Appendix A: Survey Results

Visioning and Strategic Planning Stakeholder Input Report

July 2012

Appendix A: Survey Results

Navigation Guide

Use the links and page numbers below to directly access responses for each of the survey questions.

Methodology

Over the 24-week data gathering period, 1,253 individuals responded to the general survey. This appendix summarizes the results of each question.

When most applicable, questions are analyzed by stakeholder group. Survey respondents identified the roles they play in Mid-Atlantic fisheries in Question 1 of the survey. The thirteen stakeholder role options were combined into five categories (Table A1). These categories are used when results are presented by stakeholder group.

Table A1: Respondent Roles Corresponding to Each Stakeholder Category

Stakeholder Categories	Respondent Roles
Recreational	• Recreational Fisherman • Recreational Industry
For-Hire	• For-Hire Operator or Crew
Commercial	• Commercial Industry or Association
Environmental Non-Governmental (ENGO)	• Environmental Non-Governmental (ENGO)
Interested Public	• Interested Public • Recreational User • State or Local Government • Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) • Federal Government • Academic Institution • Elected Official • Other

The survey included six open-ended questions. To analyze results of each open-ended question, the results were reviewed to identify commonly recurring patterns. Categories and subcategories were developed for the common patterns. In some cases, where responses covered multiple topics, up to three categories and subcategories were assigned to a single response.

The most commonly cited subcategories for each stakeholder group are included in this appendix for all open-ended questions in the survey. The open-ended questions are listed below as a reference:

- **Question 14:** In your view, what are the top three (3) challenges facing Mid-Atlantic fisheries today?
- **Question 16:** The Council is going to use the results of this survey to develop a vision for Mid-Atlantic fisheries. In your view, what would successful fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic look like?
- **Question 18:** How can the Council make it easier for you to plan for your business? (if applicable)
- **Question 20:** How can the Council better manage recreational fishing to improve your experience?
- **Question 22:** In your view, are there recent environmental or ecological changes in the Mid-Atlantic ecosystem that require the Council's consideration?
- **Question 26:** If you could make one change in the way Mid-Atlantic fisheries are managed, what would it be?

Demographics

Question 1: Which of the following role(s) do you play in Mid-Atlantic fisheries? (check any that apply)

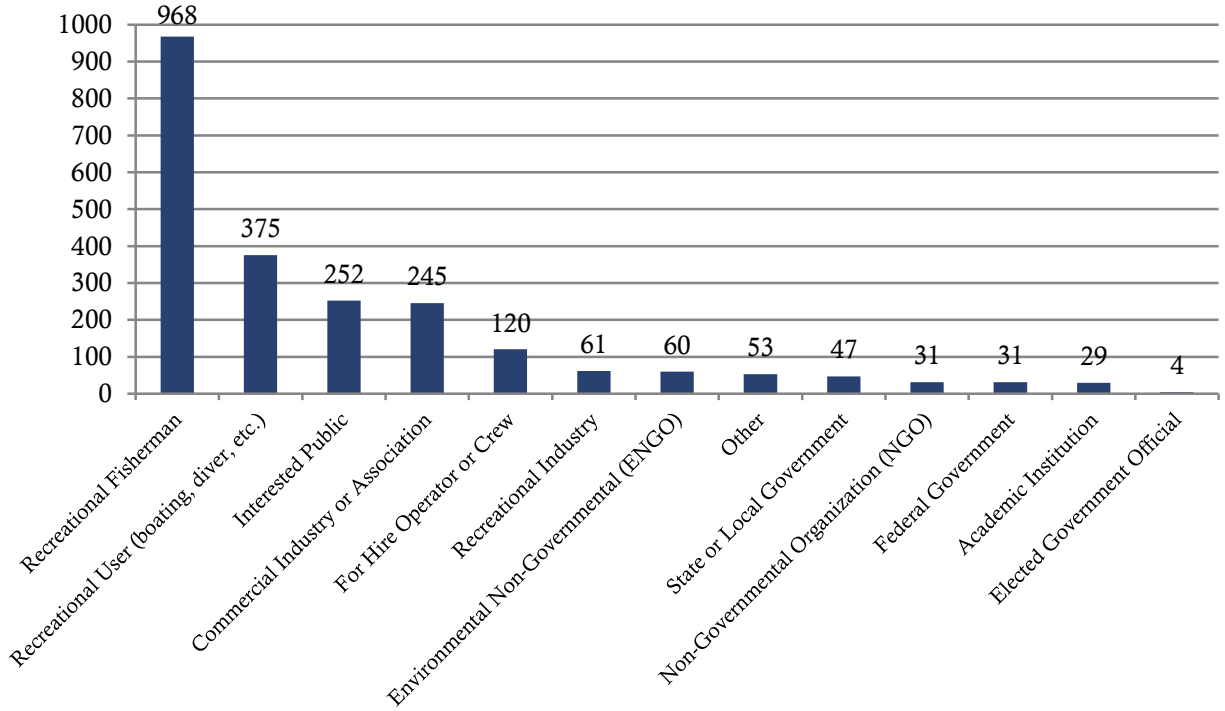

Figure A1: Surveys Completed by Stakeholder Group, All Roles (Q1)

Question 2: Which of the following would best describe your PRIMARY role in Mid-Atlantic fisheries? (check one)

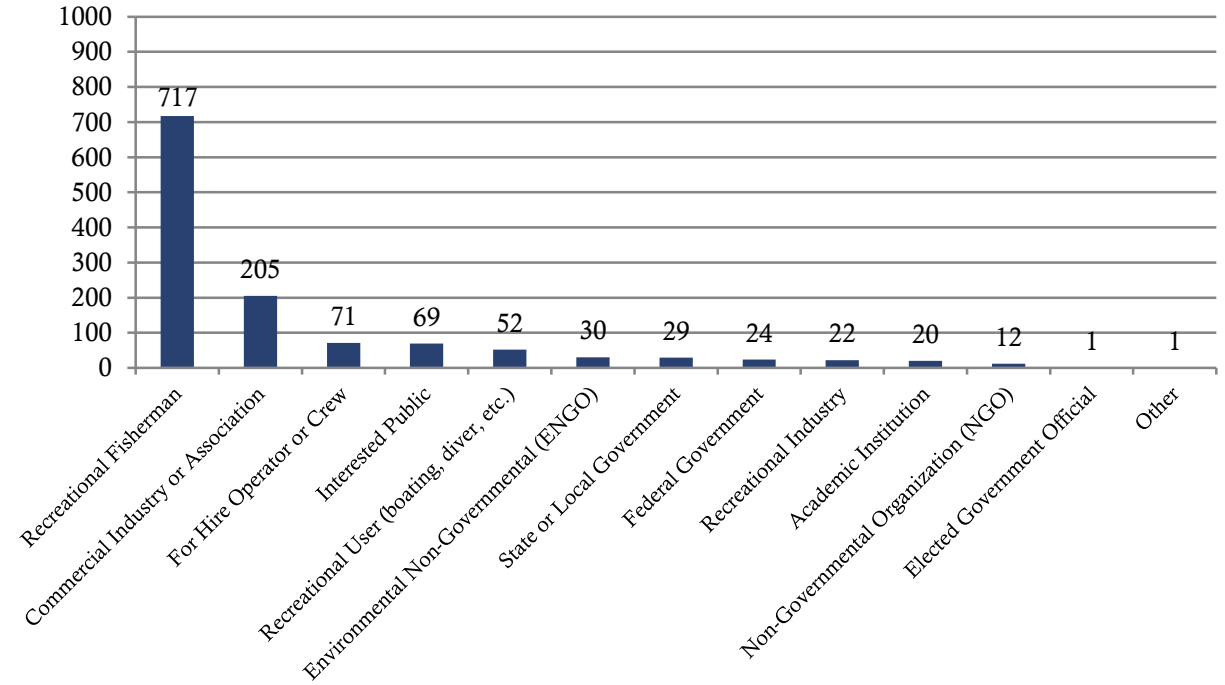

Figure A2: Surveys Completed by Stakeholder Group, Primary Roles (Q2)

<u>Question 3:</u> As a recreational fisherman, where do you USUALLY fish?

Of **968 participants** that identified themselves as recreational fishermen, **63% (612)** said they USUALLY fished within 3 miles of the shore, **21% (206)** said they usually fished offshore, and **16% (150)** said that they fish primary onshore.

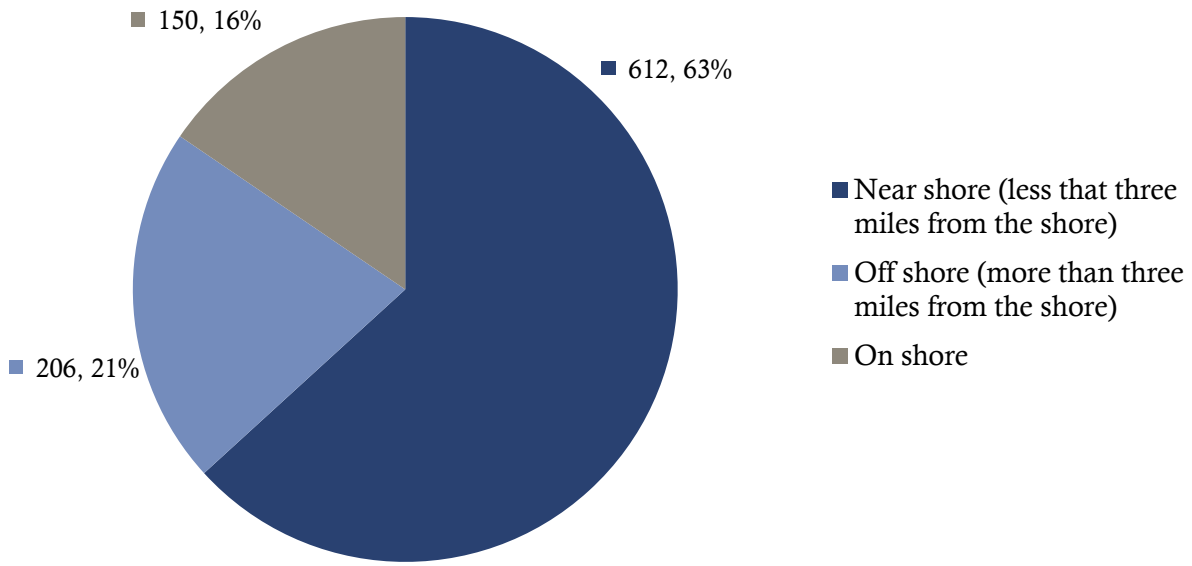

Figure A3: Fishing Locations of Recreational Survey Respondents (Q3)

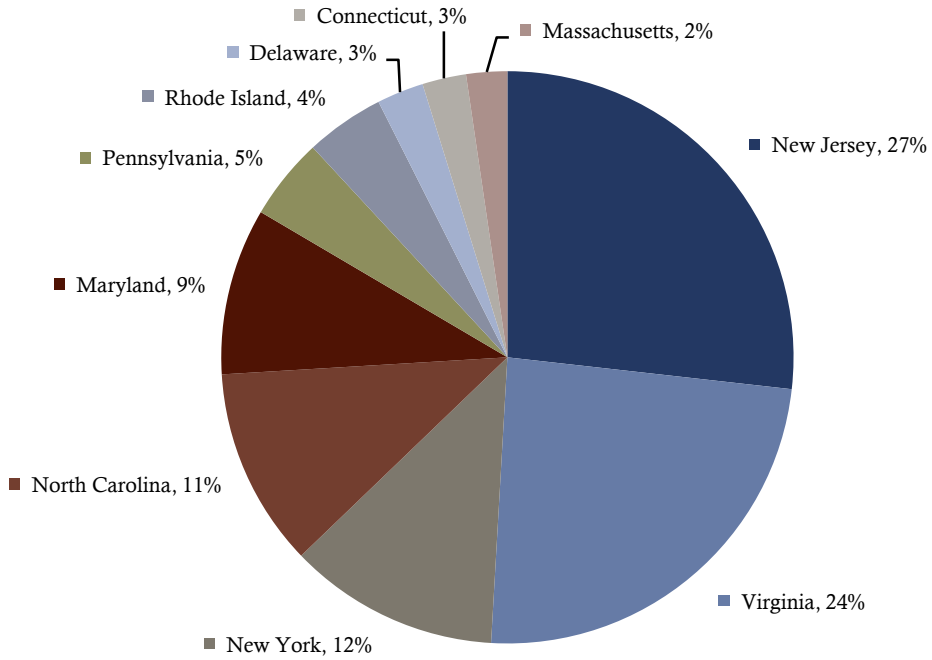

Figure A4: State of Residence of <u>Near Shore</u> Recreational Respondents (Q3)

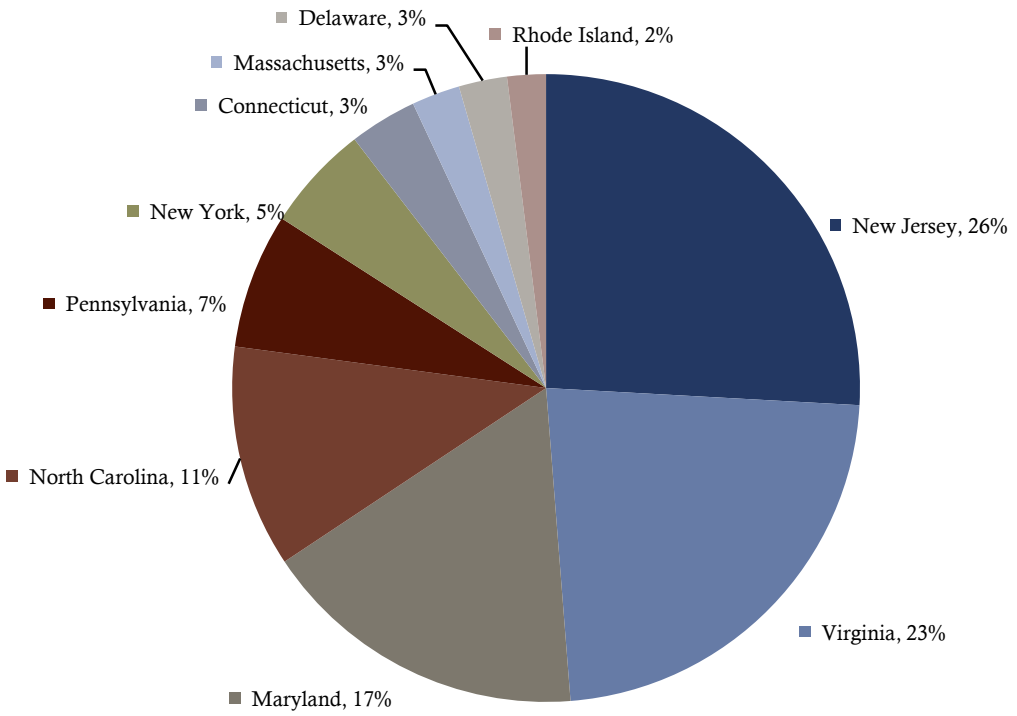

Figure A5: State of Residence of Off-Shore Recreational Respondents (Q3)

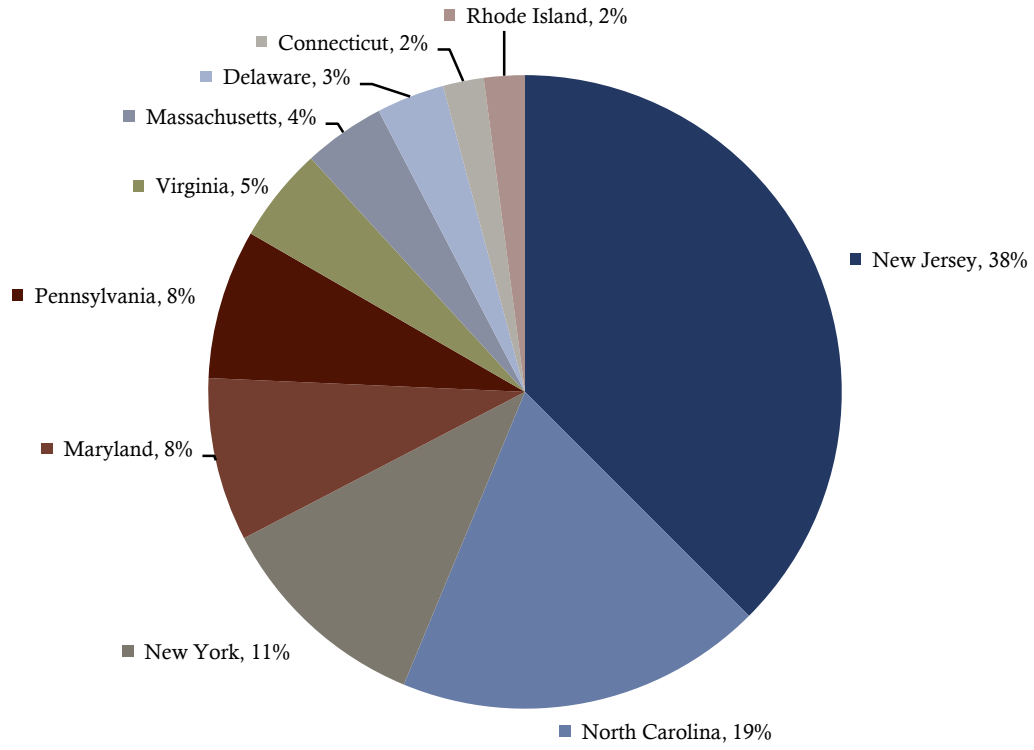

Figure A6: State of Residence of On-Shore Recreational Respondents (Q3)

Question 4: Which commercial industry role(s) describe you? (check any that apply)

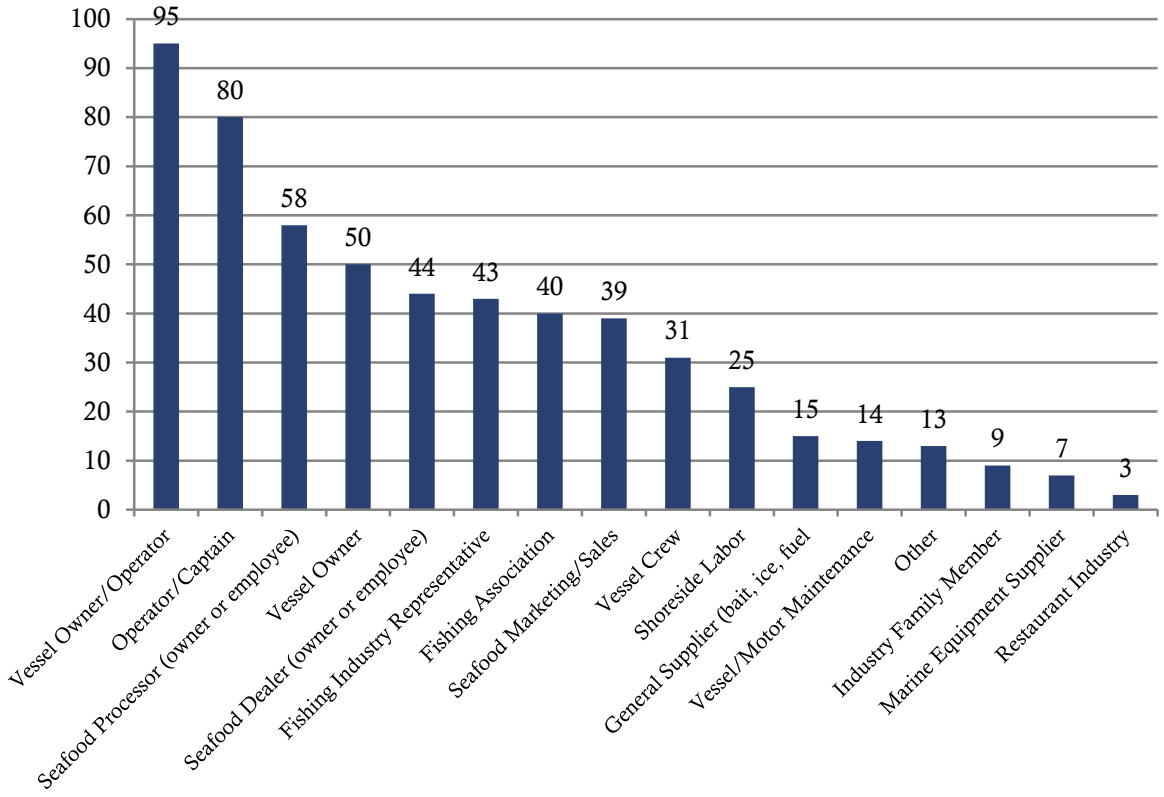

Figure A7: Industry Roles of Commercial Respondents (Q4)

Question 5: If applicable, what types of fishing gear do you use commercially? (check all that apply)

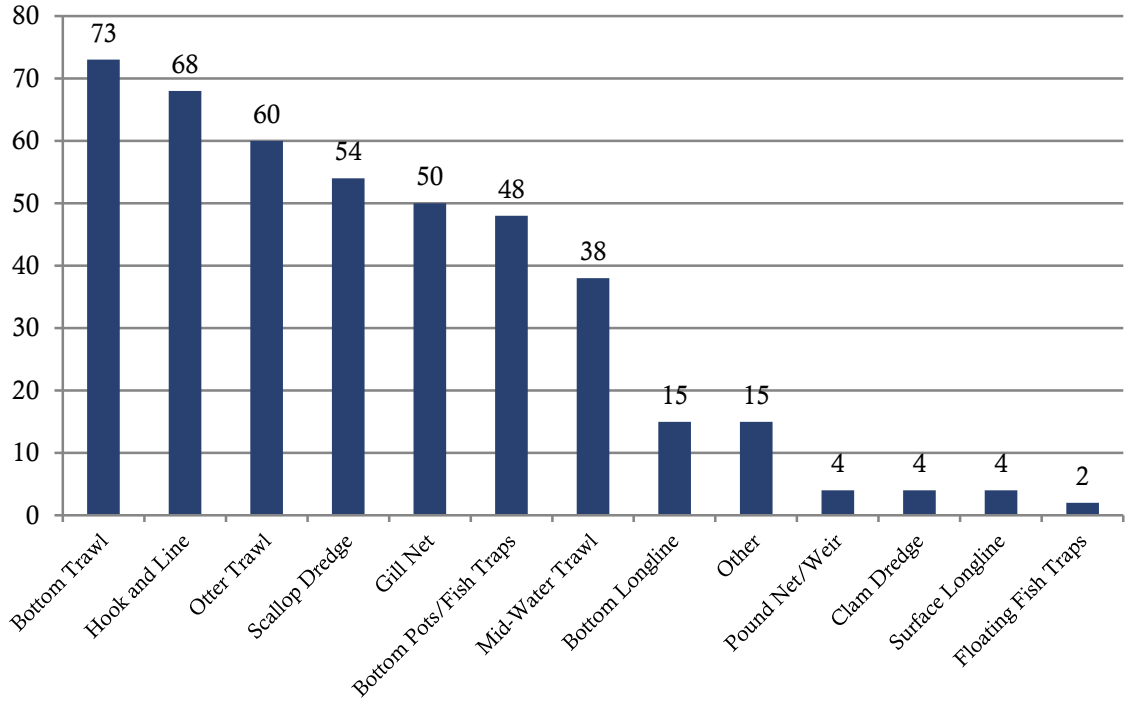

Figure A8: Fishing Gear Used by Commercial Respondents (Q5)

Question 6: Where do you live?

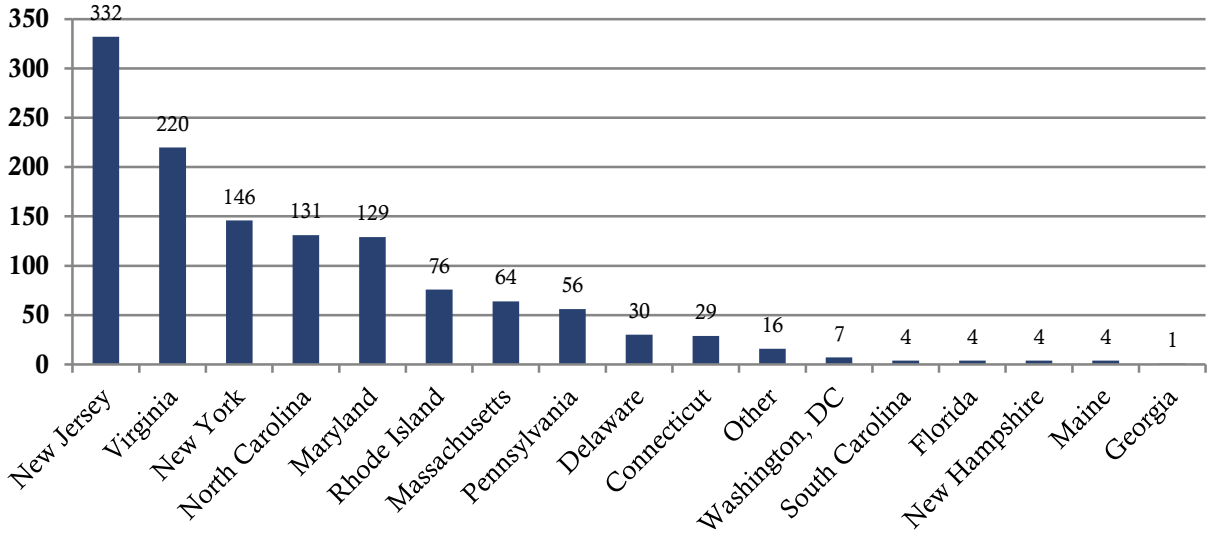

Figure A9: State of Residence, All Survey Respondents (Q6)

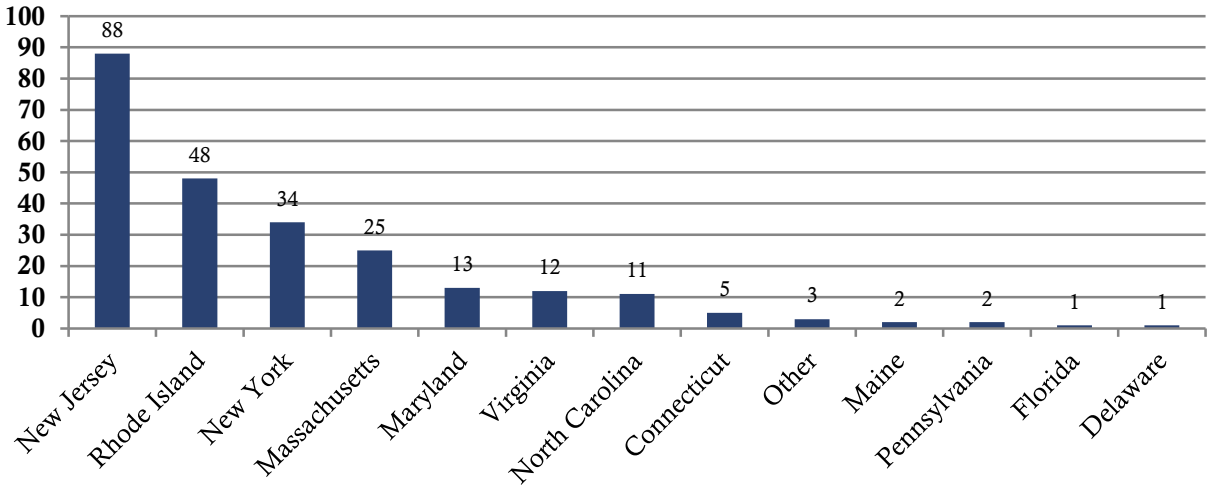

Figure A10: State of Residence, Commercial Respondents (Q6)

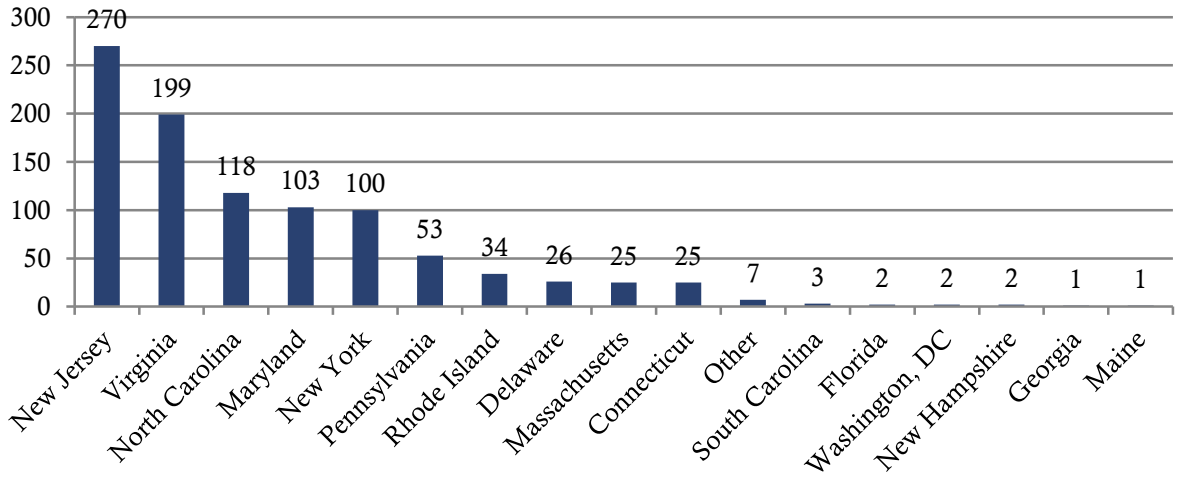

Figure A11: State of Residence, Recreational Respondents (Q6)

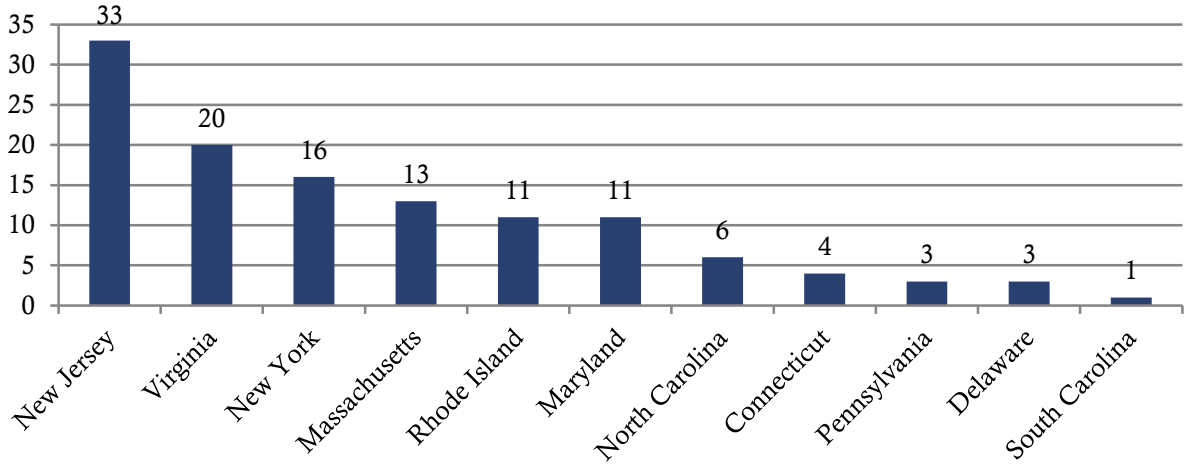

Figure A12: State of Residence, For Hire Respondents (Q6)

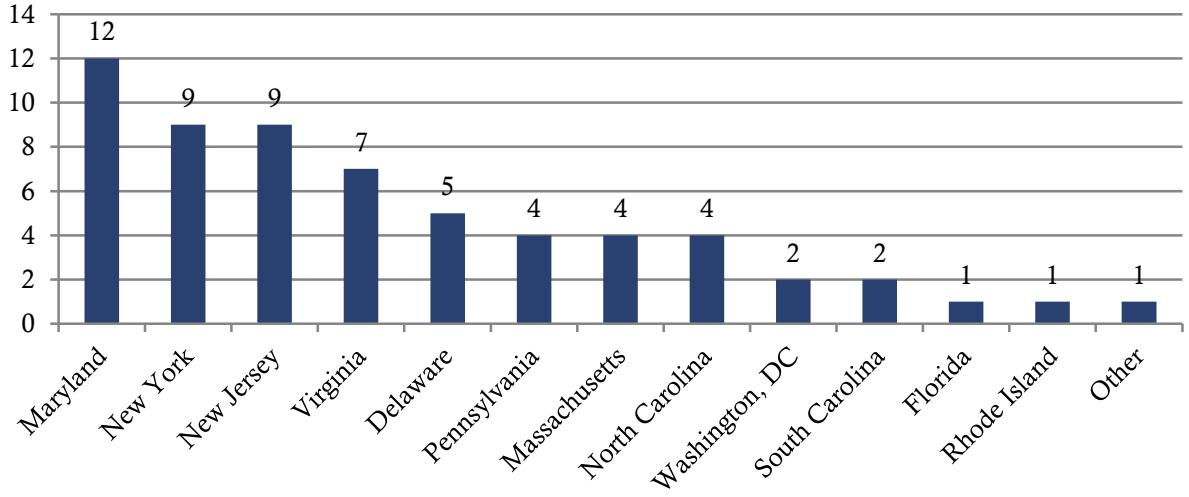

Figure A13: State of Residence, ENGO Respondents (Q6)

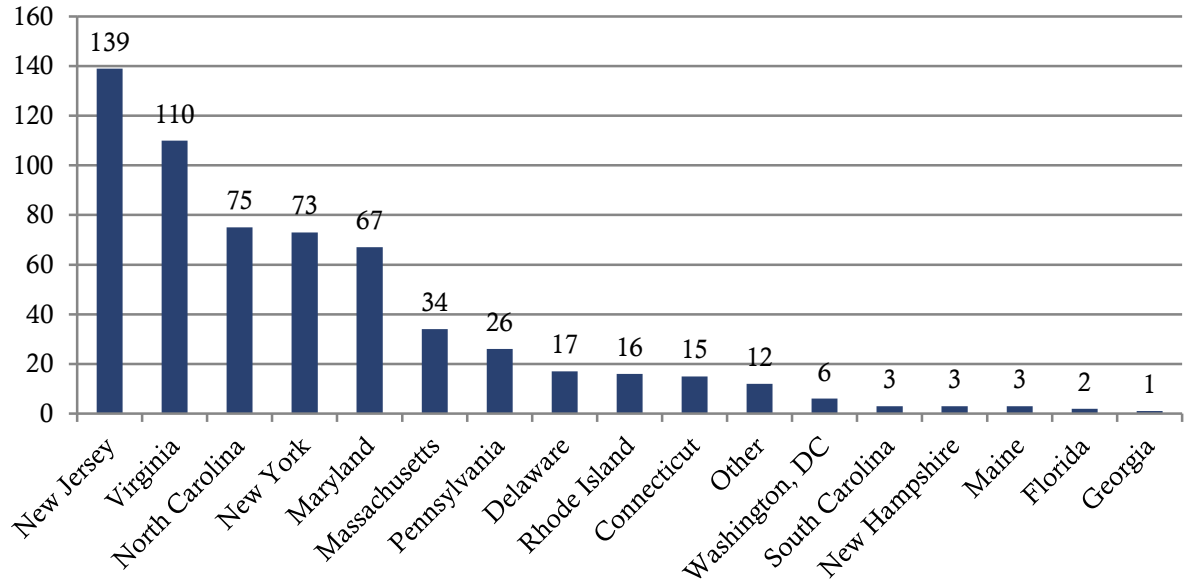

Figure A14: State of Residence, Interested Public Respondents (Q6)

Question 7: In what states do you land your fish?

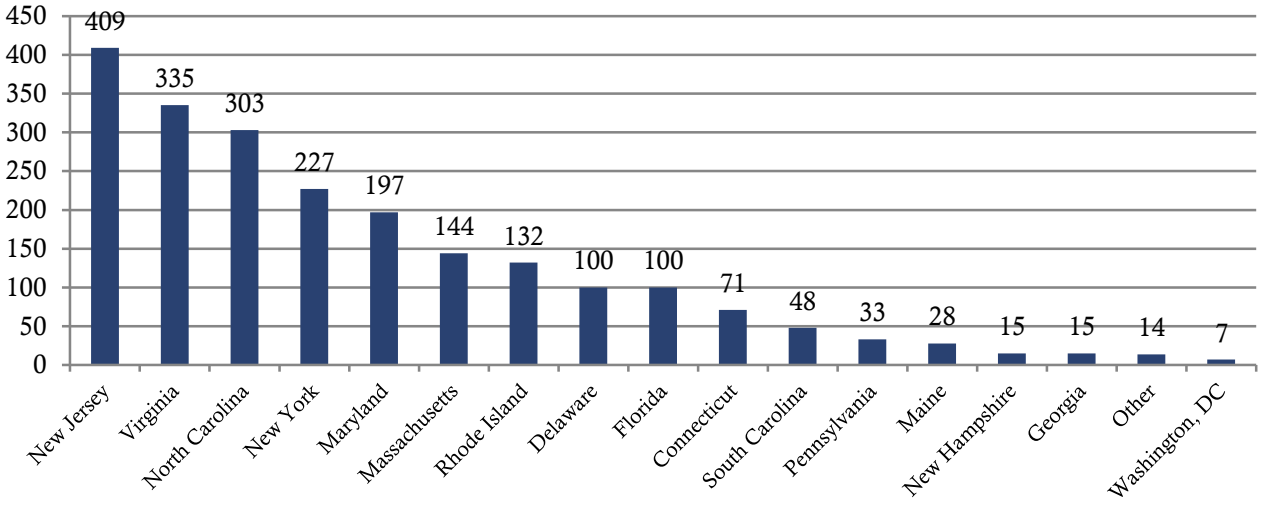

Figure A15: Fish Landing Location, All Fishing Respondents (Q7)

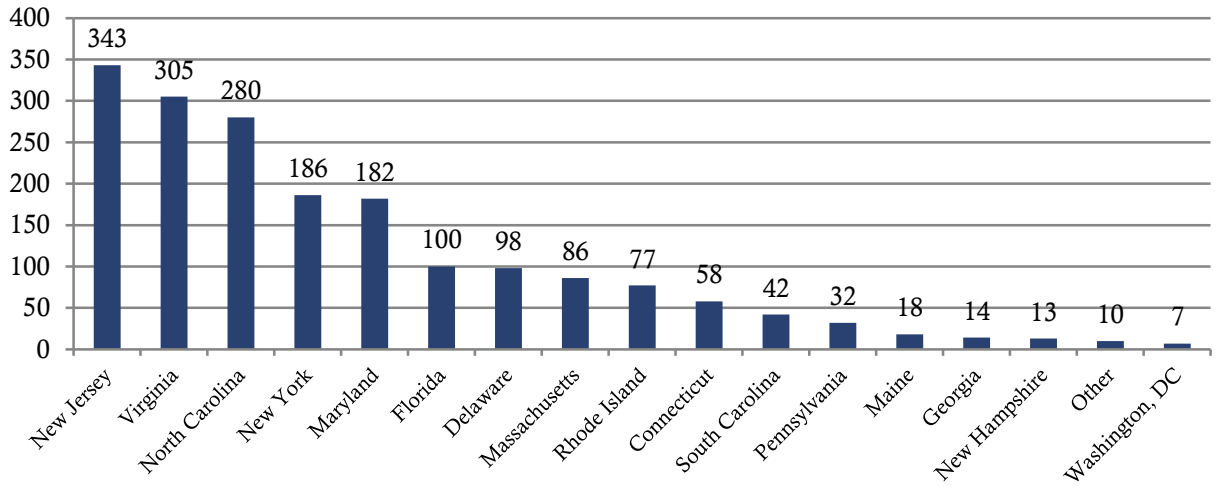

Figure A16: Fish Landing Location, Recreational Respondents (Q7)

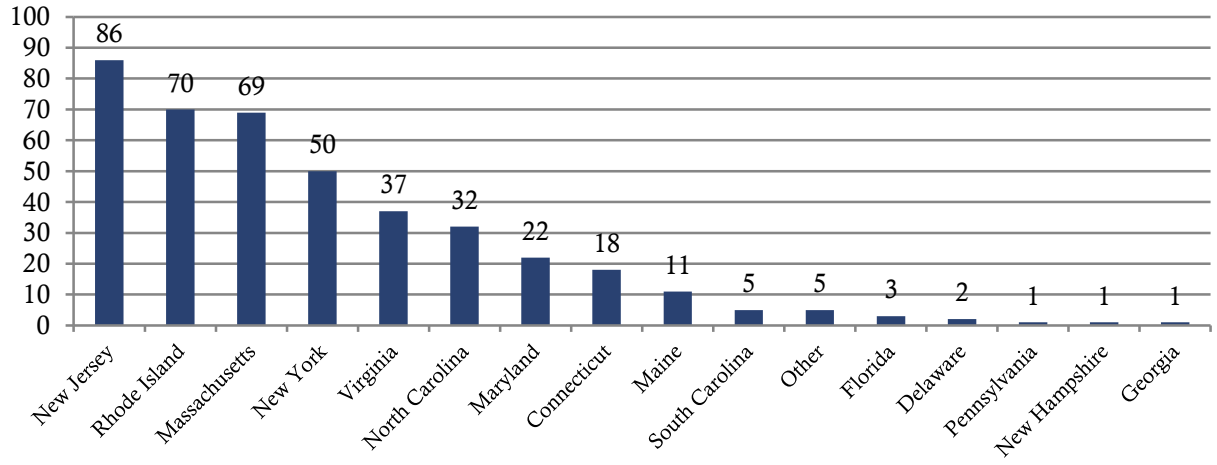

Figure A17: Fish Landing Location, Commercial Respondents (Q7)

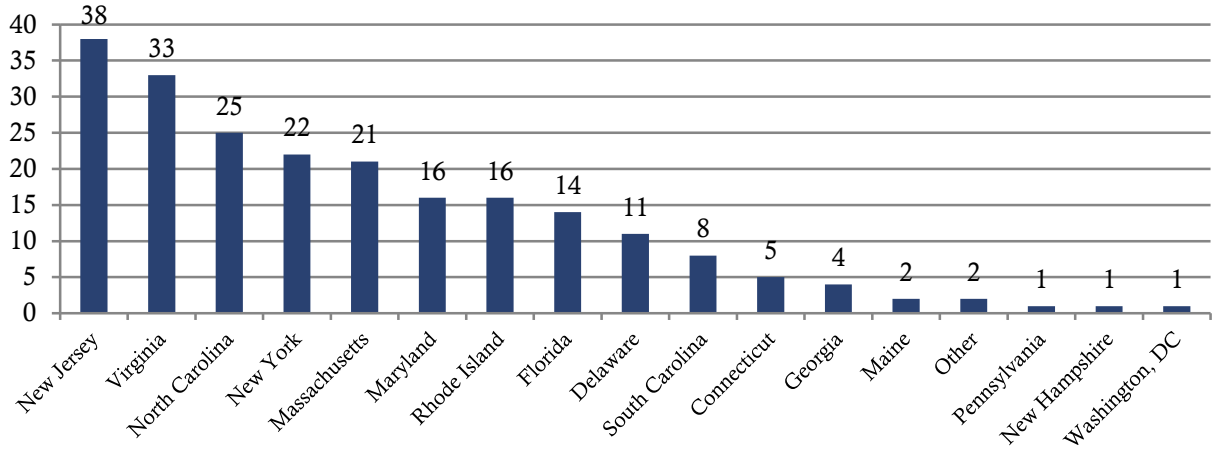

Figure A18: Fish Landing Location, For-Hire Respondents (Q7)

Question 8: How old are you?

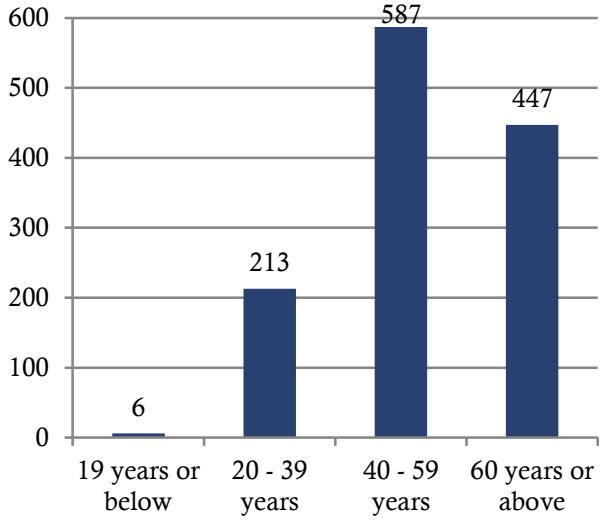

Figure A19: Ages of All Respondents (Q8)

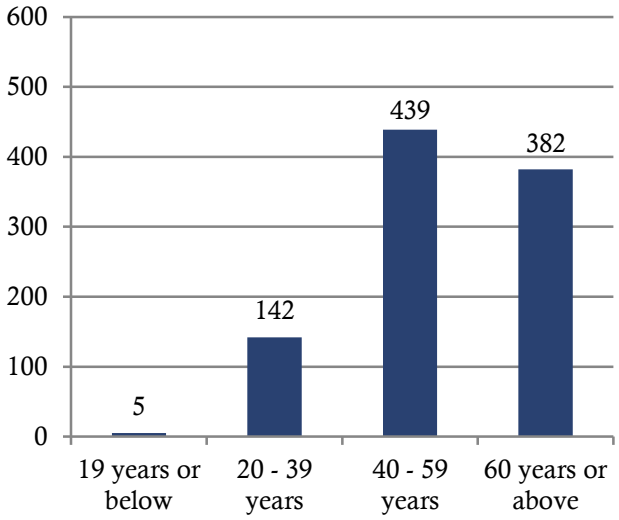

Figure A20: Ages of Recreational Respondents (Q8)

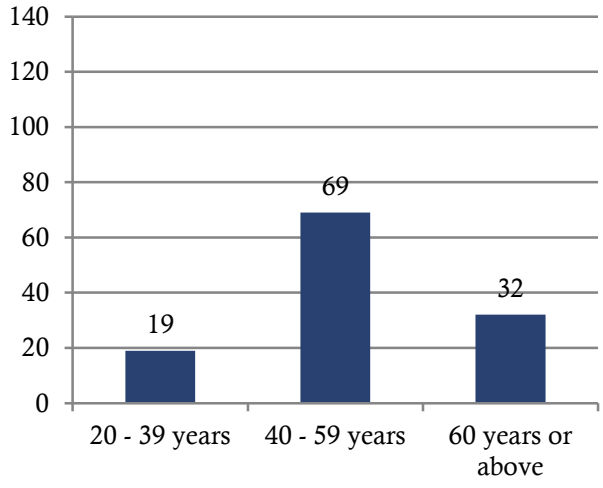

Figure A21: Ages of For-Hire Respondents (Q8)

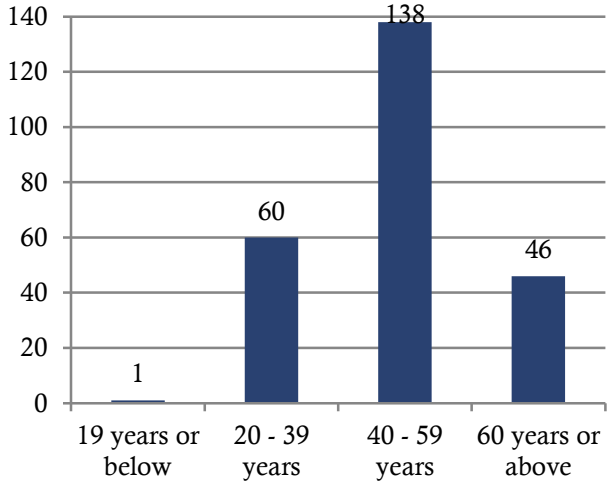

Figure A22: Ages of Commercial Respondents (Q8)

Question 9: What language do you speak at home?

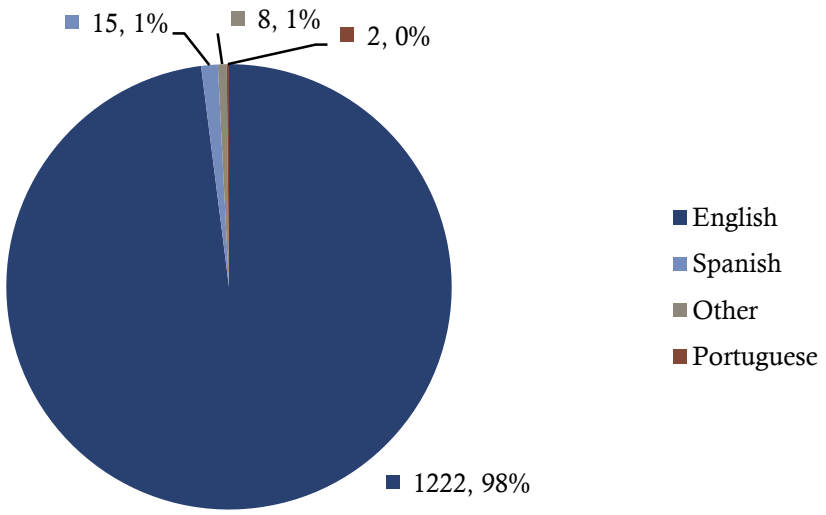

Figure A23: Primary Languages of All Respondents (Q9)

Question 10: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council participates in the management of the following species. Which are you most interested in?

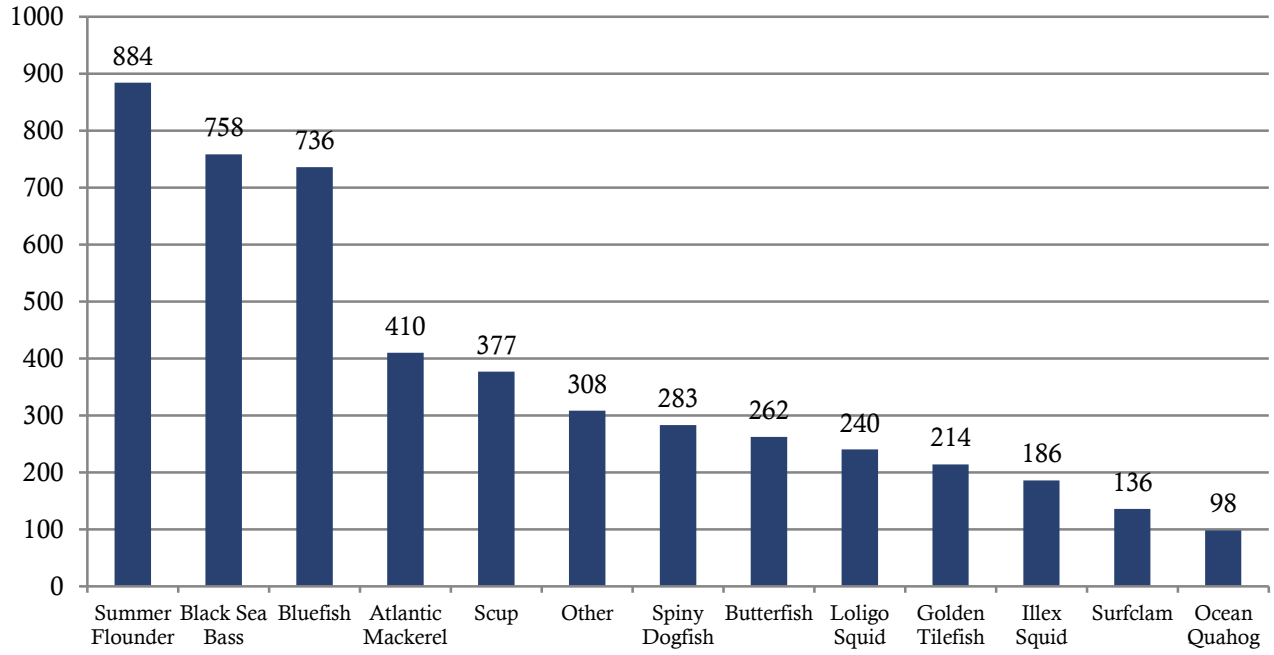

Figure A24: Level of Interest in Mid-Atlantic Species, All Respondents (Q10)

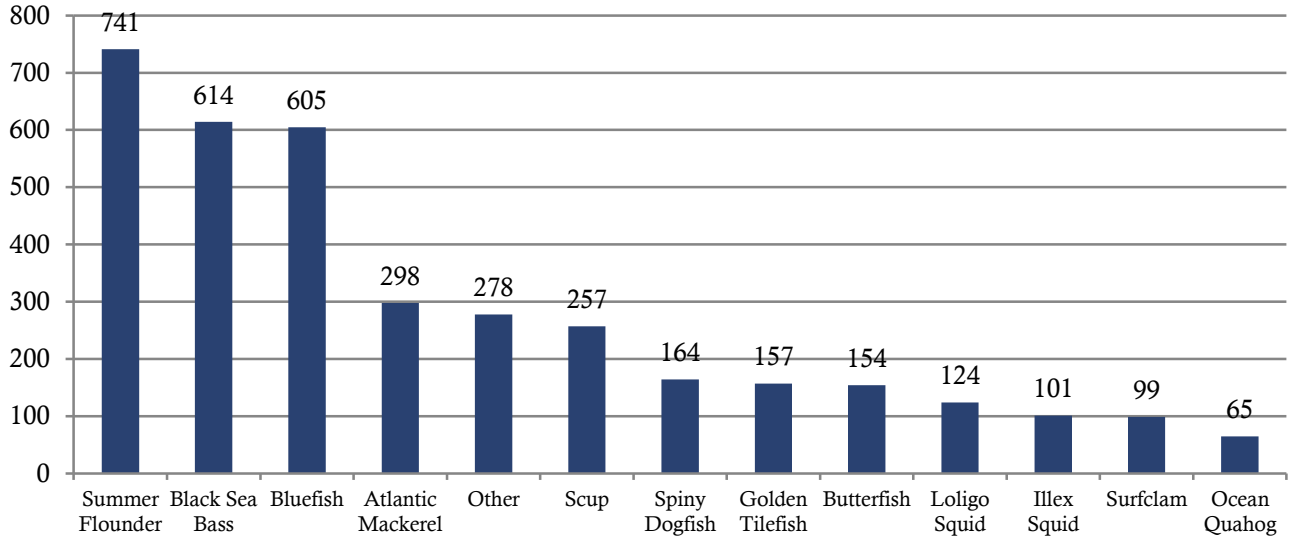

Figure A25: Level of Interest in Mid-Atlantic Species, Recreational Respondents (Q10)

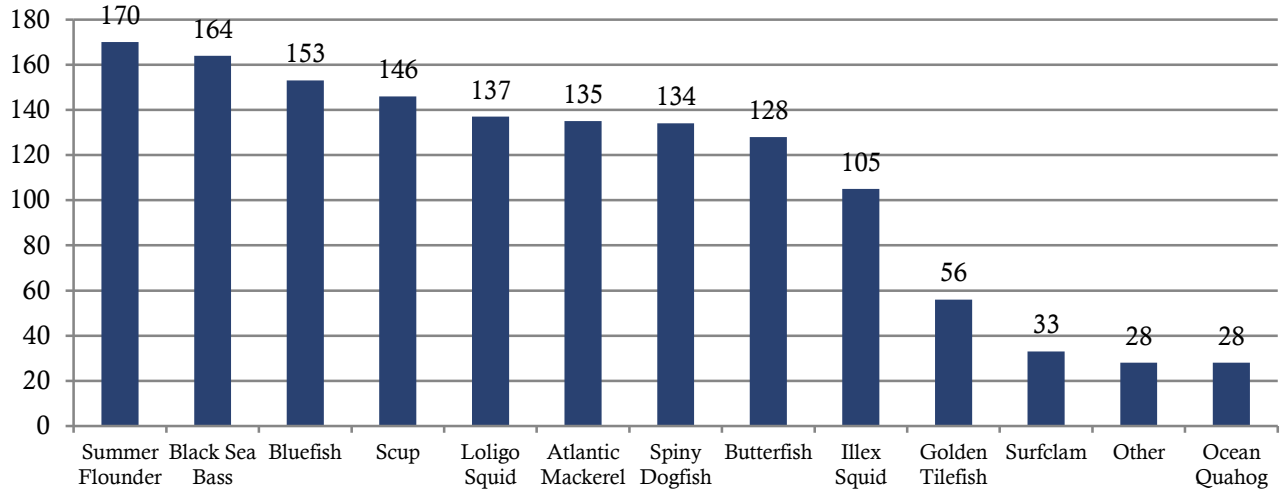

Figure A26: Level of Interest in Mid-Atlantic Species, Commercial Respondents (Q10)

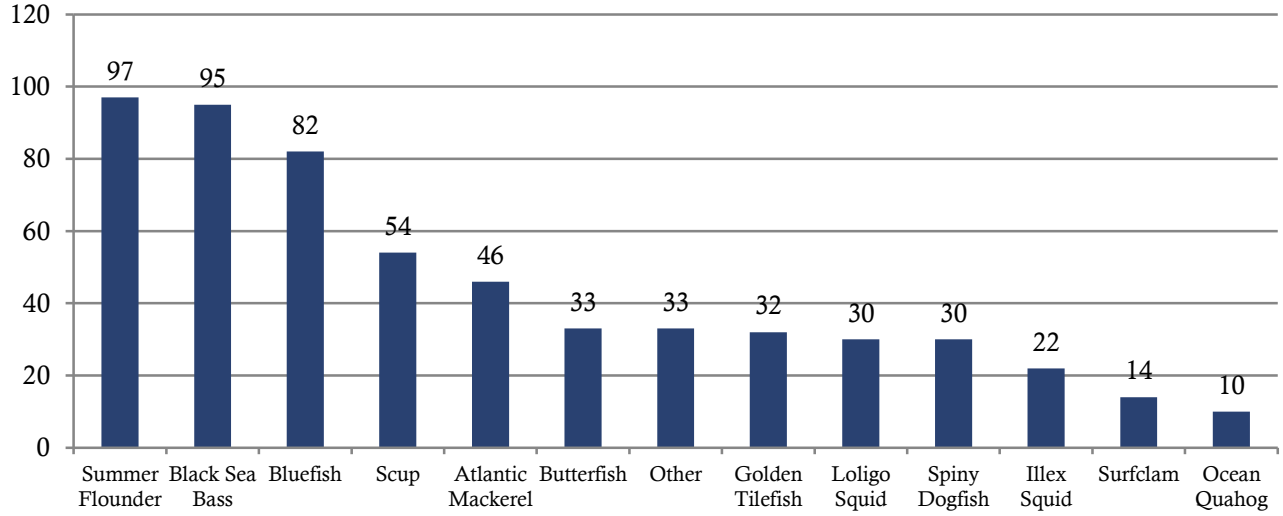

Figure A27: Level of Interest in Mid-Atlantic Species, For-Hire Respondents (Q10)

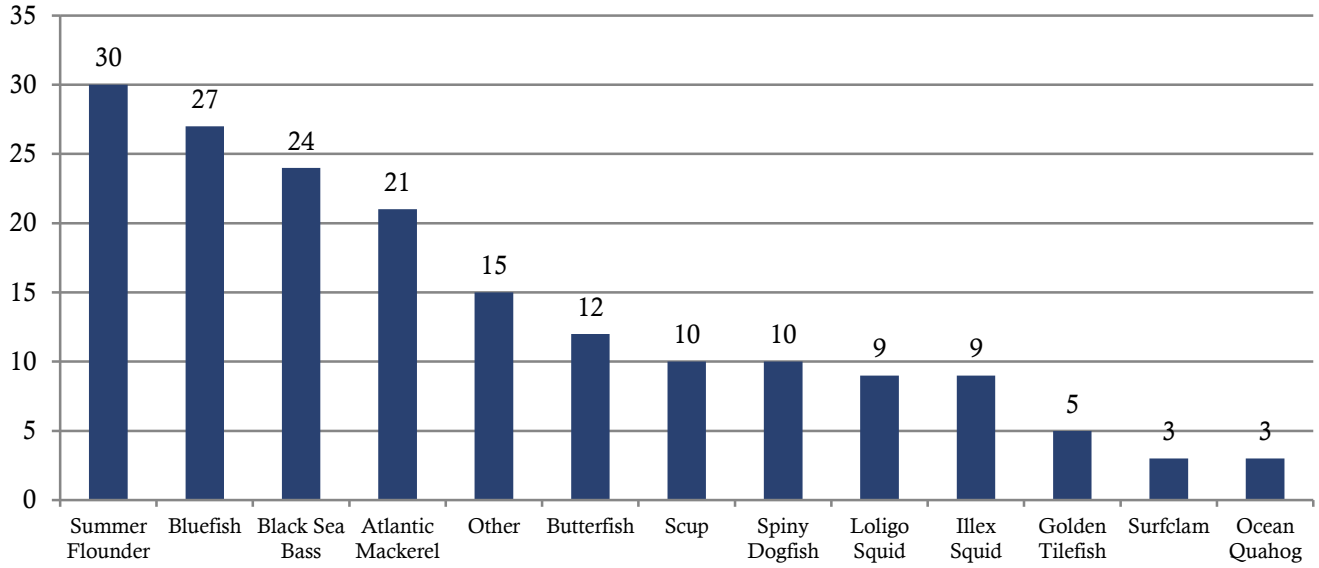

Figure A28: Level of Interest in Mid-Atlantic Species, ENGO Respondents (Q10)

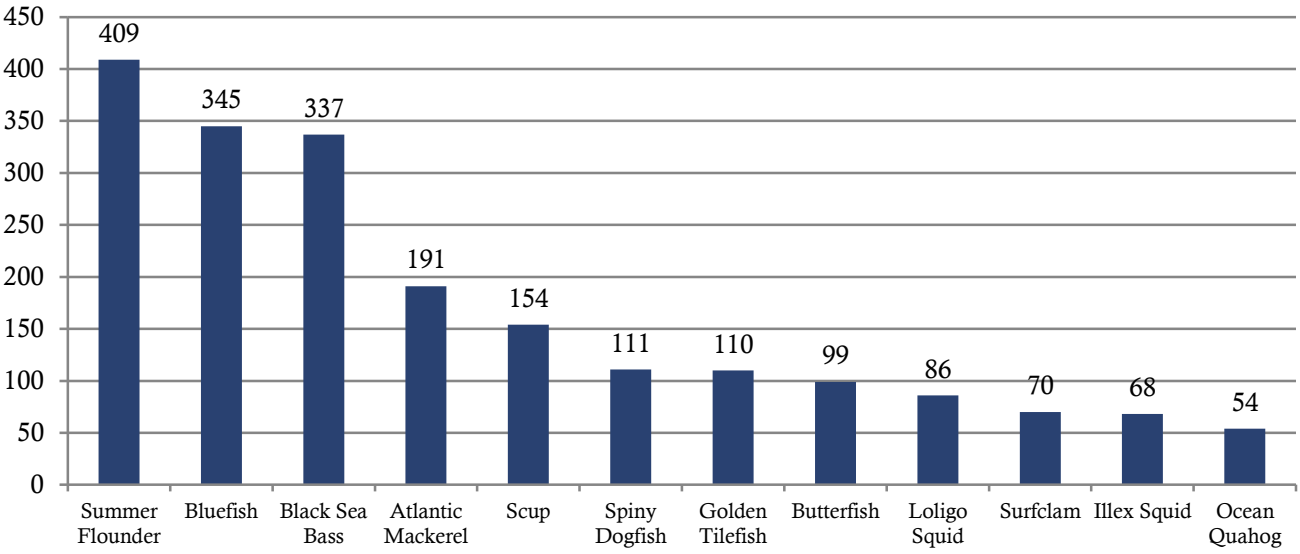

Figure A29: Level of Interest in Mid-Atlantic Species, Interested Public Respondents (Q10)

<u>Question 11:</u> How often do you participate in the Council process? (attendance, public comment, sending emails, etc.)

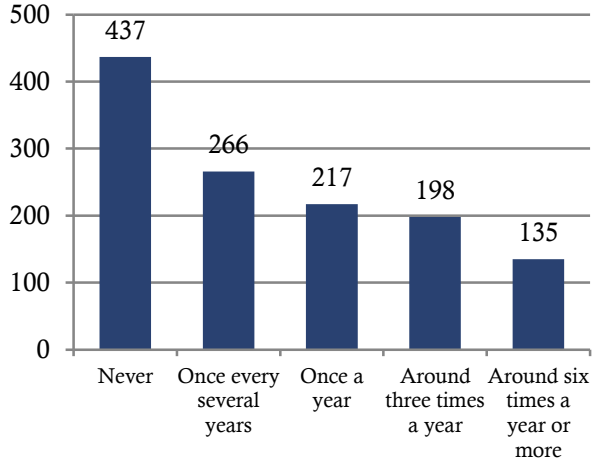

Figure A30: Frequency of Participation in the Council Process, All Respondents (Q11)

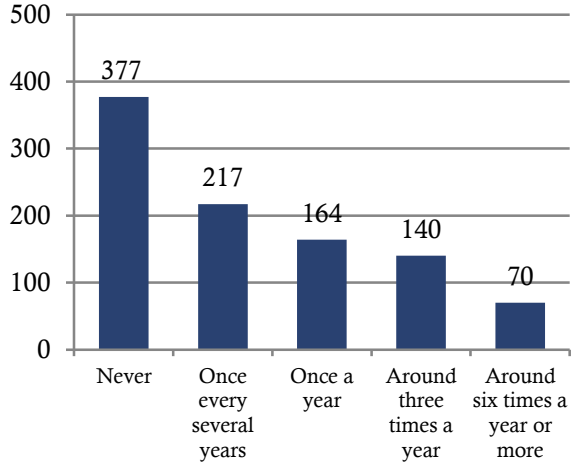

Figure A31: Frequency of Participation in the Council Process, Recreational Respondents (Q11)

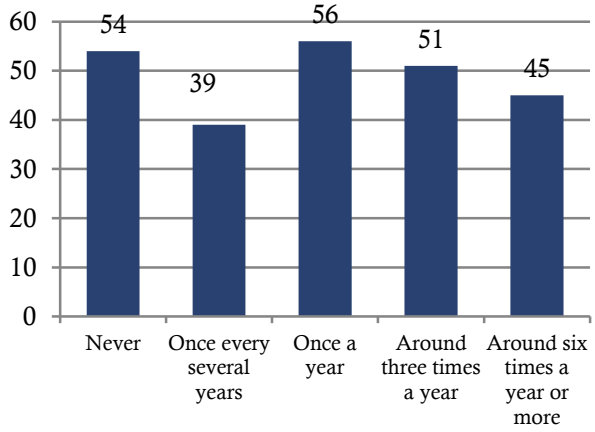

Figure A32: Frequency of Participation in the Council Process, Commercial Respondents (Q11)

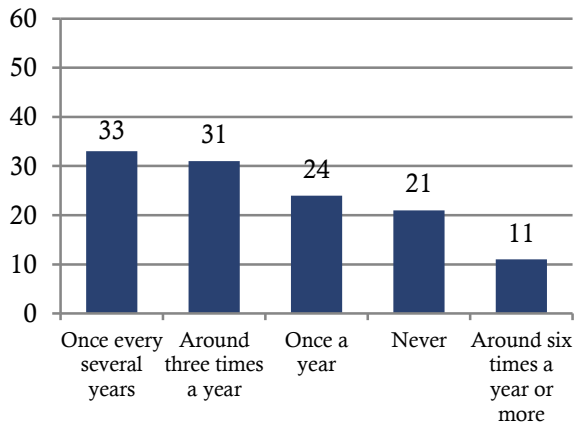

Figure A33: Frequency of Participation in the Council Process, For-Hire Respondents (Q11)

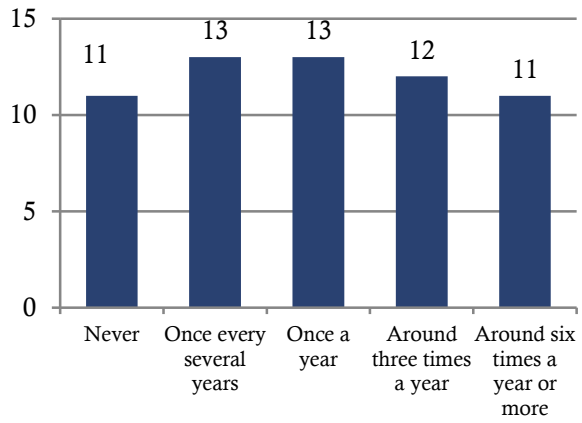

Figure A34: Frequency of Participation in the Council Process, ENGO Respondents (Q11)

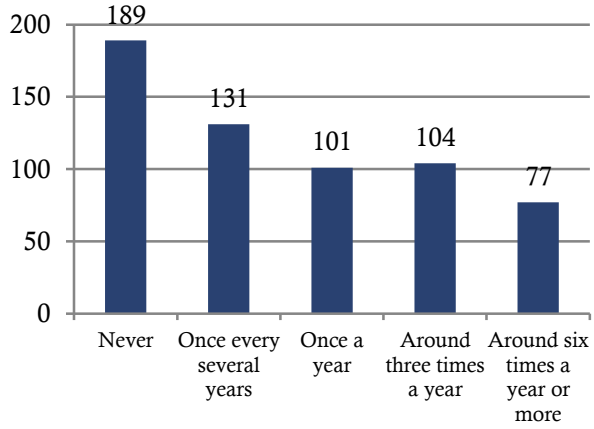

Figure A35: Frequency of Participation in the Council Process, Interested Public Respondents (Q11)

<u>Question 12:</u> You participate in the Council process less than once per year. Are any of the following issues preventing you from participating more frequently?

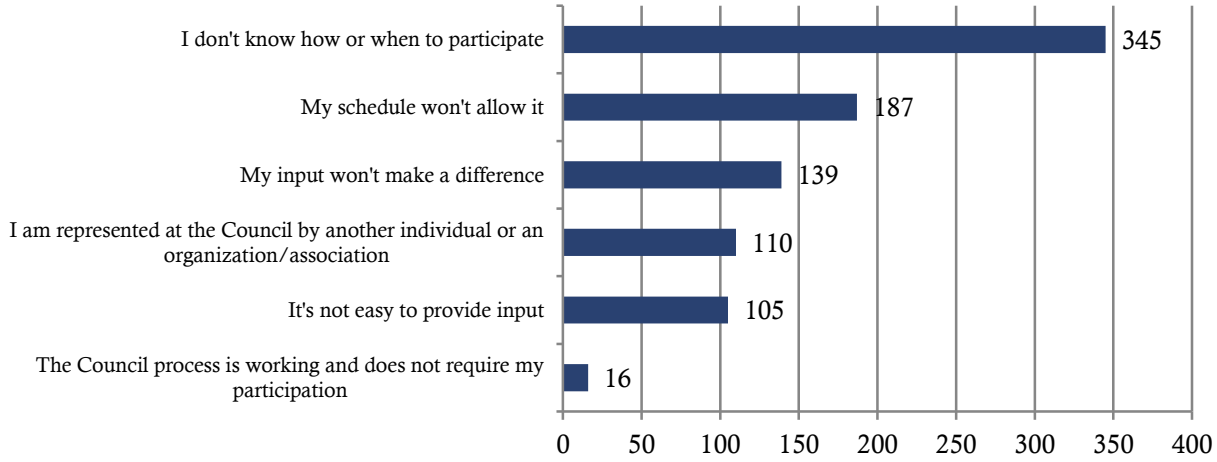

Figure A36: Issues Preventing Participation in Council Process, All Respondents (Q12)

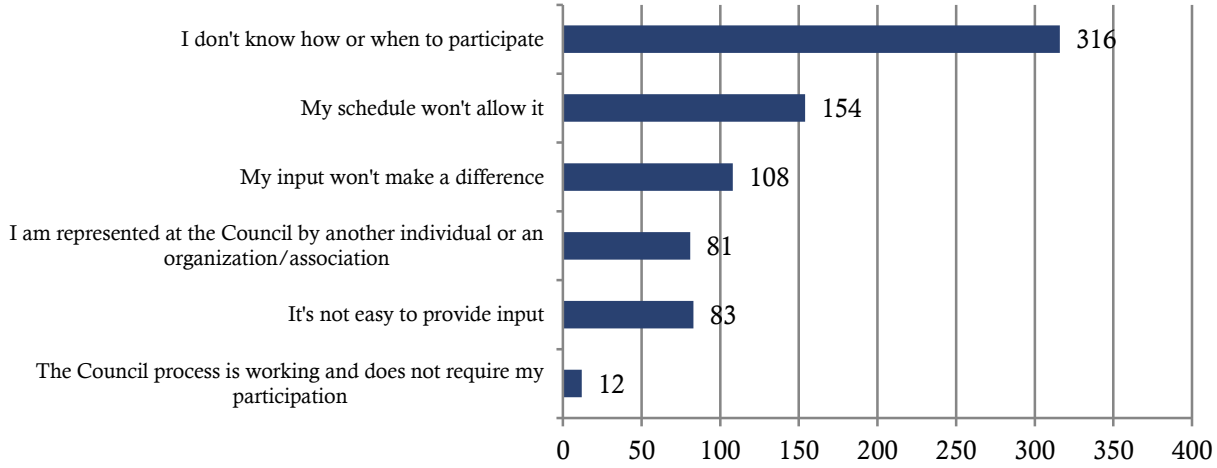

Figure A37: Issues Preventing Participation in Council Process, Recreational Respondents (Q12)

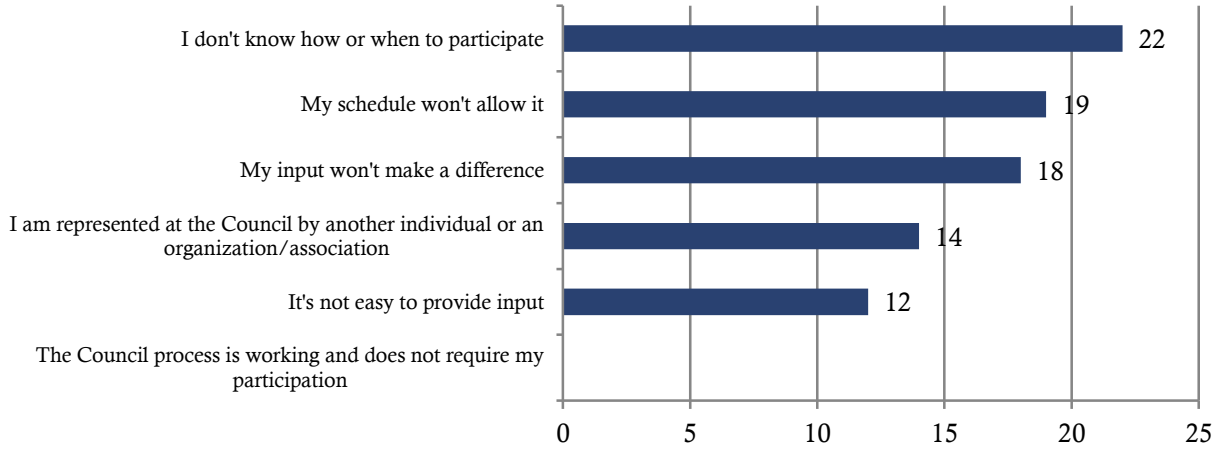

Figure A38: Issues Preventing Participation in Council Process, For-Hire Respondents (Q12)

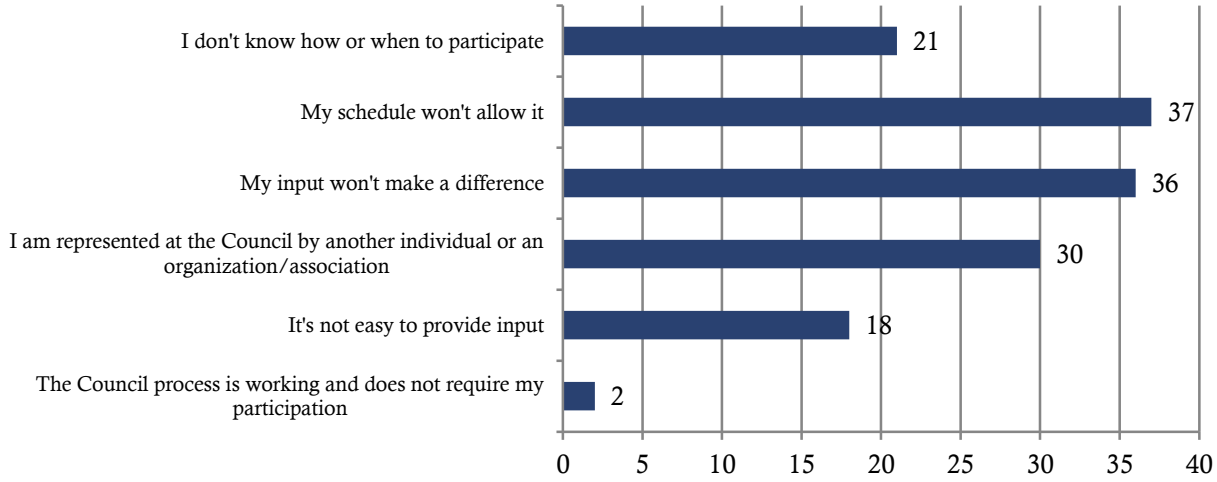

Figure A39: Issues Preventing Participation in Council Process, Commercial Respondents (Q12)

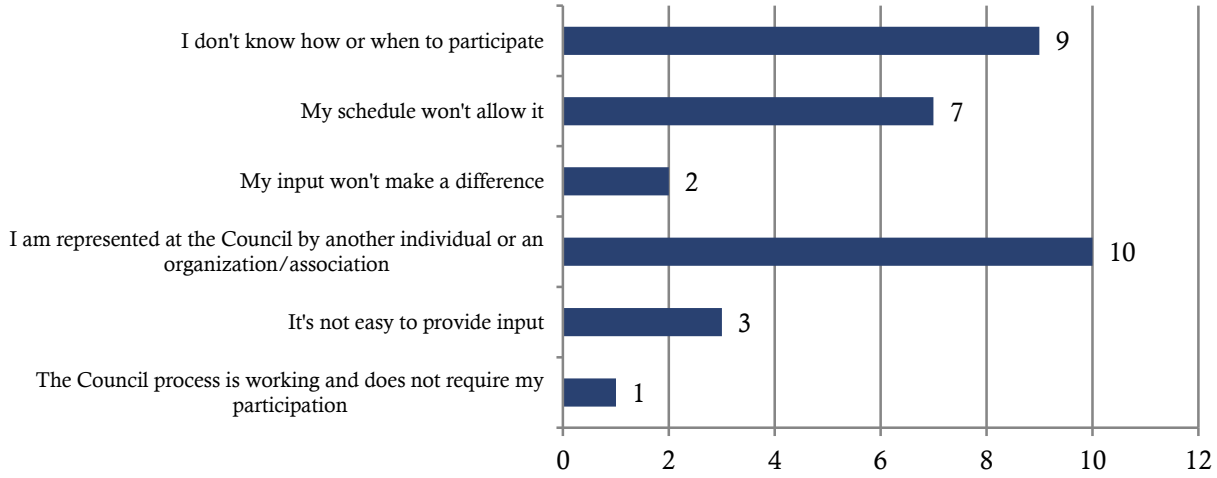

Figure A40: Issues Preventing Participation in Council Process, ENGO Respondents (Q12)

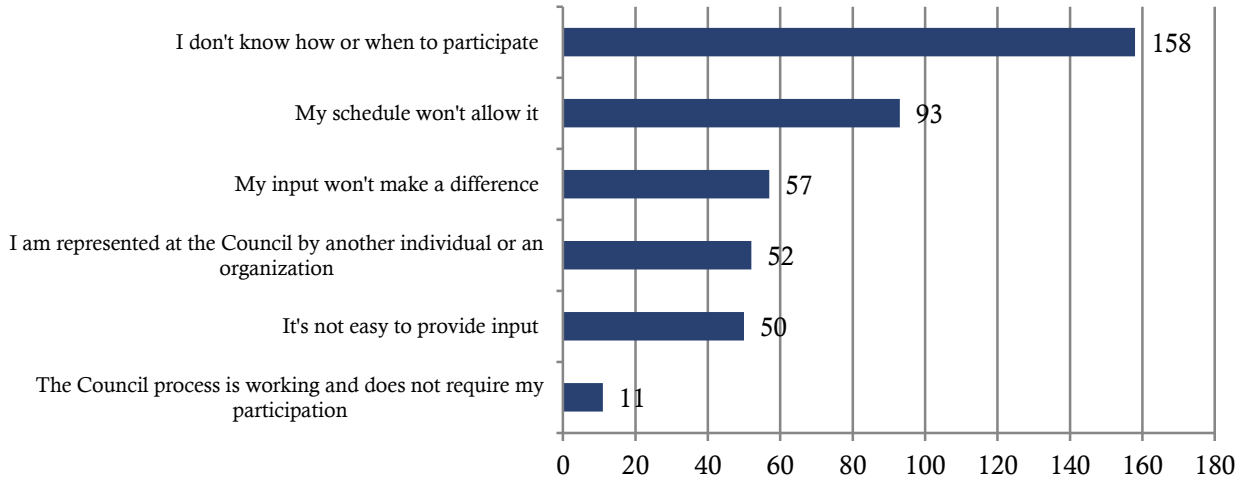

Figure A41: Issues Preventing Participation in Council Process, Interested Public Respondents (Q12)

Question 13: Please rate the importance of the following management objectives.
(On a scale of 1 = not important to 5 = extremely important)

Table A2: Average Rating of Importance of Management Objectives, All Respondents (Q13)

Average Rating	Management Objective
4.3	Reduce bycatch
4.3	Prevent overfishing
4.1	Consider how management decisions impact the ecosystem
4.1	Balance fishing capacity with resource availability
4.0	Improve the system for monitoring fishing activities
4.0	Consider the importance of an active and viable fishing industry to coastal communities
3.9	Fairly balance the concerns of commercial and recreational fishing interests
3.8	Consider the cumulative economic impact of regulations when making further decisions about new regulations
3.8	Reduce impacts from fishing on habitats
3.8	Reduce impacts from fishing on protected resources
3.7	Consider the economic impacts of individual management decisions
3.5	Fairly balance the concerns of users and non-users of the resources impacted by the Council's decisions
3.1	Promote long term flexibility in commercial fishing regulations
3.0	Help to ensure a safe and modern fleet
2.9	Maximize jobs from the sea
2.5	Maximize commercial catch
2.3	Maximize commercial profits

Table A3: Average Rating of Importance of Management Objectives, Recreational Respondents (Q13)

Average Rating	Management Objective
4.4	Reduce bycatch
4.3	Prevent overfishing
4.2	Consider how management decisions impact the ecosystem
4.1	Improve the system for monitoring fishing activities
4.0	Balance fishing capacity with resource availability
4.0	Fairly balance the concerns of commercial and recreational fishing interests
3.9	Consider the importance of an active and viable fishing industry to coastal communities
3.9	Reduce impacts from fishing on habitats
3.8	Reduce impacts from fishing on protected resources
3.7	Consider the cumulative economic impact of regulations when making further decisions about new regulations
3.7	Consider the economic impacts of individual management decisions
3.5	Fairly balance the concerns of users and non-users of the resources impacted by the Council's decisions
2.9	Promote long term flexibility in commercial fishing regulations
2.8	Help to ensure a safe and modern fleet
2.7	Maximize jobs from the sea
2.2	Maximize commercial catch
2.0	Maximize commercial profits

Table A4: Average Rating of Importance of Management Objectives, For-Hire Respondents (Q13)

Average Rating	Management Objective
4.3	Reduce bycatch
4.1	Consider the importance of an active and viable fishing industry to coastal communities
4.1	Fairly balance the concerns of commercial and recreational fishing interests
4.1	Improve the system for monitoring fishing activities
4.1	Prevent overfishing
4.0	Consider how management decisions impact the ecosystem
4.0	Consider the cumulative economic impact of regulations when making further decisions about new regulations
4.0	Balance fishing capacity with resource availability
3.9	Consider the economic impacts of individual management decisions
3.8	Reduce impacts from fishing on habitats
3.7	Reduce impacts from fishing on protected resources
3.6	Fairly balance the concerns of users and non-users of the resources impacted by the Council's decisions
3.3	Promote long term flexibility in commercial fishing regulations
3.2	Maximize jobs from the sea
3.2	Help to ensure a safe and modern fleet
2.6	Maximize commercial catch
2.6	Maximize commercial profits

Table A5: Average Rating of Importance of Management Objectives, Commercial Respondents (Q13)

Average Rating	Management Objective
4.5	Consider the importance of an active and viable fishing industry to coastal communities
4.4	Consider the cumulative economic impact of regulations when making further decisions about new regulations
4.3	Consider the economic impacts of individual management decisions
4.3	Promote long term flexibility in commercial fishing regulations
4.1	Maximize jobs from the sea
4.1	Balance fishing capacity with resource availability
3.9	Maximize commercial catch
3.9	Help to ensure a safe and modern fleet
3.8	Maximize commercial profits
3.8	Prevent overfishing
3.6	Consider how management decisions impact the ecosystem
3.6	Improve the system for monitoring fishing activities
3.5	Fairly balance the concerns of commercial and recreational fishing interests
3.4	Reduce bycatch
3.4	Fairly balance the concerns of users and non-users of the resources impacted by the Council's decisions
3.3	Reduce impacts from fishing on protected resources
3.0	Reduce impacts from fishing on habitats

Table A6: Average Rating of Importance of Management Objectives, ENGO Respondents (Q13)

Average Rating	Management Objective
4.7	Prevent overfishing
4.6	Reduce bycatch
4.6	Consider how management decisions impact the ecosystem
4.4	Reduce impacts from fishing on habitats
4.3	Reduce impacts from fishing on protected resources
4.2	Improve the system for monitoring fishing activities
4.0	Balance fishing capacity with resource availability
3.5	Fairly balance the concerns of commercial and recreational fishing interests
3.5	Fairly balance the concerns of users and non-users of the resources impacted by the Council's decisions
3.2	Consider the importance of an active and viable fishing industry to coastal communities
3.0	Consider the cumulative economic impact of regulations when making further decisions about new regulations
3.0	Consider the economic impacts of individual management decisions
2.7	Promote long term flexibility in commercial fishing regulations
2.7	Help to ensure a safe and modern fleet
2.3	Maximize jobs from the sea
1.9	Maximize commercial catch
1.8	Maximize commercial profits

Table A7: Average Rating of Importance of Management Objectives, Interested Public Respondents (Q13)

Average Rating	Management Objective
4.3	Prevent overfishing
4.3	Reduce bycatch
4.2	Consider how management decisions impact the ecosystem
4.1	Improve the system for monitoring fishing activities
4.0	Balance fishing capacity with resource availability
3.9	Fairly balance the concerns of commercial and recreational fishing interests
3.8	Reduce impacts from fishing on habitats
3.8	Consider the importance of an active and viable fishing industry
3.8	Reduce impacts from fishing on protected resources
3.6	Consider the cumulative economic impact of regulations when making further decisions about new regulations
3.6	Consider the economic impacts of individual management decisions
3.5	Fairly balance the concerns of users and non-users of the resources impacted by the Council's decisions
2.8	Help to ensure a safe and modern fleet
2.8	Promote long term flexibility in commercial fishing regulations
2.6	Maximize jobs from the sea
2.2	Maximize commercial catch
1.9	Maximize commercial profits

Question 14: In your view, what are the top three (3) challenges facing Mid-Atlantic fisheries today?
Results for this question can be found in the next section, entitled 'Summary of Open-Ended Survey Responses'.

Question 15: Please order these priorities 1 to 4, according to your view of which is most important, with 1 being most important and 4 being least important.

Table A8: Average Ranking of Priorities by Stakeholder Group, listed in order of importance (Q15)

All Respondents	Average Ranking
1. Protection of marine ecosystems	2.042
2. Recreational opportunities	2.450
3. Food production	2.702
4. Economic and social factors	2.771

Commercial Respondents	Average Ranking
1. Food production	1.938
2. Economic and social factors	2.276
3. Protection of marine ecosystems	2.531
4. Recreational opportunities	3.241

Recreational Respondents	Average Ranking
1. Protection of marine ecosystems	2.010
2. Recreational opportunities	2.206
3. Food production	2.850
4. Economic and social factors	2.888

For-Hire Respondents	Average Ranking
1. Protection of marine ecosystems	2.241
2. Recreational opportunities	2.297
3. Economic and social factors	2.678
4. Food production	2.763

ENGO Respondents	Average Ranking
1. Protection of marine ecosystems	1.525
2. Recreational opportunities	2.586
3. Food production	2.797
4. Economic and social factors	3.068

Interested Public Respondents	Average Ranking
1. Protection of marine ecosystems	1.853
2. Recreational opportunities	2.543
3. Food production	2.774
4. Economic and social factors	2.800

Question 16: The Council is going to use the results of this survey to develop a vision for Mid-Atlantic fisheries. In your view, what would successful fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic look like?
Results for this question can be found in the next section, entitled 'Summary of Open-Ended Survey Responses'.

Question 17: How concerned are you that these issues threaten economic success in Mid-Atlantic fisheries? (On a scale of 1 = no concern to 5 = very serious concern)

Table A9: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Economic Success, All Respondents (Q17)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Economic Success
4.1	Inconsistent state and federal management
3.8	Lack of representation of fisheries interests in ocean planning
3.7	Complicated regulations and management measures
3.7	Economic effects of overfishing on the commercial fishing industry
3.7	Economic effects of overfishing on the recreational industry
3.5	Frequent changes in management measures and quotas
3.3	Closed fishing seasons limiting fishing opportunities
3.3	Overly restrictive quotas
3.3	Overly restrictive trip/ bag limits
3.2	Lack of access to different fisheries (for new or existing participants)
3.1	Costs (fuel, crew wages, insurance, etc.)
3.1	Rules and regulations limiting innovation in fishing gear or technology
3.1	Conflicts with other ocean user groups
3.1	Excess fishing capacity
2.9	Imports of fish
2.5	Regulations affecting the price of fish
2.5	Lack of domestic fishing infrastructure limiting industry growth
2.4	Lack of coordinated marketing of domestic fish
2.0	Availability of labor

Table A10: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Economic Success, Recreational Respondents (Q17)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Economic Success
4.2	Inconsistent state and federal management
3.9	Lack of representation of fisheries interests in ocean planning
3.9	Economic effects of overfishing on the recreational industry
3.7	Economic effects of overfishing on the commercial fishing industry
3.7	Complicated regulations and management measures
3.5	Frequent changes in management measures and quotas
3.4	Closed fishing seasons limiting fishing opportunities
3.4	Lack of access to different fisheries (for new or existing participants)
3.3	Overly restrictive trip/ bag limits
3.3	Overly restrictive quotas
3.3	Excess fishing capacity
3.2	Conflicts with other ocean user groups
3.1	Costs (fuel, crew wages, insurance, etc.)
3.1	Rules and regulations limiting innovation in fishing gear or technology
2.9	Imports of fish
2.6	Lack of domestic fishing infrastructure limiting industry growth
2.5	Regulations affecting the price of fish
2.4	Lack of coordinated marketing of domestic fish
2.0	Availability of labor

Table A11: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Economic Success, For-Hire Respondents (Q17)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Economic Success
4.3	Inconsistent state and federal management
4.2	Lack of representation of fisheries interests in ocean planning
3.9	Complicated regulations and management measures
3.9	Costs (fuel, crew wages, insurance, etc.)
3.9	Economic effects of overfishing on the recreational industry
3.8	Closed fishing seasons limiting fishing opportunities
3.8	Frequent changes in management measures and quotas
3.8	Economic effects of overfishing on the commercial fishing industry
3.7	Overly restrictive quotas
3.7	Overly restrictive trip/ bag limits
3.6	Lack of access to different fisheries (for new or existing participants)
3.5	Excess fishing capacity
3.5	Conflicts with other ocean user groups
3.4	Rules and regulations limiting innovation in fishing gear or technology
3.2	Imports of fish
3.1	Lack of domestic fishing infrastructure limiting industry growth
2.9	Regulations affecting the price of fish
2.9	Lack of coordinated marketing of domestic fish
2.5	Availability of labor

Table A12: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Economic Success, For-Hire Respondents (Q17)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Economic Success
4.4	Costs (fuel, crew wages, insurance, etc.)
4.4	Lack of representation of fisheries interests in ocean planning
4.4	Complicated regulations and management measures
4.3	Overly restrictive quotas
4.3	Frequent changes in management measures and quotas
4.2	Inconsistent state and federal management
4.1	Closed fishing seasons limiting fishing opportunities
4.1	Imports of fish
4.1	Regulations affecting the price of fish
4.0	Overly restrictive trip/ bag limits
3.9	Rules and regulations limiting innovation in fishing gear or technology
3.8	Economic effects of overfishing on the commercial fishing industry
3.8	Lack of access to different fisheries (for new or existing participants)
3.7	Conflicts with other ocean user groups
3.7	Lack of domestic fishing infrastructure limiting industry growth
3.7	Lack of coordinated marketing of domestic fish
3.4	Excess fishing capacity
3.3	Economic effects of overfishing on the recreational industry
3.3	Availability of labor

Table A13: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Economic Success, ENGO Respondents (Q17)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Economic Success
3.9	Economic effects of overfishing on the commercial fishing industry
3.7	Economic effects of overfishing on the recreational industry
3.5	Inconsistent state and federal management
3.5	Lack of representation of fisheries interests in ocean planning
3.4	Excess fishing capacity
3.2	Conflicts with other ocean user groups
3.0	Complicated regulations and management measures
2.8	Imports of fish
2.8	Frequent changes in management measures and quotas
2.7	Rules and regulations limiting innovation in fishing gear or technology
2.6	Lack of access to different fisheries (for new or existing participants)
2.4	Costs (fuel, crew wages, insurance, etc.)
2.3	Lack of coordinated marketing of domestic fish
2.3	Closed fishing seasons limiting fishing opportunities
2.3	Lack of domestic fishing infrastructure limiting industry growth
2.2	Overly restrictive trip/ bag limits
2.2	Overly restrictive quotas
2.1	Regulations affecting the price of fish
2.0	Availability of labor

Table A14: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Economic Success, Interested Public Respondents (Q17)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Economic Success
4.0	Inconsistent state and federal management
3.8	Economic effects of overfishing on the commercial fishing industry
3.8	Lack of representation of fisheries interests in ocean planning
3.8	Economic effects of overfishing on the recreational industry
3.4	Complicated regulations and management measures
3.3	Frequent changes in management measures and quotas
3.3	Excess fishing capacity
3.2	Conflicts with other ocean user groups
3.1	Lack of access to different fisheries (for new or existing participants)
3.1	Imports of fish
3.0	Rules and regulations limiting innovation in fishing gear or technology
2.8	Costs (fuel, crew wages, insurance, etc.)
2.8	Overly restrictive quotas
2.7	Closed fishing seasons limiting fishing opportunities
2.7	Overly restrictive trip/ bag limits
2.5	Lack of domestic fishing infrastructure limiting industry growth
2.5	Lack of coordinated marketing of domestic fish
2.4	Regulations affecting the price of fish
2.0	Availability of labor

Question 18: How can the Council make it easier for you to plan for your business? (if applicable)
Results for this question can be found in the next section, entitled 'Summary of Open-Ended Survey Responses'.

Question 19: How concerned are you that these issues hinder your recreational experience? (On a scale of 1 = no concern to 5 = very serious concern)

Table A15: Average Rating of Issues Most Hindering Recreational Experience, Recreational Respondents (Q19)

Average Rating	Issues Hindering Recreational Experience
4.2	Water pollution
4.2	Overfishing affecting the availability of fish species
4.0	Inconsistent state and federal management
3.6	Conflicts with commercial fishing gear
3.5	Complicated regulations and management measures
3.5	Frequent changes in management measures/quotas
3.3	Conflicts with other user groups
3.3	Closed fishing areas
3.2	Costs (fuel, bait, gear, lodging, etc.)
3.1	Fishing seasons too short
2.9	Overly restrictive bag limits
2.4	Having to release undersized fish

Table A16: Average Rating of Issues Most Hindering Recreational Experience, For-Hire Respondents (Q19)

Average Rating	Issues Hindering Recreational Experience
4.3	Inconsistent state and federal management
4.1	Overfishing affecting the availability of fish species
3.9	Water pollution
3.9	Complicated regulations and management measures
3.8	Costs (fuel, bait, gear, lodging, etc.)
3.8	Frequent changes in management measures/quotas
3.6	Fishing seasons too short
3.6	Closed fishing areas
3.5	Conflicts with commercial fishing gear
3.5	Overly restrictive bag limits
3.4	Conflicts with other user groups
2.7	Having to release undersized fish

Table A17: Average Rating of Issues Most Hindering Recreational Experience, Recreational User Respondents (Q19)

Average Rating	Issues Hindering Recreational Experience
4.3	Overfishing affecting the availability of fish species
4.2	Water pollution
4.0	Inconsistent state and federal management
3.7	Conflicts with commercial fishing gear
3.5	Complicated regulations and management measures
3.4	Frequent changes in management measures/quotas
3.4	Conflicts with other user groups
3.3	Closed fishing areas
3.2	Costs (fuel, bait, gear, lodging, etc.)
3.1	Fishing seasons too short
3.0	Overly restrictive bag limits
2.3	Having to release undersized fish

Question 20: How can the Council better manage recreational fishing to improve your experience?
Results for this question can be found in the next section, entitled 'Summary of Open-Ended Survey Responses'.

Question 21: How concerned are you that these issues threaten sustainable management of Mid-Atlantic fisheries? (On a scale of 1 = no concern to 5 = very serious concern)

Table A18: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Sustainable Management, All Respondents (Q21)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Sustainable Management
4.3	Bycatch and/or discard mortality
4.2	Habitat loss and destruction
4.2	Poorly planned management measures
4.2	Lack of accurate biological data
4.2	Regulatory non-compliance in commercial fisheries
4.1	Lack of fish reproduction
4.1	Overfishing
4.1	Poorly understood ecosystem interactions
4.1	Pollution
4.1	Forage species management
4.0	Lack of timely data
3.7	Regulatory non-compliance in recreational fisheries
3.5	Lack of accurate social and cultural data
3.3	Increasing multiple uses of marine areas
2.9	Climate change

Table A19: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Sustainable Management, Recreational Respondents (Q21)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Sustainable Management
4.4	Bycatch and/or discard mortality
4.4	Regulatory non-compliance in commercial fisheries
4.3	Habitat loss and destruction
4.2	Overfishing
4.2	Lack of fish reproduction
4.2	Forage species management
4.2	Poorly planned management measures
4.2	Lack of accurate biological data
4.1	Pollution
4.1	Poorly understood ecosystem interactions
4.0	Lack of timely data
3.6	Regulatory non-compliance in recreational fisheries
3.4	Lack of accurate social and cultural data
3.3	Increasing multiple uses of marine areas
2.7	Climate change

Table A20: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Sustainable Management, For-Hire Respondents (Q21)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Sustainable Management
4.4	Poorly planned management measures
4.3	Lack of accurate biological data
4.3	Bycatch and/or discard mortality
4.3	Lack of timely data
4.3	Habitat loss and destruction
4.2	Poorly understood ecosystem interactions
4.1	Forage species management
4.1	Lack of fish reproduction
4.1	Overfishing
4.0	Regulatory non-compliance in commercial fisheries
3.9	Pollution
3.8	Regulatory non-compliance in recreational fisheries
3.6	Lack of accurate social and cultural data
3.4	Increasing multiple uses of marine areas
2.8	Climate change

Table A21: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Sustainable Management, Commercial Respondents (Q21)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Sustainable Management
4.3	Lack of accurate biological data
4.3	Poorly planned management measures
4.1	Lack of timely data
4.0	Poorly understood ecosystem interactions
3.9	Pollution
3.9	Lack of accurate social and cultural data
3.8	Lack of fish reproduction
3.8	Regulatory non-compliance in recreational fisheries
3.7	Habitat loss and destruction
3.6	Bycatch and/or discard mortality
3.5	Increasing multiple uses of marine areas
3.4	Overfishing
3.4	Forage species management
3.1	Regulatory non-compliance in commercial fisheries
3.0	Climate change

Table A22: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Sustainable Management, ENGO Respondents (Q21)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Sustainable Management
4.5	Habitat loss and destruction
4.5	Forage species management
4.4	Poorly understood ecosystem interactions
4.4	Overfishing
4.3	Lack of fish reproduction
4.3	Bycatch and/or discard mortality
4.2	Regulatory non-compliance in commercial fisheries
4.0	Lack of accurate biological data
4.0	Pollution
3.9	Lack of timely data
3.8	Poorly planned management measures
3.7	Increasing multiple uses of marine areas
3.6	Climate change
3.4	Regulatory non-compliance in recreational fisheries
3.2	Lack of accurate social and cultural data

Table A23: Average Rating of Issues Most Threatening Sustainable Management, Interested Public Respondents (Q21)

Average Rating	Issues Threatening Sustainable Management
4.4	Habitat loss and destruction
4.4	Regulatory non-compliance in commercial fisheries
4.4	Bycatch and/or discard mortality
4.4	Overfishing
4.3	Lack of fish reproduction
4.3	Pollution
4.2	Lack of accurate biological data
4.2	Forage species management
4.2	Poorly understood ecosystem interactions
4.2	Poorly planned management measures
4.0	Lack of timely data
3.8	Regulatory non-compliance in recreational fisheries
3.4	Lack of accurate social and cultural data
3.4	Increasing multiple uses of marine areas
3.3	Climate change

Question 22: In your view, are there recent environmental or ecological changes in the Mid-Atlantic ecosystem that require the Council's consideration? If yes, please describe.
Results for this question can be found in the next section, entitled 'Summary of Open-Ended Survey Responses'.

Question 23: How important are ecosystem-based fishery management plans as a Council tool for achieving sustainable fisheries?

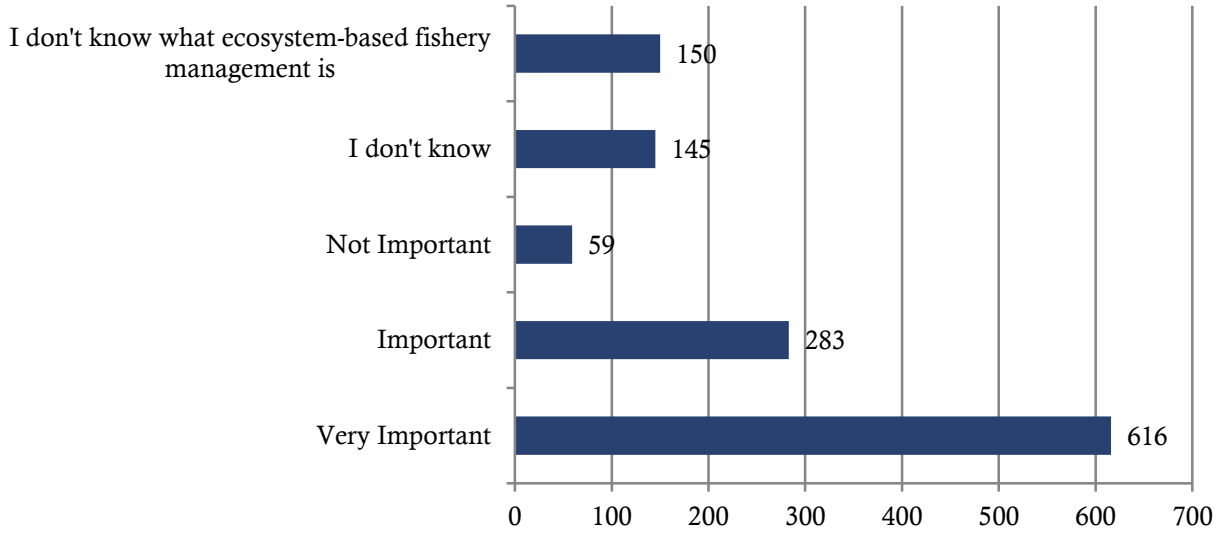

Figure A42: Importance of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Plans, All Respondents (Q23)

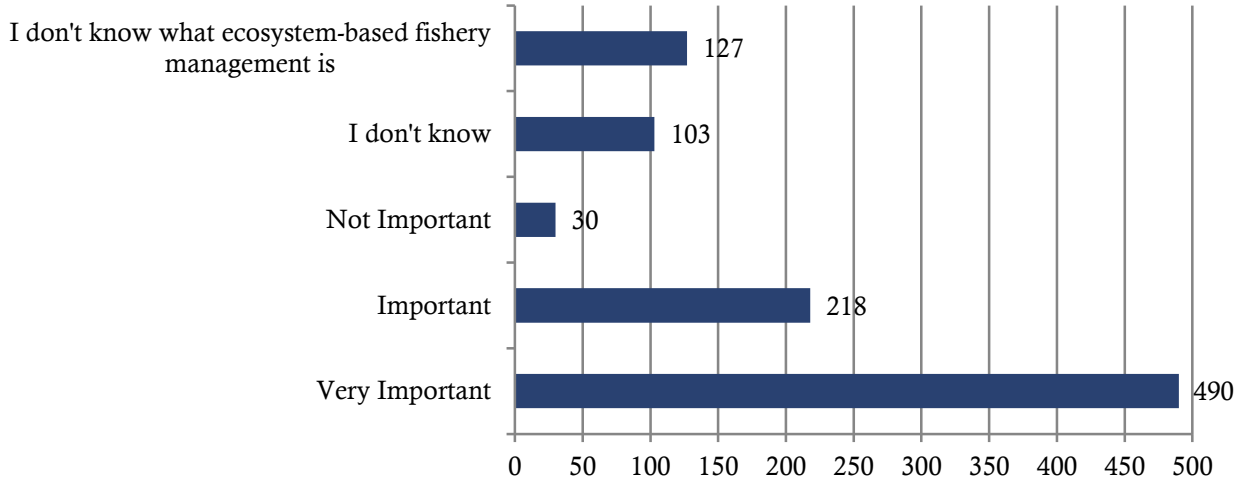

Figure A43: Importance of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Plans, Recreational Respondents (Q23)

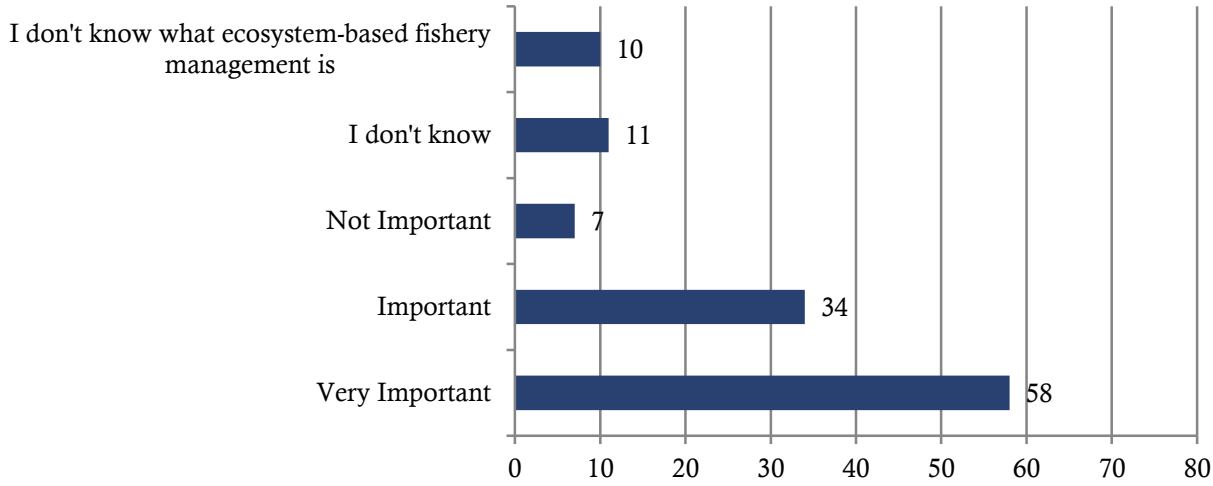

Figure A44: Importance of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Plans, For-Hire Respondents (Q23)

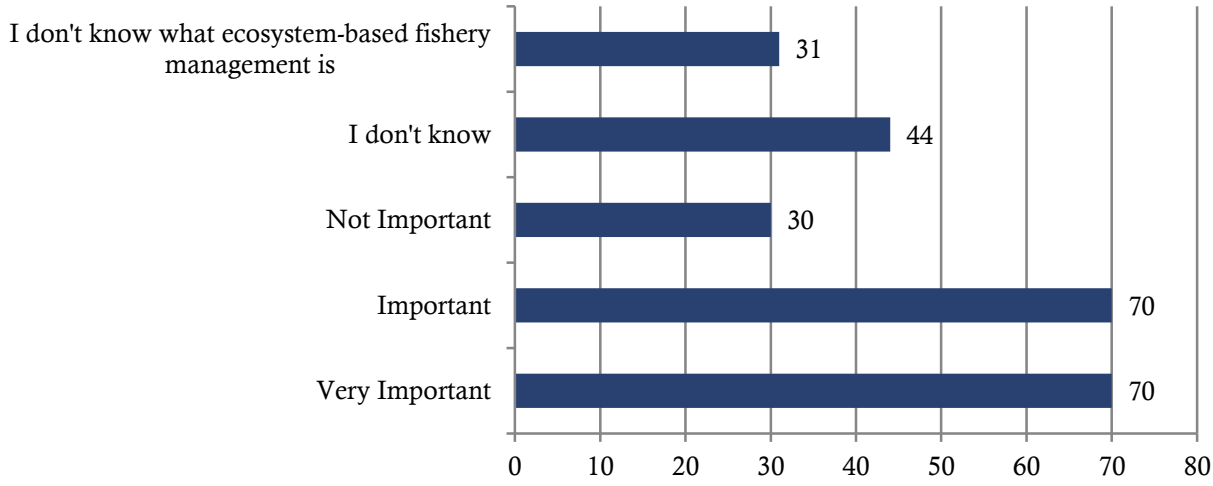

Figure A45: Importance of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Plans, Commercial Respondents (Q23)

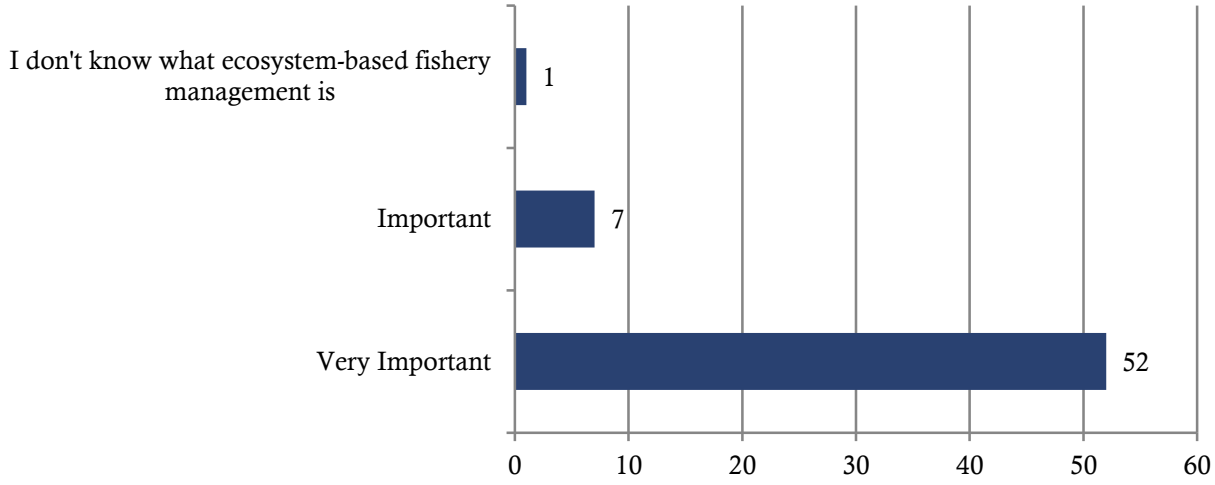

Figure A46: Importance of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Plans, ENGO Respondents (Q23)

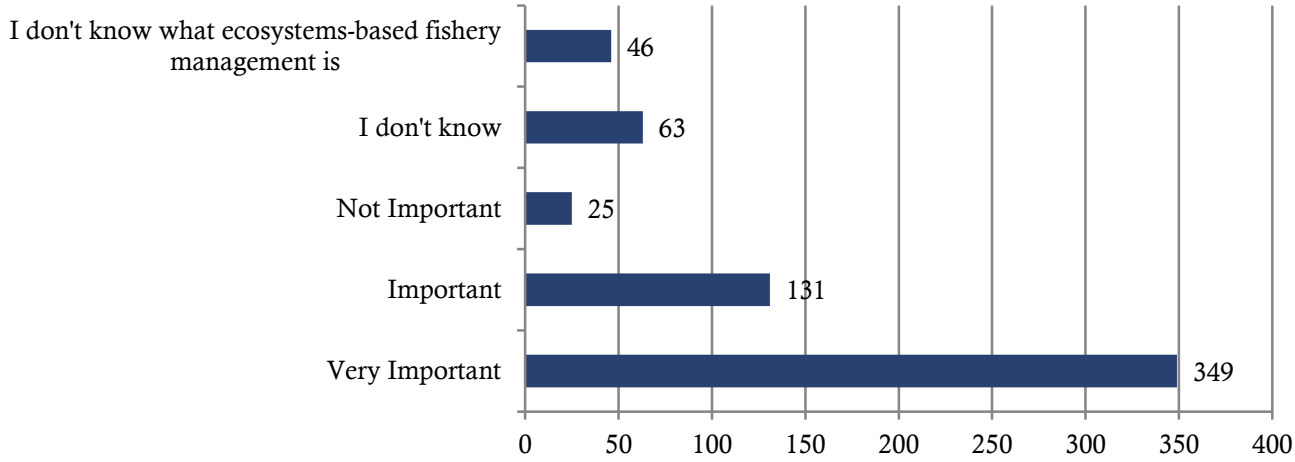

Figure A47: Importance of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Plans, Interested Public Respondents (Q23)

<u>Question 24:</u> How satisfied are you with the evolution of ecosystem-based management approaches in the Mid-Atlantic?

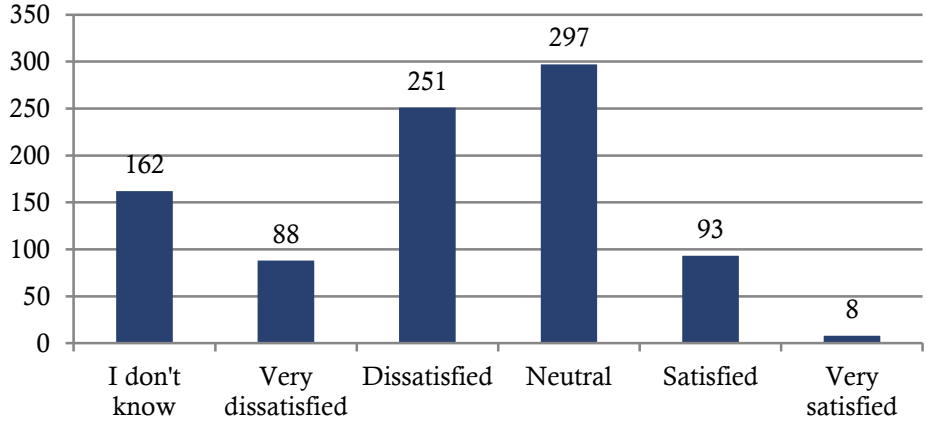

Figure A48: Level of Satisfaction with Evolution of EBM Approaches in Mid-Atlantic, All Respondents (Q24)

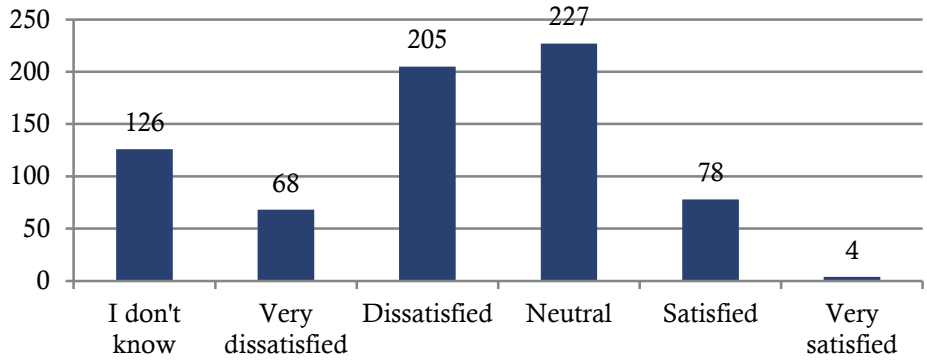

Figure A49: Level of Satisfaction with Evolution of EBM Approaches in Mid-Atlantic, Recreational Respondents (Q24)

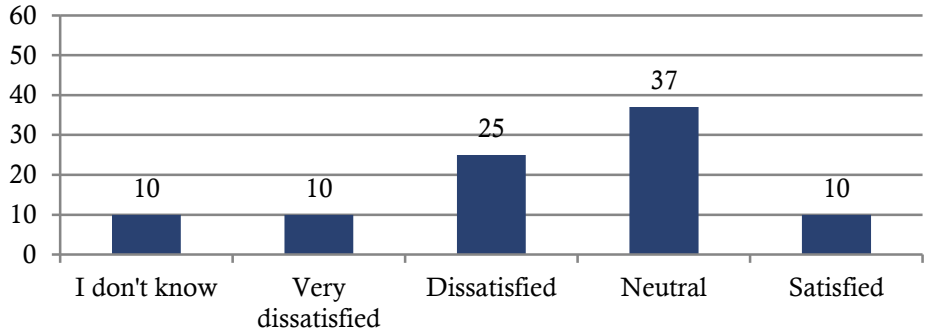

Figure A50: Level of Satisfaction with Evolution of EBM Approaches in Mid-Atlantic, For-Hire Respondents (Q24)

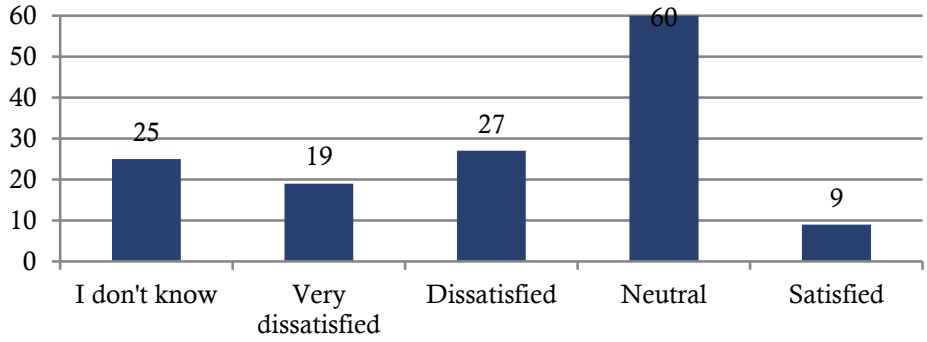

Figure A51: Level of Satisfaction with Evolution of EBM Approaches in Mid-Atlantic, Commercial Respondents (Q24)

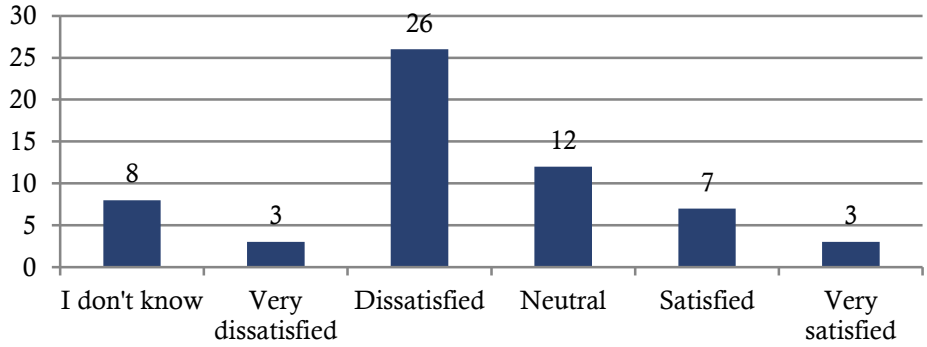

Figure A52: Level of Satisfaction with Evolution of EBM Approaches in Mid-Atlantic, ENGO Respondents (Q24)

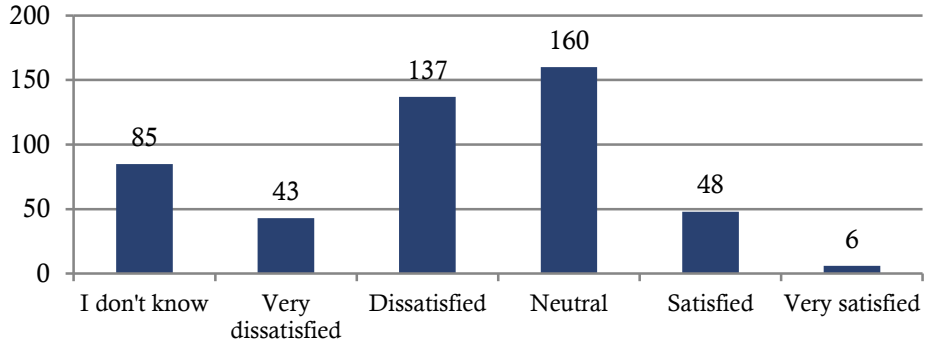

Figure A53: Level of Satisfaction with Evolution of EBM Approaches in Mid-Atlantic, Interested Public Respondents (Q24)

<u>Question 25:</u> The Council is trying to improve its future performance. Please indicate how you would rate the Council's performance in the following areas.

(On a scale of 1 = very poor to 5 = excellent)

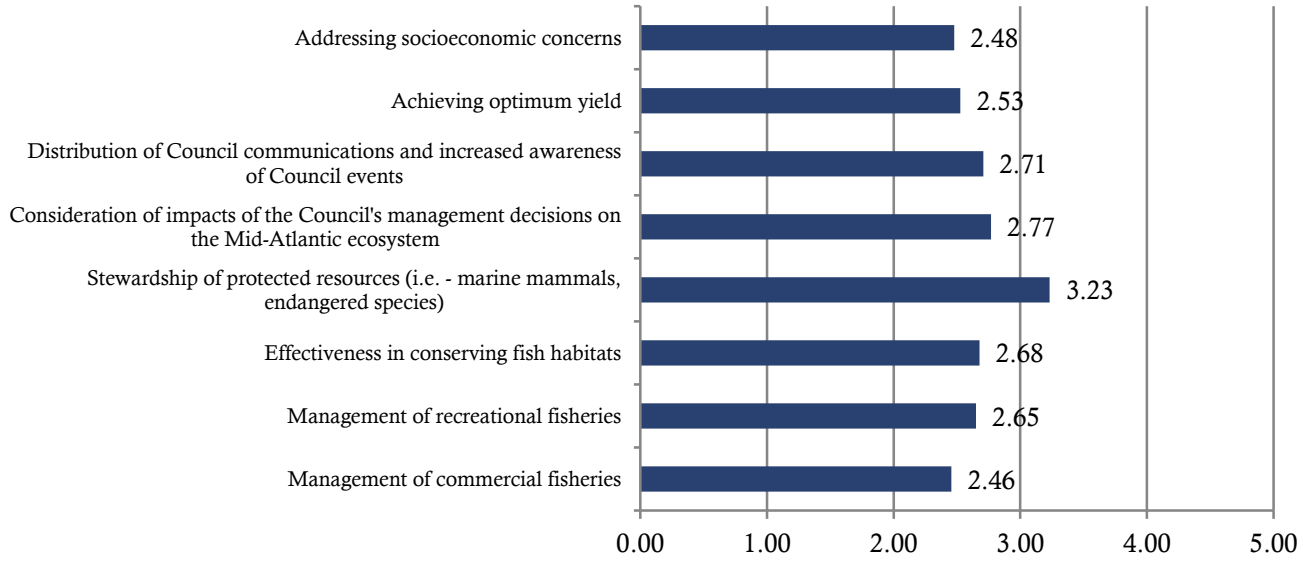

Figure A54: Average Rating of Council's Performance, All Respondents (Q25)

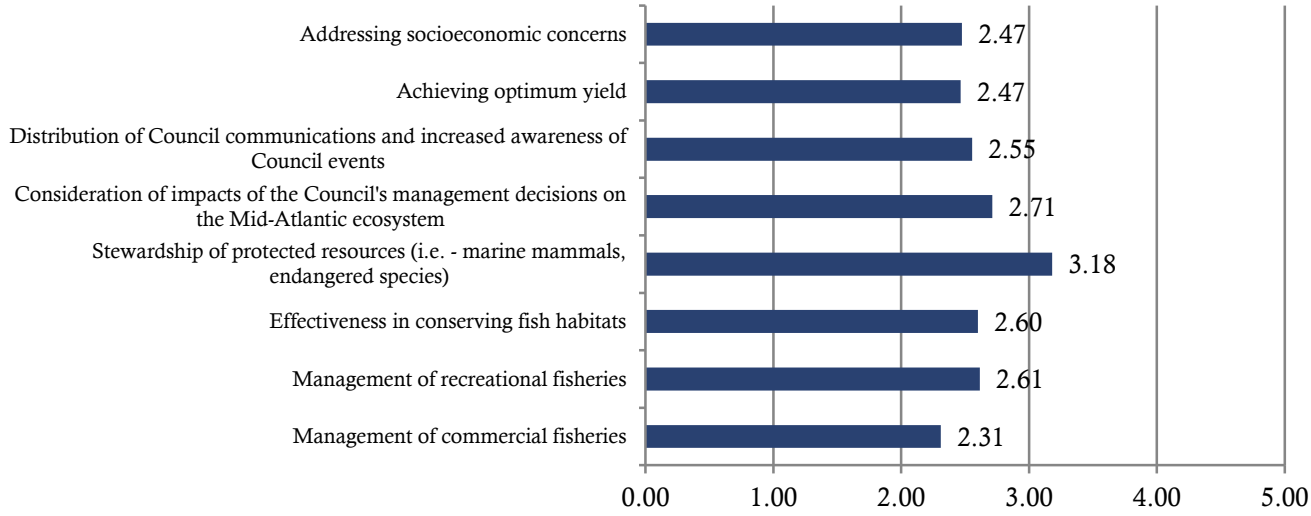

Figure A55: Average Rating of Council's Performance, Recreational Respondents (Q25)

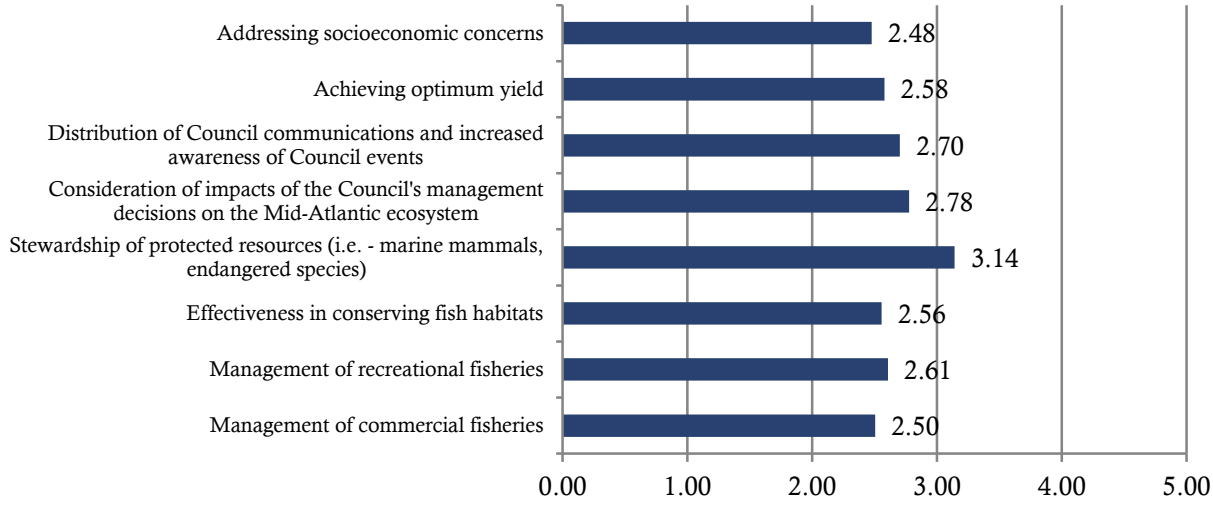

Figure A56: Average Rating of Council's Performance, For-Hire Respondents (Q25)

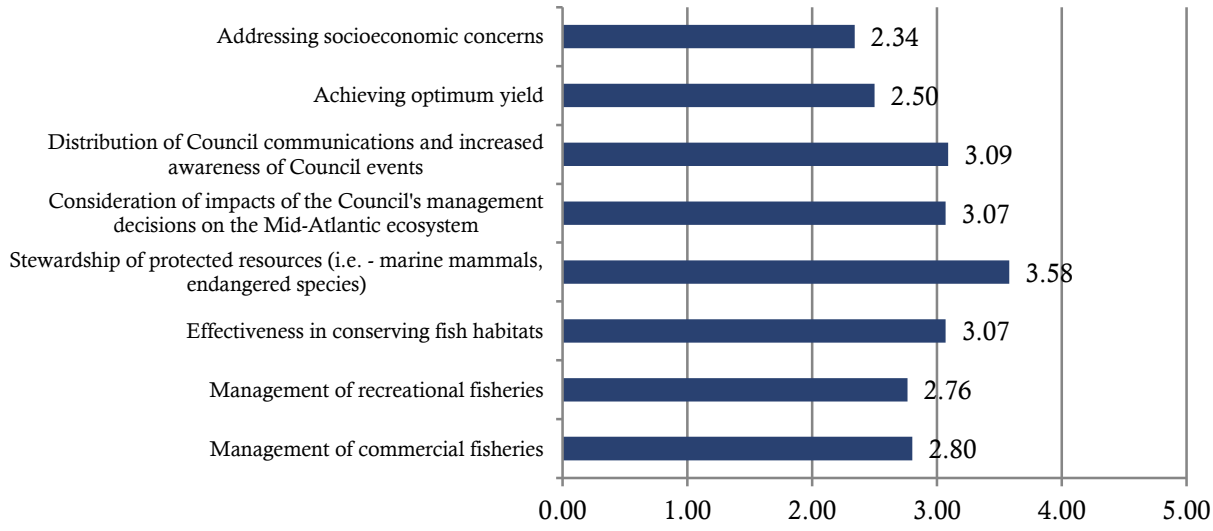

Figure A57: Average Rating of Council's Performance, Commercial Respondents (Q25)

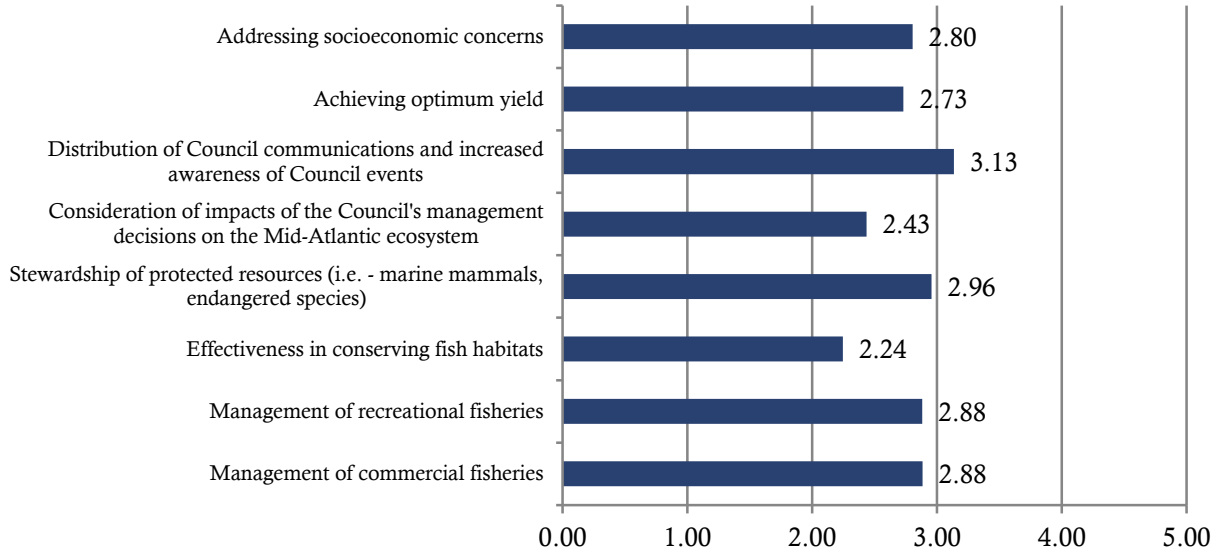

Figure A58: Average Rating of Council's Performance, ENGO Respondents (Q25)

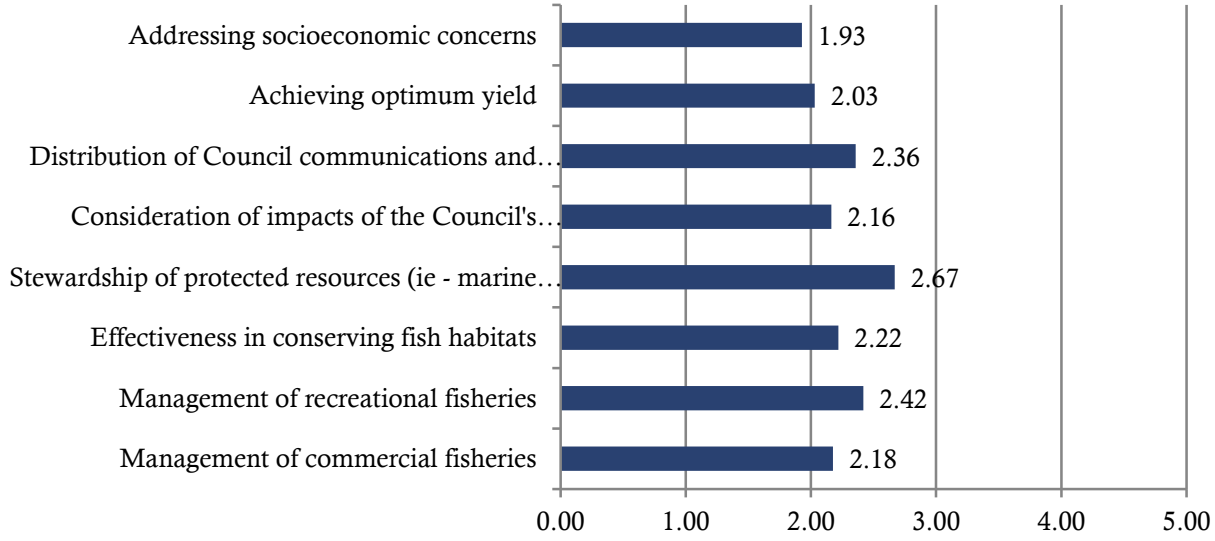

Figure A59: Average Rating of Council's Performance, Interested Public Respondents (Q25)

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

Results for this question can be found in the next section, entitled 'Summary of Open-Ended Survey Responses'.

Summary of Open-Ended Question Responses

This section contains analysis of stakeholder responses for each of the open-ended questions in the survey. For each question, responses were analyzed and categorized; the most commonly cited themes within each of the five stakeholder groups' responses are depicted in the tables below. Use the links below to directly access each of the stakeholder group's responses.

Recreational Fishermen Responses

Question 14: What are the top three (3) challenges facing Mid-Atlantic fisheries today?

Most Common Responses: Recreational Fishermen	Percentage of Recreational Respondents
Preventing overfishing • *"Establishing adequate rules and regulations to prevent overfishing."* • *"Overfishing by commercial fisherman."*	30%
Depletion of forage species • *"Destruction of the Menhaden and numerous other critical bait fish that could cause a severe impact on all fish that depend on these species."* • *"Preventing the declining population of bait fish (e.g., menhaden)."*	25%
Reducing unnecessary discards • *"Bycatch mortality."* • *"Waste of the fisheries resource by inefficient, outdated commercial fishing techniques and strategies*	19%
Inaccurate data used to make decisions • *"Unreliable or inaccurate-un-scientific data used to make decisions."* • *"Managing with poor, incomplete data."*	16%
Influence of special interest groups • *"Not being swayed to favoring commercial interests due to political and financial influences."* • *"The over influence of environmental organizations on fisheries."*	15%
Lack of enforcement of regulations • *"Proper enforcement of fishing regulations for commercial and recreational fishermen."* • *"Stiffer fines and penalties for those who don't follow the rules."*	14%
Inconsistent allocation between commercial and recreational sectors • *"Balancing recreational and commercial catches fairly."* • *"Equitable distribution of quotas between Commercial and Recreational Fisherman"* • *"Allowing commercial interests larger harvest limits and reduced catch size limits."*	14%

<u>Question 16:</u> The Council is going to use the results of this survey to develop a vision for Mid-Atlantic fisheries. In your view, what would successful fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic look like?

Most Common Responses: Recreational Fishermen	Percentage of Recreational Respondents
Healthy, sustainable fishery • *"Strong populations of the important species in the management area."* • *"Healthy, abundant and growing fish stocks that offer a sustainable resource for generations to come."*	24%
Balance of diverse stakeholder needs • *"A fisheries in which all participants and states have equal and maximum opportunity to participate while the marine ecosystems remain healthy."* • *"Equal catch opportunities for all through accurate reporting and data collection."*	22%
Improved data and science • *"A successful council would be one that based its rulings on solid scientific fact and real time information."* • *"Fisheries managed with better data and real consideration of input by the various user group."*	15%
Focus on a healthy ecosystem as the top priority • *"Successful fisheries need to prioritize protection of marine ecosystems, spawning grounds, and invest in projects which help to stabilize and restore overfished and declining species"* • *"Sustainable fishing (recreational and commercial fishermen getting along and working together) to keep the ecosystems healthy and thriving, citizens understand the importance of having a healthy marine ecosystem to their food."*	15%
Greater fishing opportunities • *"Maximum recreation resources to be used by a growing public."* • *"Fishing opportunities for species that are rebuilt that offer the recreational fishing community and the businesses that depend on it a fair opportunity to enjoy the resource to the fullest extent and sustain a living by it."*	14%
Reduced bycatch mortality • *"Reevaluation of commercial fishing practices to reduce bycatch and premature mortality rates.* • *"Have meaningful catch and bycatch regulations (commercial and recreational alike)."*	9%
Abundant forage • *"Protecting our bait fish that our larger predators rely on to remain healthy and plentiful."* • *"Protection of the food chain, especially menhaden."*	9%

<u>Question 18:</u> How can the Council make it easier for you to plan for your business? (if applicable)

Most Common Responses: Recreational Fishermen	Percentage of Recreational Respondents
Provide longer lead times • *"Don't wait until the last minute to announce decisions that may affect what is caught and how much is caught."* • *"Let us know season sooner at year ahead."*	26%
Avoid closed seasons • *"Do not shut down the fisheries. People that sell tackle and equipment have been hit hard by the closures and other regulations."* • *"Avoid closed seasons and cut back on things that destroy our resources.*	19%
Base decisions on more timely, accurate data • *"Basing decisions using actual facts and science and not basing decisions and quotas from antiquated science and computer models."* • *"By working diligently to make science based decisions I think the best use of the resource will be for promoting sustainability and using less destructive commercial fishing gear."*	10%
More outreach and stakeholder engagement • *"Greater flexibility in creative solutions that offer participation opportunity to recreational fisherman when creating regulations."* • *"Much better outreach programs."*	10%

<u>Question 20:</u> How can the Council better manage recreational fishing to improve your experience?

Most Common Responses: Recreational Fishermen	Percentage of Recreational Respondents
Improve the data and science • *"Use better methods to obtain accurate counts of recreational harvest."* • *"Use better science in determining fish populations."*	14%
Rebuild the stock • *"Reestablish the fish populations, even if sharp reductions in catch for both commercial and recreational fishermen are initially necessary."* • *"We may have to bite the bullet for a few years … it will be well worth it ! Do whatever is needed, to replenish the stocks and good sizes."*	7%
Prevent commercial overfishing • *"Limiting the catch quotas of the commercial fleet is the only way to improve the recreational experience.* • *"Limit overfishing commercially for baitfish and target species."*	6%
Improve coordination and consistency between state and federal regulations • *"Require State regulatory bodies to coordinate species size, possession limits and season dates with neighboring States to reduce confusion and conflict in border areas."* • *"Work to better align quotas / regulations between state and federal waters, so that the regulations are similar coastwide."*	6%
Set regulations that are equitable with the commercial sector • *"Provide a more fair split with commercial when setting regulations. Keep size limits same for both sides."* • *"Having the same size limits for recreational and commercial fisheries, as well as the same open seasons."*	6%
Consider the use of slot limits • *"Have slot limits and release breeder fish allowing one trophy fish."* • *"Include a 'slot fish' so that Inland fisherman can at least take one fish home for dinner for species such as summer flounder."*	5%
Focus on restoring forage species • *"Reduce the decimation of forage species."* • *"Impose strict quotas on menhaden overfishing."*	5%
Allow longer seasons • *"Trying to keep seasons open as long as possible is more important than kill and size limits."* • *"Limit closed seasons and manage size and bag limits to maximize open access."*	5%
Maintain consistent regulations • *"More consistency in regulations, bag limits, and closed areas."* • *"Consistent year to year management measures; i.e.: seasons, size & bag limits"*	5%

<u>Question 22:</u> In your view, are there recent environmental or ecological changes in the Mid-Atlantic ecosystem that require the Council's consideration?

Most Common Responses; Recreational Fishermen	Percentage of Recreational Respondents
Increase in pollution • *"Fertilizers, manure, pesticides, etc. are all running into our bays and oceans causing lack of oxygen and algae blooms."* • *"What is being dumped into our rivers, bays, and ocean via runoff is a huge concern."*	26%
Depletion of forage • *"Management of the forage species and the relationship to clean water."* • *"The forage base for predators (menhaden) has been overfished."*	24%
Impacts of climate change and warmer water temperatures • *"Climate change and its impact on ocean temperatures deserves constant review and analysis, especially as it relates to fish reproduction."* • *"Warming water temps and the effect on seasonal movements on different species."*	13%
Loss of habitat • *"Habitat destruction in the estuaries threatens the entire food chain."* • *"Loss of habitat & breeding grounds. "*	9%
Migration of fish stocks • *"Increasing average temperatures appear to be shifting distributions northward."* • *"Ocean temperatures seem to be fluctuating. Some species are moving in to new areas. (Cod in Maryland) Migration patterns seem to be fluctuating (Bluefish and stripers seem to be staying farther offshore."*	8%
Effects of gear • *"Destruction of viable habitat and depletion of apex predators by commercial fishing gear."* • *"Reef management. They are 'home' to a multitude of species and destruction of these is terrible. Allowing commercial pot fisherman total access to reefs puts a strain on species and also makes it difficult for the recreational fisherman to safely fish these areas. I also think the development of 'reef sites' along the coast has helped and it needs to continue."*	6%

<u>Question 26:</u> If you could make one change in the way Mid-Atlantic fisheries are managed, what would it be?

Most Common Responses: Recreational Fishermen	Percentage of Recreational Respondents
Improve the accuracy of the data • *"Accurate, complete and understandable data."* • *"Get correct data before making changes to the rules and regulations. We need real studies not computer models."*	9%
Increase stakeholder involvement • *"More hands-on, in-your-face participation. Improved on the water observation and data collection…. First hand personal involvement in seeing the effects of a decision on the industries and communities these decisions effect. Not 'ruling from afar' in other words."* • *"As it stands, a very select few people are able to argue their opinions or suggestions to affect fisheries management. More feedback from the fishing community seems more logical. A better compromise between the council and the public is a must."*	8%
Focus on Restoring Forage Species • *"Provide greater protections for forage species."* • *"Put more effort into making sure that the menhaden are a healthy and flourishing fishery."*	7%
Remove politics from the process • *"Ignore political influence and remain firm in science-based management."* • *"Common sense decisions without political interference."*	7%
Improve the science used to make decisions • *"Upgrade the science to reflect reality and equity."* • *"Base decisions on adequate science about the resource rather than 'shooting in the dark' as is often done."*	5%
Focus on rebuilding the fisheries • *"They must be managed to ensure viability of our fisheries for future generations, and to rebuild our stocks."* • *"Have the courage to make tough decisions limiting fishing so that the populations can be re-established."*	5%
Improve communications and outreach • *"You need to find a way to communicate with the recreational fisherman and tell your story: the what, when, how, why, and where. In a brief and easily understandable format."* • *"Improve the process by increased communication to those impacted by the Mid-Atlantic council's decisions."*	5%
Change the Council make up to better represent all stakeholders • *"Have an equal number of recreational, commercial, and scientific interests on the boards/councils. We need all parties to work together to achieve the goals necessary for healthy, sustainable fisheries for years to come. Everyone has a valued voice."* • *"More recreational representation and less input from biased political appointees."*	4%

For-Hire Industry Responses

Question 14: What are the top three (3) challenges facing Mid-Atlantic fisheries today?

Most Common Responses: For-Hire Industry	Percentage of For-Hire Respondents
Inaccurate data used to make decisions • *"The Data Challenge: MRFSS --and the use of MRFSS-- has sorely clouded managers' ability to understand the true nature of recreational fishing."* • *"Obtaining more accurate and trustworthy catch data.*	23%
Preventing overfishing • *"Controlling commercial overfishing."* • *"Preventing overfishing with attention to long term sustainability of the resource."*	21%
Inconsistent allocation between commercial and recreational sectors • *"Level the playing field between commercial and recreational fishing."* • *"Let charter and recreational catch same size limits of commercial fisherman"*	20%
Influence of special interest groups • *"Keeping the political influence out of any decision making process."* • *"Do not let the special interest commercial groups run the fishery."*	15%
Reducing unnecessary discards • *"Reduce bycatch."* • *"Better monitoring of bycatch by trawlers and netters."*	15%
Need for balance of diverse stakeholder interests • *"How to manage the fine line between commercial and recreational fishing."* • *"Managing the diversity and conflicting desires of multiple user groups."*	13%
Lack of enforcement of regulations • *"Control the illegal catching fish of all species."* • *"We need more law enforcement and spot checks both at the dock and at sea."*	13%
Ensuring sustainable fisheries • *"Preserving the species to levels of sustainable harvest for future fishing."* • *"Regulate in such a way as to protect and preserve the resource."*	13%
Depletion of forage species • *"More protection of the predator food source (menhaden/shad & herring)."* • *"Reducing the taking and bycatch killing of bait fish that are used to support our fishery."*	13%

<u>Question 16:</u> The Council is going to use the results of this survey to develop a vision for Mid-Atlantic fisheries. In your view, what would successful fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic look like?

Most Common Responses: For-Hire Industry	Percentage of For-Hire Respondents
Balance of diverse stakeholder needs • *"Equal use of the resource by commercial and recreational fishermen."* • *"Provide equitable allocations across different user groups….where the fish populations can be sustained (or increased) and closures are not necessary."*	22%
Healthy, sustainable fishery • *"Rebuilt and abundant stocks, abundant forage fish and reasonable access."* • *"The balance between a quality of catches as well as quantity and be able to sustain the resource for the future."*	18%
Improved data and science • *"It must be more fact based with data people can simply understand and from which sources it came from. And the logic needs to hang together. Today, the number one response from most users is, 'that makes no sense'."* • *"Listening more to the input from the people on the water everyday, rather than relying on outdated science and stock assessments."*	12%
Longer fishing seasons • *"Improved fishing opportunities with longer seasons."* • *"All species in the mid-atlantic should be able to be fished at all times with no closure of any sort."*	11%
Economically viable industry • *"Sustained and consistent catches for both Recreational and Commercial fisherman with regulations that are consistent, and sustained year over year with no changes in regulation that negatively impact fishing jobs nor income produced locally by the fishing industry."* • *"A balance of fisheries management to keep the economic impact of decisions to a level where the recreational fisherman still wants to go fishing, thereby buying boats/tackle and all the other things associated with the fishing experience."*	11%
Balancing the goals of sustainability and economic well being • *"Achieving maximum sustainable yield while protecting the ecosystem, balancing food production, commercial and recreational fishing and maximizing the overall economic benefit from these activities."* • *"The resource would be allocated in a way that promotes sustainability and growth of fish populations within the region. Allow for the largest economic yield by promoting jobs that have the minimal impact on the resource."*	10%

<u>Question 18:</u> How can the Council make it easier for you to plan for your business? (if applicable)

Most Common Responses: For-Hire Industry	Percentage of For-Hire Respondents
More consistent regulations • *"Consistency from year to year in rules, regulations, quotas, size and fishing season start and end dates."* • *"More stable regulations, bag limits, and seasons."*	21%
Provide longer lead times • *"I need the fishing regulations for the upcoming season to be available much sooner, so I contact my customers to set up charters in the next fishing season."* • *"Have regulations in place a year ahead of the fishing season."*	21%
Avoid closed seasons and promote longer seasons • *"Longer seasons or no closings, fair bag limits. Give us something to sell to the public."* • *"Maximize the length of seasons by reducing the daily limits."*	19%
Restore stocks • *"Manage fish stocks for the health of the resource first. As the resource rebounds our business will take care of itself."* • *"Conserve the resource to insure long term job security."*	10%
Base decisions on more timely, accurate data • *"Get better, more accurate scientific information on stock levels and ecosystem. Then be able to strengthen the fisheries with reasonable regulations."* • *"Get better data from recreational fishing trips."*	8%

Question 22: In your view, are there recent environmental or ecological changes in the Mid-Atlantic ecosystem that require the Council's consideration?

Most Common Responses: For-Hire Industry	Percentage of For-Hire Respondents
Increase in pollution • *"Pollution from heavy industry."* • *"Too much runoff coming down our rivers pushes clean water farther offshore."*	35%
Depletion of forage • *"Apparent reduction in availability of forage; especially menhaden."* • *"The lack of menhaden, a prime forage species and water quality indicator, were non-existent this summer."*	29%
Migration of fish stocks • *"Waters are getting warmer and forage fish and their food source are not moving as far south as normal to stay in the water temperature they like."* • *"Fish are moving out deeper and farther to the northeast because of the rising temperatures of the ocean. "*	10%
Impacts of climate change and warmer water temperatures • *"Global warming."*	8%

<u>Question 26:</u> If you could make one change in the way Mid-Atlantic fisheries are managed, what would it be?

Most Common Responses: For-Hire Industry	Percentage of For-Hire Respondents
Improve the accuracy of the data • *"Getting the best data collection on both recreational and commercial catches possible. Better data equals better results in management."* • *"All fisheries would be managed by the best and most current information available."*	14%
Increase stakeholder involvement • *"Get greater input from the recreational fishing community and charter and day trip boats."* • *"Talk to the people who make their living doing this, we are your best source of information. Keep us in the loop so a trust can be built between us!"*	12%
Change the council make up to better represent all stakeholders • *"Allowing more fishermen that still fish to be on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Council. "* • *"Appoint more for-hire people onto the MAFMC."*	8%
Be more consistent between recreational and commercial allocations • *"Equitable distributions between recreational and commercial."* • *"Let charter boats have the same size limits as commercial fishing boats."*	8%
Remove politics from the process • *"Less political & commercial influence and less restrictions based on unsupported data."* • *"Manage based on facts not politics."*	5%
Rebuild the fisheries • *"If a fishery needs to be rebuilt, that the fishery is the first priority to rebuilding."* • *"To restructure the emphasis from Optimum Yield driven research to eco system sustainable fisheries research and execution of fish stock viability."*	4%

Commercial Industry Responses

Question 14: What are the top three (3) challenges facing Mid-Atlantic fisheries today?

Most Common Responses: Commercial Industry	Percentage of Commercial Respondents
Influence of special interest groups • *"Decisions should be made in a non-political way that accounts for all users' needs."* • *"The overwhelming influence and control, as well as public influence through the media, that special interest groups have on the fishing industry and management process.*	22%
Lack of credible science • *"Lack of real time science to regulate fisheries."* • *"Acquiring accurate and honest science to better regulate fish stocks so as to reduce regulatory discards. "*	15%
Concern regarding the implementation of catch shares • *"Consolidation of the fleet under the threat of the Catch Share system."* • *"Catch shares, ITQ's, IFQ's and any other approach to privatize or consolidate access."*	15%
Reducing unnecessary discards • *"Unintended by-catch in unrelated fisheries."* • *"Control all the bycatch and let the smaller fish grow to spawning size."*	11%
Inconsistent management strategies between states • *"Differing state regulations in common waters."* • *"The state by state quotas while fishing in EEZ create an unacceptable level of regulatory discards that could be avoided."*	11%
Lack of industry representation on the Council • *"The loss of commercial representation at the council level."* • *"Allow grass roots commercial fisherman to actually have a seat in council process."*	10%
Preventing overfishing • *"Overfished areas"* • *"Prevent overfishing"*	10%

<u>Question 16:</u> The Council is going to use the results of this survey to develop a vision for Mid-Atlantic fisheries. In your view, what would successful fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic look like?

Most Common Responses: Commercial Industry	Percentage of Commercial Respondents
Economically viable industry • *"Successful fisheries are those that are sustainable, profitable, and produce somewhat predictable landings year over year. These fisheries give the average dragger the opportunity to earn a living for themselves and their crews year over year."* • *"Profitable, well managed fisheries that will be around for generations to come - successful small and medium sized business will be able to build their future on this, and have as one of their core values the long term preservation of the resource."*	27%
Healthy, sustainable fishery • *"Maintaining a healthy ecosystem that produces maximum sustainable yields of species for both commercial and recreational needs."* • *"A fishery that is not overfished….The fishery is being fished at a rate below the sustainable level that allows the maximum benefit for the people of the United States without harming the ecosystem."*	21%
Improved data and science • *"Allowing our councils and NMFS to be more flexible managing our fisheries, using commercial fisheries data as real time science, and understanding social and environmental impacts that stringent regulations have on our fisheries."* • *"Real time data management developed to react to fisheries that cycle due to capacity and conditions."*	17%
Simpler, more flexible regulations • *"Flexibility in management measures for fisheries and fisheries infrastructure."* • *"Minimizing complex regulation."*	13%
Reduced bycatch mortality • *"More selective fisheries to reduce bycatch."* • *"Fishermen making a good living…landing all they catch with no regulatory discards."*	12%
More stable regulations • *"Stable, long term quotas on species with less emphasis on erratic science and more on common sense."* • *"To eco-base manage with interests in sustaining fish while allowing industry to have stable regulations so that businesses can plan their season."*	10%
Balance of stakeholder needs • *"A successful fishery would be managed in a sustainable manner that would balance the interests of both commercial and recreational users."* • *"Fair and balanced to both recreational and commercial."*	9%

<u>Question 18:</u> How can the Council make it easier for you to plan for your business? (if applicable)

Most Common Responses: Commercial Industry	Percentage of Commercial Respondents
More consistent regulations • *"Consider longer term management approaches that help produce market stability and allow for longer term business planning."* • *Regulations and quota setting procedures that make quota predictable over the long term, so that processors and their customers can be confident in their long term planning.* • *The Council could make things easier by giving certain regulations time to work instead of making drastic changes without considering the effects on the industry and the lives of the fishing communities.*	28%
More outreach and stakeholder engagement • *"Try listening and engaging the fishermen."* • *"Encourage more stakeholders to participate in the council process to provide additional feedback."* `	12%
Base decisions on more timely, accurate data • *"Use a wider spectrum of valid fisheries science in conjunction with NEFSC data. Have species specific stock assessments on a more frequent basis."* • *"There should be a way for the council to make decisions/take action based on real time data. Current regulations are based on data from previous years and do not always reflect current conditions."*	10%
Keep regulations in place for more than one year / multiple years • *"To the extent possible, specifications should keep quotas in place for 2-3 years."* • *"Consider longer term management approaches that help produce market stability and allow for longer term business planning."*	9%
Provide longer lead times • *Publish accurate, timely stock survey data on an annual basis and implement regulations at least 30 days prior to the start of all fishing years."* • *"Have the season all planned on which areas we can fish and when BEFORE the season starts on March 1st."*	9%
Avoid closed seasons • *"Keep species opened throughout the year with no closure."* • *"Do not have closures, changes to bag limits and sizes during the mid-season."*	7%
Implement ITQs • *"With coast wide weekly trip limits, one could plan the week with safe weather, limited fuel consumption and market the fish consistently."* • *"We operate under an ITQ management plan and have complete flexibility and control over our business."*	7%

<u>Question 22:</u> In your view, are there recent environmental or ecological changes in the Mid-Atlantic ecosystem that require the Council's consideration?

Most Common Responses: Commercial Industry	Percentage of Commercial Respondents
Migration of fish stocks • *"There is a definite shift to the north and east of fish stocks."* • *"A general trend in warmer ocean temperatures for longer durations of the year is causing a northward shift of typical mid-Atlantic species."*	24%
Impacts of climate change and warmer water temperatures • *"Global warming - I believe that there is an impact and that it is causing a shift in species composition in Atlantic ecosystems."* • *"Climate change appears to be altering the geographic distribution of some species."*	23%
Increase in pollution • *"Chemicals introduced to the ocean from both shore side and inland activities, such as chlorine's, pesticides, and fertilizers that are introduced to the oceans in large volumes."* • *"Pollution is a major factor. Pesticides, plastics, non-point runoff from roads, biologics from medications thru municipal sanitation systems, chlorines."*	19%
Abundance of predators • *"There is extreme abundance of striped bass and dogfish and skate that threatens all other species."* • *"Dogfish population too large-- putting stress on forage species and ground fish stocks."*	17%
Depletion of forage • *"We are seeing less Menhaden."* • *"Availability of forage food close to shore."*	7%

<u>Question 26:</u> If you could make one change in the way Mid-Atlantic fisheries are managed, what would it be?

Most Common Responses: Commercial Industry	Percentage of Commercial Respondents
Change the council make up to better represent the Commercial industry • *"Allowing more fishermen that still fish to be on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Council. "* • *"At the present time more representation from industry/commercial fisheries is necessary on the Council to provide industry/commercial perspective."* • *"Allowing Rhode Island a seat on the council would be extremely important considering it is being managed without any say even though a great deal of fish flows through the state."*	14%
Increase stakeholder involvement • *"To include credible fisherman input at all levels of the process."* • *"Let reputable commercial fisherman have more of a say. (use their knowledge)."*	13%
Improve the accuracy of the data • *"Better data and objective regulations"* • *"Don't manage new fisheries without good information."*	6%
Improve communications and outreach • *"Create a communications department that was responsible for maintaining, nurturing, and growing channels with all participant groups of the fisheries."* • *"Communication. More people are concerned with Management changes; how do we contact you before you make the changes."*	5%

ENGO Responses

Question 14: What are the top three (3) challenges facing Mid-Atlantic fisheries today?

Most Common Responses: ENGO	Percentage of ENGO Respondents
Preventing overfishing • *"Stop overfishing to protect resource."* • *" Overfishing, both commercial and recreational"*	29%
Transitioning to ecosystem based management • *"Need to move beyond single-species management to an ecosystem-based approach to ensure that fishery yields are ecologically sustainable for the long term."* • *"How do we devise a holistic, ecosystem management plan that allows us to regulate more broadly as opposed to species by species management while still ensuring fair access to the resources".*	26%
Reducing bycatch • *"Finding ways to reduce bycatch."* • *"Reducing by-catch losses and effects of fishing gear on the environment."*	21%
Ensuring sustainable fisheries • *"Sustainable fisheries without impacting ecosystems and non-target species."* • *"Ensuring sustainable utilization of resource that ensure healthy marine ecosystems into the future."*	19%
Depletion of forage species • *"Reestablish and maintain forage fish stocks at levels necessary to restore and sustain predator populations."* • *"Survival of the bait species and habitats, including minimized harvesting of bait."*	14%
Lack of enforcement of regulations • *"Develop a comprehensive approach to slowing the illegal take of fish. The problem of poaching is widespread and enforcement is close to non-existent in most areas."* • *"Preventing illegal fishing and providing for severe penalties for offenders."*	14%
Impact of pollution • *"Water quality issues in estuarine and near-shore systems."* • *"Threat and potential for offshore oil drilling and associated risks to the environment, pollution and destruction of ecosystem."*	14%

Question 16: The Council is going to use the results of this survey to develop a vision for Mid-Atlantic fisheries. In your view, what would successful fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic look like?

Most Common Responses: ENGO	Percentage of ENGO Respondents
Healthy, sustainable fishery • *"All fisheries would not be overfished and have sustained stocks with adequate science and publicly supported rules, regulations, and enforcement."* • *"Sustainable populations of all species under management with emphasis on species interrelationships and ecosystem."* • *"All fisheries are managed sustainably without impacting ecosystems, non-target species, and competing uses on the coast and ocean."*	40%
Focus on a healthy ecosystem as the top priority • *"Sustainable coastal ecosystems that support healthy fish stocks and healthy fisheries, both recreational and commercial."* • *"Protecting and restoring marine ecosystem health, especially in light of changing environmental conditions, including resulting from climate change."*	28%
Improved data and science • *"Transparent and scientific based management."* • *"Management based on valid, correctly developed data, regional instead of coastwide where appropriate, with allocation of quotas of recreational and commercial based on total economic impact and protection and creation of habitat necessary for procreation."*	16%
Balance of stakeholder needs • *"Sustainable fisheries on restored fish stocks with opportunities for both recreational and commercial interests."* • *"Very diversified fleet of commercial and recreational vessels that maximize both economic return for commercial fleet and opportunity for the recreational fleet.*	14%
Ecosystem based management • *"Fishery management that rests on good science and a fully integrated ecosystem plan with ecological reference points as well as single species reference points and a well-developed system of ecological indicators for monitoring ecological health."* • *"Sustainable populations of all species under management with emphasis on species interrelationships and ecosystem. Recognize the importance and special protection for forage species."*	14%
Strict enforcement • *"Enactment of strong laws and the ability to enforce them to renew a healthy ecosystem."* • *"Rules enforcement should be dependable, widely and evenly distributed, firm, and free of political influence."*	14%

Question 22: In your view, are there recent environmental or ecological changes in the Mid-Atlantic ecosystem that require the Council's consideration?

Most Common Responses: ENGO	Percentage of ENGO Respondents
Impacts of climate change and warmer water temperatures • *"Potential ecosystem changes due to climate change."* • *"Climate change and concurrent sea level rise are biggest threats facing coastal areas, estuaries, in the 21st century."*	32%
Increase in pollution • *"More than 50 percent of all US citizens now live in coastal counties. Overuse, pollution, dredging, remain omnipresent."* • *"Land-based pollutant discharges and development in watersheds needs to be addressed, particularly with respect to impacts on essential fish habitat."*	28%
Depletion of forage • *"We are concerned about the status of the Northeast's forage base. Nearly all forage species are at low abundance, declining, or the population status is not known."* • *"Overfishing of important forage species like menhaden and river herring."*	19%

<u>Question 26:</u> If you could make one change in the way Mid-Atlantic fisheries are managed, what would it be?

Most Common Responses: ENGO	Percentage of ENGO Respondents
Incorporate an Ecosystems-Based Management approach • *"Develop a Fishery Ecosystem Plan as an umbrella document that would provide a context for managing Mid-Atlantic fisheries, defining healthy ecosystem states to achieve and unhealthy states to avoid. This kind of information and document would inform management under fishery-specific FMPs."* • *"Incorporating ecosystem considerations more fully and explicitly into fishery decision-making, less burden on the environment to demonstrate a problem before action is taken and more burden on fisheries to demonstrate that impacts are not adversely affecting habitat, food webs or the long-term health of the fishery itself."*	26%
Focus on rebuilding the fisheries • *"Do what's needed for the fisheries and its future."* • *"I am not satisfied with the ""optimum yield"" that is causing extinction of species. Cut the quotas on all fish species. Cut the numbers of vessels commercially fishing."*	12%
Focus on restoring forage species • *"Provide greater protections for forage species."* • *"Manage to protect forage species."*	7%
Improve communications and outreach • *"Higher profile to highlight the efforts as well as the issues."* • *"Communication. More people are concerned with management changes; how do we contact you before you make the changes."*	7%
Improve the accuracy of the data • *"Obtaining better fish population data. Better data on recreational fisheries sector."* • *"Improve accuracy of commercial and recreational harvest estimate."*	7%

Interested Public Responses

<u>Question 14:</u> What are the top three (3) challenges facing Mid-Atlantic fisheries today?

Most Common Responses: Interested Public	Percentage of Public Respondents
Preventing overfishing • *"Protecting and increasing growth of fish that are overfished and being depleted faster than they can recover."* • *" Make sure all species are not overfished."*	31%
Reducing unnecessary discards • *"Decrease bycatch mortality."* • *"Eliminating wasteful harvest methods and by-catch."*	20%
Depletion of forage species • *"Menhaden and other forage fish preservation."* • *"Protecting menhaden, as a forage and as an essential part of the ecosystem."*	19%
Inaccurate data used to make decisions • *"Getting accurate data on populations before setting regulations."* • *"Basing regulations on out-of-date data."*	15%
Influence of special interest groups • *"Not allowing bias to cloud interpretation of data and biological opinions."* • *"Political interference in the science of resource management."*	13%
Need for balance of diverse stakeholder interests • *"Getting common Goal between commercial and recreational fisherman."* • *"Balancing the demands of competing users."*	12%

<u>Question 16:</u> The Council is going to use the results of this survey to develop a vision for Mid-Atlantic fisheries. In your view, what would successful fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic look like?

Most Common Responses: Interested Public	Percentage of Public Respondents
Healthy, sustainable fishery • *"Maintaining the fish population at a steady, healthy, productive level without straining the ecosystem."* • *"A significant increase in the individual and total biomass of all the Mid-Atlantic fisheries, a significant reduction in by-catch, a significant reduction in habitat destruction, a significant increase in habitat restoration."*	27%
Balance of diverse stakeholder needs • *"Mid Atlantic fisheries needs to be developed to maintain the best possible use of resources so there is a balance between recreational and commercial entities."* • *"We have abundant fish stocks with sustainable harvest for both recreational and commercial fishermen. These fisheries would be balanced based on the 'best use' of the fisheries."*	21%
Focus on a healthy ecosystem as the top priority • *"Successful fisheries would achieve long-term ecosystem balance and flexibility in response to climate change with employment of a number of independent watermen."* • *"Management of the resource; habitat restoration; recruitment of young of species."*	19%
Improved data and science • *"Accurate and regular assessments based on science with qualified assumptions. Considering what is good for each species and at the same time recognizing the interdependence of species and the ecosystem."* • *"Data based decisions that target species due for management. No more closures without accurate data showing a species is in decline."*	12%
Balancing the goals of sustainability and economic well being • *"Stable fish stocks that provide the greatest economic benefit to the greatest number of people."* • *"Balanced management of species allowing for commercial gain and recreational opportunities but weighted more heavily towards protection of the species and maintaining healthy ecosystems."*	11%
Greater fishing opportunity • *"A successful Mid-Atlantic fisheries would allow both recreational and commercial fisherman to have a great opportunity for success every trip out."* • *"A successful fishery would be one where fishermen are actively engaged in the sustainable harvest of healthy, robust coastal fish stocks."*	11%
Economically viable industry • *"Stable fish stocks of economic importance to allow commercial anglers to operate with economic stability and recreational anglers to fish with expectations of catching targeted species."* • *"Fishing communities are thriving, fish stocks are healthy, a diverse group of people are able to make a living from commercial fishing, and there is a diverse array of*	10%

seafood available for people in the Mid-Atlantic and the United States to eat."

Question 22: In your view, are there recent environmental or ecological changes in the Mid-Atlantic ecosystem that require the Council's consideration?

Most Common Responses: Interested Public	Percentage of Public Respondents
Increase in pollution • *"Poor runoff is causing problems downstream, sediment and nitrates, pesticides etc. State needs to improve its storm water management."* • *"Water pollution, so called 'dead zones' from oxygen depletion."*	25%
Impacts of climate change and warmer water temperatures • *"Warming waters, increase in number and severity of weather events."* • *"Global warming and other environmental changes will affect fish in regards to their feeding and reproduction."*	23%
Depletion of forage • *"The permitted overfishing of menhaden and similar fish are diminishing the predator's availability."* • *"There seems to be a decline in the abundance of a number of important forage species, including Atlantic mackerel, menhaden, Atlantic herring and river herring."*	18%
Migration of fish stocks • *"Shifting concentrations of species along the coast due to perhaps temperature changes, fishing pressure or pollution, leaving behind unhealthy or significantly reduced breeding stock."* • *"There seems to be more southern species in the Mid-Atlantic ecosystems and it is something that may bear watching."*	9%
Loss of habitat • *"The lack of artificial reefs being built. The over-abundance of commercial gear on the reefs."* • *"Provide fiscal support for rebuilding habitat. Commercial gear have destroyed the natural reefs. Black sea bass, tautog, etc. would benefit from the building of additional artificial reefs. "*	8%
Increased development • *"Increased coastal development is creating more extensive problems that fishing both recreationally and commercially will be hindered in their attempt at sustainability and management."* • *"The incredible amount of development that has happened in watersheds that lead to our estuaries is impacting those estuaries -- which are spawning grounds for a lot of species -- negatively."*	7%
Abundance of predators • *"The smooth dogfish and spiny dogfish biomass is overpopulated. The species are doing more harm to the other fisheries then man can do."* • *"Invasive species of fish, birds, mammals."*	6%

<u>Question 26:</u> If you could make one change in the way Mid-Atlantic fisheries are managed, what would it be?

Most Common Responses: Interested Public	Percentage of Public Respondents
Improve the accuracy of the data • *"Get better, more current data"* • *"Improve availability and utilization of real time data."*	9%
Change the council make up to better represent all stakeholders • *"Equal representation of all stakeholders on council. "* • *"Make council equitably represent shareholders, commercial, recreational, support services. Do not allow any one group to usurp the rights of the others."*	7%
Focus on restoring forage species • *"Reduce or eliminate commercial catch of bait."* • *"End fishing on forage species until they recover."* • *"Stop overharvesting of menhaden."*	7%
Improve communications and outreach • *"Create a communications department that was responsible for maintaining, nurturing, and growing channels with all participant groups of the fisheries."* • *"Improve the process by "increased communication to those impacted by the Mid-Atlantic council's decisions."*	6%
Improve the science used to make decisions • *"Place more emphasis on good science to insure a sustainable fishery."* • *"Science and a species approach to fisheries management trumps all political/economic concerns."*	6%
Remove politics from the process • *"Ignore political influence and remain firm in science-based management"* • *"Keep politics out of the decisions."*	6%
Incorporate an ecosystems-based management approach • *"Add ecosystem based fishery management elements more quickly."* • *"Develop and implement a Fisheries Ecosystem Plan for the Mid-Atlantic."*	5%
Increase stakeholder involvement • *"Get more public opinion and incorporate that into management decisions."* • *"Let reputable commercial fisherman have more of a say. (use their knowledge)."*	5%