



## Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

# MEMORANDUM

**Date:** June 6, 2023  
**To:** Chris Moore, Executive Director  
**From:** Kiley Dancy, Brandon Muffley, and Mary Sabo, Staff  
**Subject:** Tentative plan for developing Council comments on draft Magnuson 304(f) guidance

As noted in the memo to the Council in the [Executive Director's report](#) for the June 2023 Council meeting, NMFS has requested Council comments on their draft "[Fisheries Climate Governance Policy](#)." This draft policy is intended to provide guidance on Council authority for stocks that may extend across the geographic area of more than one Council, pursuant to §304(f) of the Magnuson Stevens Act. Recognizing that this is an important issue for the Mid-Atlantic Council, we propose the following draft timeline and process for development of Council comments:

- **June 6-8 Council meeting (Executive Director's Report):** Preliminary discussion and review of May 2023 CCC comments.
- **Mid-July:** SSC special webinar meeting to seek SSC feedback.
- **August 7-10 Council meeting:** Council reviews draft guidance, staff and SSC comments, and a draft outline of potential Council comments.
- **September/October:** Staff develop Council comment letter based on feedback provided at the above meetings; work with Council leadership to finalize for submission.
- **November 17:** Deadline for submission of Council comments.

The CCC also plans to develop a joint comment letter, which would likely be reviewed during the October 2023 CCC meeting.

Staff plans to reach out to NMFS to request additional information on the extent of their planned stakeholder outreach and public comment opportunities (if any) for this draft guidance. Depending on their response, the Mid-Atlantic Council could also choose to facilitate comments and feedback from our stakeholders to supplement our comment letter. This could include the involvement of one or more of the Council's Advisory Panels, and/or a process for collecting and compiling written comments to attach to the Council's comments.