



Research Steering Committee Meeting

Re-Development of the Mid-Atlantic Research Set-Aside Program

Webinar Meeting Summary

June 2021

The Research Steering Committee (RSC) met via webinar on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 to discuss redevelopment of the Research Set-Aside (RSA) program. In doing so, the RSC discussed the outcomes of the March 2021 RSC meeting, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Economic Working Group involvement, agendas/dates/locations/attendees for all 4 workshops and revisions to the workshop briefing materials. The Committee's recommendations from this meeting will be presented during the Committee reports at the June 2021 Council meeting.

RSC members present: Adam Nowalsky (Chair), Michelle Duval (Vice-Chair), Chris Batsavage, Bob Beal, Peter deFur, Tony DiLernia, Paul Risi, Kate Wilke, Ryan Silva, Mike Luisi and Matthew Seeley (MAFMC Staff).

Others present: Andy Loftus, Lee Anderson (MAFMC SSC), Paul Rago (MAFMC SSC), Geret DePiper (MAFMC SSC), Yan Jiao (MAFMC SSC), Mark Holliday (MAFMC SSC), Tara McClintock (Cornell), James Fletcher (UNFA), Brandon Muffley (MAFMC Staff), Mary Sabo (MAFMC Staff) and Toni Kerns (ASMFC Staff).

Summary

The RSC confirmed the dates for the first 3 workshop webinars (research – 7/15, funding – 8/31, and enforcement – 10/14) and noted the in-person workshop will be held in November with a TBD date and location. Additionally, the RSC identified an approach to notice the series of RSA Workshops to various invited participants/presenters, Council Advisory Panel members and members of the public.

The RSC worked to revise the draft workshop agendas and roles for all participants with multiple dedicated time slots for public comment. In doing so, the research subgroup of the SSC Economic Work Group (WG) identified a variety of topics they plan to present to promote discussion surrounding the economic impacts of redeveloping the RSA program. These topics all focus on the lessons learned since the inception of the RSA program in 2001. Additionally, the RSC offered suggestions to improve the trigger questions staff provided that will guide much of the structure for each workshop. Staff was directed to continue working with the RSC and Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) to refine the briefing materials prior to the first webinar workshop.

The RSC confirmed a workshop structure for the July 15th webinar on research. The workshop will follow the structure outlined below and use the presented trigger questions to guide discussion:

- Welcome, introductions, goals and background (presentation)
- Presentation and discussion with the SSC Economic WG on research
- Presentation and discussion with a former RSA participant
- Trigger Question 1: How should research needs (to be fulfilled by RSA) be prioritized?
- Trigger Question 2: What criteria should be met to qualify as a successful applicant?
- Trigger Question 3: What criteria should be developed for how projects results will be reviewed and articulated to the Council?
- Wrap-up, summary, and recommendations

To ensure efficient progress and discussion occurs at each workshop, the RSC recommended that special consideration be given to the RSA framework document ([Framework 1 to the MAFMC FMPs](#)), which details the bounds of what can and cannot be changed through the potential redevelopment of the program. Staff will continue to work closely with GARFO to ensure developments of the revised RSA program consider the guidelines in Framework 1.

Timeline

Date	Event/Topic
June 2 nd	RSC Meeting – Finalize workshop logistics (e.g., dates, participants, agendas, structure, trigger questions)
July 15 th	RSA Workshop Meeting 1 (Webinar) - Research
August	Council Meeting: Economic WG progress report to Council
August 31 st	RSA Workshop Meeting 2 (Webinar) - Funding
September	SSC Meeting: Economic WG progress report to SSC
October 14 th	RSA Workshop Meeting 3 (Webinar) - Enforcement
November (TBD)	RSA Workshop Meeting 4 (In-person)
December	Council Meeting: RSC and Economic WG report to Council

Next Steps

RSA Workshop notices will go out to all invited attendees and members of the public over the next two weeks in preparation for Workshop Meeting 1 on research, which will be held via webinar on July 15, 2021. Staff will continue to develop the agenda and briefing materials which will be made available at least one week prior to the meeting. These materials will incorporate the recommendations from the RSC and SSC Economic WG, as well as trigger questions to help guide discussion.