



# **2020-2024 Strategic Plan**

## **Public Comments**

*December 9, 2019*

# Outline

- Project Overview
- Public comment summary
- Recommended changes
- Council discussion and Strategic Plan approval
- Draft Evaluation Plan review & discussion

# Project Overview



## VISION

Healthy marine ecosystems and thriving, sustainable fisheries and fishing communities that provide the greatest overall benefit to the nation

**MISSION:** The Council manages fisheries in the federal waters of the Mid-Atlantic region for their long-term sustainability and productivity consistent with the national standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Council is committed to the stewardship of these fisheries, and associated ecosystems and fishing communities, through the collaborative development of effective, science-based fishery management plans and policies.

### Communication

Engage stakeholders and the public through education and outreach that foster sustained participation in, and awareness of, the Council process.

### Science

Ensure that the Council's management decisions are based on accurate and timely scientific information and methods.

### Management

Develop effective management strategies that provide for sustainable fisheries and healthy marine ecosystems while considering the needs of fishing communities and other resource users.

### Ecosystem

Support the ecologically sustainable utilization of living marine resources in a manner that maintains ecosystem productivity, structure, and function.

### Governance

Ensure that the Council's practices accurately represent and consider the interests of fisheries, fishing communities, and the public.

## Communication

Tools and methods

Stakeholder participation

Education and awareness

## Science

Planning for and addressing research needs

Collaborative research

Monitoring and reporting

Social and economic data

Priority setting

## Management

Coordinated management through partnerships

Adapt to address new issues and changing conditions

Consider social/economic impacts

## Ecosystem

EAFM Implementation

Climate change

Habitat

Offshore energy

Forage

Ecosystem impacts

## Governance

Open, accessible process

Collaboration with management partners

Stakeholder interests

Member and staff training and development

# Public Comment Summary

- Public comment Oct. 15– Nov. 15
- Two public input webinars
- Written comment via online comment form, email, fax, mail
- 15 webinar attendees, 7 written comments (5 individuals)

# Public Comment Summary

## VISION, MISSION, CORE VALUES

- Plan focus (healthy fish, food, economics)
- Relationship of Council actions to Core Values

## COMMUNICATION

- Communication tools, science translation
- Post-meeting audio access
- Language in Council documents

## SCIENCE

- Support for collaborative research
- Stock enhancement, pollution impacts

# Public Comment Summary

## MANAGEMENT

- Climate change impacts on management approaches
- Aquaculture, imports, regulatory discards
- Allow measures time to produce results

## ECOSYSTEM

- Broad support for goal and objectives
- Deep-sea coral frameworkable issues
- Habitat, forage management, climate change
- Ecosystem alteration by management actions

## GOVERNANCE

- Stakeholder training opportunities
- Increased coordination among partners
- Mechanism to track progress & allow stakeholder input



# Public Comment Summary

- In general, broad support for plan content and structure
- Some suggestions regarding clarity of language
- Few specific comments regarding strategies

# Recommended changes

- Staff review for technical accuracy and clarity
- Suggested language changes from stakeholder and public input
- Result: Numerous minor wording edits for clarity and conciseness (redline version)

# Recommended changes

## MISSION

**The Council manages fisheries in federal waters of the Mid-Atlantic region for their long-term sustainability and productivity consistent with the national standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Council is committed to the stewardship of these fisheries, and associated ecosystems and *fishing* communities, through the collaborative development of effective, science-based fishery management plans and policies.**

# Recommended changes

- Communication Objective 2, last strategy

**Utilize webinars, *conference lines, and other technology* to provide opportunities for remote access and participation.**

- Communication Objective 3, NEW strategy

*Use plain language in Council documents to improve public understanding.*

# Recommended changes

## GOVERNANCE

*(Approved in October)*

Ensure that the Council's practices accurately represent and consider *fishery, community, and public interests* through a transparent and inclusive decision-making process.

## GOVERNANCE

*(Proposed)*

Ensure that the Council's practices accurately represent and consider *the interests of fisheries, fishing communities, and the public* through a transparent and inclusive decision-making process.

# QUESTIONS?

# Draft Evaluation Plan

- Ensure progress towards Vision
- Provide flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances
- Maintain stakeholder and public engagement
- Familiarize new Council members with plan
- Provide opportunity for stakeholder feedback and input on implementation

# Draft Evaluation Plan

## **Annual Review**

*(Oct. – Dec.)*

- Council develops draft implementation items
- Stakeholder review and input
- Council review; finalize Implementation Plan

## **Mid-Plan Review**

*(Oct. – Dec. 2022)*

- Review progress toward/status of objectives
- Stakeholder feedback on progress/direction
- Council review; adjust priorities as needed

## **Comprehensive Review**

*(Mid- to late 2024)*

- Gather stakeholder perceptions of success
- Council evaluates/revises goals
- Review/modify, develop new objectives and strategies