frequent changes in management measures/quotas         |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Complicated regulations and<br>management measures     |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Overfishing affecting the availability of fish species |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Inconsistent state and federal management              |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Having to release undersized fish                      |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Overly restrictive bag limits                          |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Fishing seasons too short                              |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Closed fishing areas                                   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Conflicts with commercial fishing gear                 |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Costs (fuel, bait, gear, lodging, etc.)                |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Water pollution  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Conflicts with other user groups                       |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |

#### 20) How can the Council better manage recreational fishing to improve your experience?

### **Decision-Making**

#### 21) How concerned are you that these issues threaten sustainable management of Mid-Atlantic fisheries?

| Atlantic fisheries?  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|  | Don't<br>know/no<br>opinion | No<br>concern | Low<br>concern | Moderate<br>concern | Serious<br>concern | Very<br>serious<br>concern |
| Lack of timely data  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Poorly planned management measures   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Poorly understood ecosystem<br>interactions  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Overfishing  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Climate change   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Bycatch and/or discard mortality   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Forage species management  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Pollution  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Increasing multiple uses of marine areas   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Lack of accurate biological data   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Lack of accurate social and cultural data  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Habitat loss and destruction   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Lack of fish reproduction  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Regulatory non-compliance in recreational fisheries  |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| Regulatory non-compliance in<br>commercial fisheries   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| 22) In your view, are there recent<br>ecosystem that require the Cou   |                             |               | •              | •                   |                    | intic                      |
| <ul> <li>23) How important are ecosystem-based fishery management plans as a Council tool for achieving sustainable fisheries?</li> <li> I don't know what ecosystems-based fishery management is I don't know how important ecosystems-based fishery management is Very Important</li></ul> |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |
| □Important   |                             |               |                |                     |                    |                            |

# 24) How satisfied are you with the evolution of ecosystem-based management approaches in the Mid-Atlantic?\*

- □I don't know/No opinion
- $\Box$ Very satisfied

□Satisfied

□Neutral

□Dissatisfied

 $\Box$ Very dissatisfied

#### **Council Performance**

### 25) The Council is trying to improve its future performance. Please indicate how you would rate the Council's performance in the following areas.

|  | Don't<br>know/no<br>opinion | Very poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Management of commercial fisheries   |                             |           |      |      |      |           |
| Management of recreational fisheries   |                             |           |      |      |      |           |
| Effectiveness in conserving fish habitats  |                             |           |      |      |      |           |
| Stewardship of protected resources<br>(i.e marine mammals, endangered<br>species)                  |                             |           |      |      |      |           |
| Consideration of impacts of the<br>Council's management decisions on<br>the Mid-Atlantic ecosystem |                             |           |      |      |      |           |
| Distribution of Council<br>communications and increased<br>awareness of Council events             |                             |           |      |      |      |           |
| Achieving optimum yield  |                             |           |      |      |      |           |
| Addressing socioeconomic concerns  |                             |           |      |      |      |           |

## 26) If you could make one change in the way Mid-Atlantic fisheries are managed, what would it be?

| Contact Information  |
|--|
| PLEASE NOTE: This information is optional. Survey results are anonymous. Your name and contact information will never be associated with your survey answers or provided to a third party. |
| First Name:  |
| Last Name:   |
| Company or Affiliation:  |
| Zip Code:  |
| Phone Number:  |
| Email Address:   |
| Would you like to receive future communications about the progress of this project?  |
| $\Box$ Yes, please keep me informed.   |
| Would you like to be kept up to date on other Mid-Atlantic Council activities?   |
| $\Box$ Yes, please keep me informed.   |

### Thank You!

Thank you very much for your time! Your input is very important to us and will have a real impact on the vision for fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic. Please refer anyone that has an interest in the fisheries to take this survey.

Please also consider taking our species specific surveys, where you can provide detailed input into the management of each of the Council's species. Please visit the visioning webpage (<u>http://www.mafmc.org/vision/</u>) to learn more and access these surveys.

In the future, look for more opportunities to provide direct input into the management of Mid-Atlantic fisheries. To stay up to date on Council news and events, visit our homepage (<u>http://www.mafmc.org/</u>).

We hope that you will stay actively engaged in the management process and continue to help shape the vision and strategic plan for Mid-Atlantic fisheries.

- The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Staff