



MAFMC Draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan Overview

December 2019 Council Meeting

This overview is intended to provide an abbreviated, "at-a-glance" view of the topics addressed in the Council's Draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. Please refer to the complete draft plan for additional details.

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.

Vision

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

Core Values

- Stewardship
- Integrity
- Effectiveness
- Fairness
- Competence
- Transparency

<p>Communication: Engage stakeholders and the public through education and outreach that foster sustained participation in, and awareness of, the Council process.</p>		
<p>Tools and methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of traditional, web-based, and social media tools • Upgrade the website content and organization • Coordinate with management partners • Expand media coverage • Expand the use of "interested parties" lists • Maintain online calendar • Establish Communication/Outreach Advisory Panel 	<p>Stakeholder participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold workshops to develop innovative management approaches • Develop outreach materials to facilitate stakeholder participation • Schedule and conduct meetings/hearings in a manner that encourages participation • Develop action-specific web pages • Expand use of online comment forms • Use webinars and other technologies to enable remote participation 	<p>Education and awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop outreach and education materials on Council fisheries and process • Promote partner organizations' workshops and educational opportunities • Collaboratively develop outreach materials on fisheries science and data collection • Use plain language in Council documents
<p>Science: Ensure that the Council's management decisions are based on timely and accurate scientific information and methods.</p>		
<p>Planning and addressing research needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage opportunities to include Council research priorities in external funding programs • Engage in regional collaboration on research priorities and planning • Support the new NRCC stock assessment process • Develop a process for cross-communication between SSCs • Develop a comprehensive research plan 	<p>Collaborative research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand/enhance existing Northeast Cooperative Research Program initiatives • Identify research needs suitable for collaborative research • Support priorities identified by NEAMAP operations committee • Support the use of "vessels of opportunity" • Support innovations in gear development to reduce bycatch • Evaluate future RSA options 	<p>Data collection, monitoring and reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Fishery Dependent Data Initiative • Support development of a unique trip identifier • Work to eliminate duplicative/unnecessary reporting • Address inconsistencies in commercial and for-hire permitting/reporting/inspection requirements • Consider phone apps for recreational reporting
<p>Social and economic data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify existing social/economic data sources • Incorporate fishermen's knowledge in the stock assessment process • Identify data/information gaps that can be addressed with on-the-water observations. • Support improvements to social/economic analyses 	<p>Priority setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct periodic reviews of Five-Year Research Priorities • Review research needs identified in stock assessments • Track progress toward addressing the Council's research priorities. 	
<p>Management: Develop effective management strategies that provide for sustainable fisheries and healthy marine ecosystems and consider the needs of fishing communities and other resource users.</p>		
<p>Coordinated management through partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the NRCC to enhance coordination and communication • Coordinate with partners to ensure efficient allocation of staff resources • Address inconsistencies across state/federal/regional boundaries 	<p>Adapt management approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor variability in species distribution, abundance, and availability • Use FPRs and SOE reports to develop management responses to changing conditions • Review the performance of existing measures 	<p>Consider social/economic impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the use of MSEs to determine social/economic impacts • Evaluate the impacts of current measures on recreational participation and satisfaction • Expand the use of multi-year management approaches • Evaluate the impacts of management on fishing businesses

Ecosystem: Support the ecologically sustainable utilization of living marine resources in a manner that maintains ecosystem productivity, structure, and function.			
EAFM Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track EAFM implementation progress Use the structured framework process as a tool to implement EAFM Collaborate with science partners to address ecosystem information needs 	Climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify climate-related data needs Consider management and governance responses to shifting species distributions Evaluate ability of current management approaches to respond to shifting species distributions Consider management strategies that are responsive to the impacts of climate change on fishery allocations 	Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the contributions of inshore habitats to offshore productivity Review EFH designations Develop the linkages between habitat science/conservation and fishery outcomes Participate in regional habitat partnerships Ensure that Council habitat policies reflect current scientific information and best management practices Examine the use of EFH/HAPCs to ensure ecosystem integrity 	
Offshore energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with partners on offshore energy issues to identify information needs and evaluate impacts Comment on proposed offshore energy projects 	Forage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the role of Council-managed species in the ecosystem Consider and account for the impacts of Council-managed species on the forage base Monitor unmanaged forage landings 	Ecosystem impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate information from the SOE reports to identify impacts of Council decisions on the ecosystem Consider measures that promote fewer regulatory discards and greater utilization of catch Avoid/reduce negative impacts on protected resources 	
Governance: 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.			
Open, accessible process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop/update policies for Council committees and advisory/technical bodies. Provide annual updates on Council activities Review/update SOPP on a regular basis Provide webinars whenever possible 	Collaboration with management partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review/update regional operating agreement Clarify roles, responsibilities, procedures with ASMFC for joint meetings/actions Develop agreements with NEFMC and SAFMC Review composition/operation of Council committees to address management partner concerns 	Stakeholder interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create new opportunities for general public comment during meetings Add opportunities for public comment on implementation plans Evaluate the composition of advisory bodies Improve communication regarding the use of public input in management decisions 	Member and staff training and development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities for Council member training Support staff development Promote staff-to-staff collaboration with management partners

Managed Fisheries

Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass • Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish
 Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs • Golden and Blueline Tilefish
 Bluefish • Spiny Dogfish • Monkfish

