



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 23, 2023
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.

During this April presentation, GARFO HESD staff will highlight activities including aquaculture, offshore wind activities, and coastal storm risk management activities underway in the Greater Atlantic Region. They will also provide a brief update on some of NOAA's activities associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the results of their scenario planning exercise on the Susquehanna River where state and federal agencies are seeking ways to balance the passage of anadromous fish over four dams with the prevention of the expansion of aquatic invasive species such as the northern snakehead.