



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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MEMORANDUM

Date: November 29, 2022
To: Council
From: Jessica Coakley, Staff
Subject: Habitat Activities Update

The Council will receive a presentation from the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division (HESD) on activities of interest in the region.

Back in December 2015, when the Council initially adopted its habitat policies on fishing and non-fishing activities (<https://www.mafmc.org/habitat>), the Council also asked GARFO HESD to provide the Council with updates on projects of concern that are occurring throughout the region. Since there are numerous projects in the region each year, the Council identified its projects of concern to include: 1) All offshore projects (e.g., energy projects, cables, sand mining, etc.), and 2) Only large scale nearshore/estuarine projects (i.e., includes any large transportation and port development projects). In addition, the Council requested periodic written and/or verbal updates on projects of concern including other habitat activities of interest occurring at least biannually, if possible. So typically, each June and December, HESD is invited to present on these topics.

During this December presentation, Kevin Madley, Doug Christel, and Karen Greene of GARFO HESD staff will highlight activities including aquaculture, offshore wind activities and some of the port developments associated with offshore wind, as well as a brief update on some of the US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Studies underway in the Greater Atlantic Region.