



**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 10, 2020

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**October 2020 Council Meeting Webinar: October 5-8, 2020**

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's October meeting will be held October 5-8, 2020. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Riverhead, NY. Due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19 and public safety, the meeting will be held via webinar. Briefing materials and webinar connection information are available on the Council's website at <http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/october-2020>.

Written comments must be received by 11:59 p.m. on September 23, 2020 to be included in the briefing book. Comments received after this date but before 5:00 p.m. on October 1, 2020 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 <http://www.mafmc.org/public-comment>.

**Agenda**

**Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

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- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.    Executive Committee - 2021 Implementation Plan**
- Review progress on 2020 Implementation Plan
  - Review staff recommendations for 2021 actions and deliverables
  - Public Comment Opportunity
  - Develop draft recommendations for 2021 actions and deliverables

**Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

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- 9:00 a.m.                    Council Convenes**
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.    Spiny Dogfish Committee, Meeting as a Committee of the Whole - Spiny Dogfish Specifications**
- Review SSC, Advisory Panel, Monitoring Committee, and staff recommendations
  - Adopt 2021-2022 specifications
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.    Chub Mackerel Specifications**
- Review SSC, Advisory Panel, Monitoring Committee, and staff recommendations for 2021 specifications
  - Review previously implemented 2021 specifications and recommend changes if necessary
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.    Executive Order 13921 on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth**
- Finalize prioritized list of recommendations for submission to NMFS
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.    Lunch**

- 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.      Research Priorities Update**  
 – Review approach and timeline for 2021 research priorities evaluation
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.      Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Updates (EAFM)**  
 – Summer flounder recreational discard management strategy evaluation  
 – Other EAFM related activities
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.      Joint Council/SSC Meeting**  
 – Direction for SSC Socioeconomic workgroup  
 – Science considerations due to missing 2020 data  
 – Risk policy considerations for ocean quahog
- 4:30 p.m.                      Council Adjourns**

### **Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

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- 9:00 a.m.                      Council Meeting with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Bluefish Management Board**
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.      Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment**  
 – Approve a range of alternatives for inclusion into a public hearing document
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.      Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m.                      Council Meeting with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.      Recreational Reform Initiative**  
 – Update on progress  
 – Consider initiating a management action
- 4:00 p.m.                      Council/Commission Adjourn**

### **Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

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- 9:00 a.m.                      Council Convenes**
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.      Update/Overview of the Proposed Rule for the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, Colleen Coogan (Take Reduction Team Coordinator) – NMFS/GARFO**
- 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.      Business Session**  
**Committee Reports** – SSC Report; Executive Committee Report  
**Executive Director's Report, Chris Moore**  
**Organization Reports** – NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Office; NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center; NOAA Office of General Counsel; NOAA Office of Law Enforcement; US Coast Guard  
**Liaison Reports** – New England Council; South Atlantic Council  
**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.