



MID-ATLANTIC

FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2017

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Council Meeting in Annapolis, Maryland: December 11-14, 2017

The public is invited to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's December 2017 meeting to be held December 11-14, 2017 in Annapolis, MD. The meeting will be held at the Westin Annapolis, 100 Westgate Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, Telephone 410-972-4300.

Meeting Materials: Briefing documents will be posted at <http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/december-2017> as they become available.

Public Comments: Written comments must be received by Wednesday, November 29, 2017 to be included in the Council meeting briefing book. Comments received after this deadline but before Thursday, December 7, 2017, 5:00 p.m. will be posted as “supplemental materials” on the Council meeting web page. After that date, all comments must be submitted using an online comment form available at available at <http://www.mafmc.org/public-comment>.

Webinar: For online access to the meeting, enter as a guest at: <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/december2017>.

Agenda

Monday, December 11

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| 1:00 p.m. | Council Convenes |
| 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Risk Assessment
– Review and approve EAFM based assessment |
| 3:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m. | Risk Policy Framework – Meeting 2
– Review and approve recommended modifications to Council’s Risk Policy |
| 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization
– Review proposed MSA reauthorization legislation and CCC Working Paper |
| 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Tilefish Survey Project Report, Michael Frisk, Jill Olin, Robert Cerrato
– Update of the fisheries-independent pilot survey for tilefish |

NOTE: COUNCIL WILL RECESS UNTIL 9:00 A.M. TUESDAY MORNING

Tuesday, December 12

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| 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Executive Committee (CLOSED SESSION)
– Ricks E Savage Award |
| 9:00 a.m. | Council Convenes |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Council Photo |
| 9:15 a.m. | Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Meeting as a Committee of the Whole |
| 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Squid Buffer Zone Framework – Meeting 1
– Discuss framework goals
– Review and approve preliminary alternatives |
| 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Chub Mackerel Amendment
– Review scoping comments and discuss next steps |
| 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Law Enforcement Report
– NOAA Office of Law Enforcement; U.S. Coast Guard |

- 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m.** **Joint Meeting of the Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass and Bluefish Boards**
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** **Scup Recreational Specifications**
 – Review Monitoring Committee and Advisory Panel recommendations
 – Adopt recommendations for 2018 Federal waters management measures
- 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** **Summer Flounder Recreational Specifications**
 – Review Monitoring Committee and Advisory Panel recommendations
 – Recommend Conservation Equivalency or coastwide management and associated measures for 2018
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** **Summer Flounder Amendment**
 – Review and approve Nov. 2017 Demersal Committee recommendations for further staff analysis

Wednesday, December 13

- 9:00 a.m.** **Joint Meeting of the Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass and Bluefish Boards**
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** **Black Sea Bass Recreational Specifications**
 – Review Monitoring Committee and Advisory Panel recommendations
 – Adopt recommendations for 2018 Federal waters management measures
 – Review Wave 1 fishery implementation
 – Board Addendum XXX
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** **Black Sea Bass Wave 1 Letter of Authorization Framework**
 – Review background and provide guidance for development of draft alternatives
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** **Black Sea Bass Amendment**
 – Review initiation of black sea bass amendment (December 2015 motion)
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** **Bluefish Amendment**
 – Initiate Bluefish Amendment and discuss next steps
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Presentation, *Brian Hooker***
 – Update of Atlantic Offshore Renewable Projects
 – Update on Atlantic Renewable Energy Studies

Thursday, December 14

- 9:00 a.m.** **Council Convenes**
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** **2018 Implementation Plan**
 – Review and approve 2018 Implementation Plan
- 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** **Business Session**
 Committee Reports
 – Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Committee (Herring Amendment 8 Comments); Executive Committee
 Executive Director's Report, *Chris Moore*
 – Golden Tilefish IFQ review; NEFMC Framework 57 update
 Science Report, *Rich Seagraves*
 Organization Reports
 – NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Office; NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center; NOAA Office of General Counsel; Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
 Liaison Reports
 – New England Council; South Atlantic Council; Regional Planning Body
 Continuing and New Business

The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change as necessary. Other items may be added, but the Council cannot take action on such items even if the item requires emergency action without additional public notice. Non-emergency matters not contained in this agenda may come before the Council and / or its Committees for discussion, but these matters may not be the subject of formal Council or Committee action during this meeting. Council and Committee actions will be restricted to the issues specifically listed in this agenda. Any issues requiring emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that arise after publication of the Federal Register Notice for this meeting may be acted upon provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The meeting may be closed to discuss employment or other internal administrative matters.