



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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MEMORANDUM

Date: December 1, 2021
To: Council
From: Jessica Coakley, Staff
Subject: Update from NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division (HESD) on activities of interest in the region

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 update, the Council will receive a presentation from HESD on:

- Coastal Storm Risk Management Studies with the region,
- Port development activities, some of which are associated with offshore wind,
- GARFO's Watershed and River Herring work,
- The infrastructure bill and what it could mean for NOAA Fisheries/HESD,
- An overview of research being done in the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Milford Laboratory on oyster aquaculture and fish habitat,
- An update on aquaculture in the region.