



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** 11/26/2019  
**To:** Council  
**From:** Mary Sabo  
**Subject:** 2020 Implementation Plan – Proposed Actions and Deliverables

Each year, the Council develops an annual implementation plan which identifies the activities and actions the Council expects to work on during the upcoming year. Implementation plans are designed for use as a planning tool by the Council and staff and as a way to update the public on progress toward achieving the goals and objectives of the strategic plan. These plans are intended to provide a comprehensive and realistic framework for merging the Council's ongoing projects with new initiatives. At the core of each implementation plan is a section entitled "Proposed Actions and Deliverables," which includes the specifications, amendments and frameworks, special projects, and other initiatives the Council has prioritized for the upcoming year.

Because the Council is still in the process of finalizing its next five-year strategic plan (approval is expected at the December Council Meeting), staff recommends postponing Council review of the full 2020 Implementation Plan until the next meeting in February 2020. This will allow staff adequate time to ensure that the proposed implementation plan effectively addresses the Council's strategic goals and objectives.

Behind this memo is a list of proposed actions and deliverables for 2020. The Council will review and consider approval of this list at the December Meeting. Staff will then develop a complete implementation plan for Council consideration at the February 2020 meeting in Duck, NC.



## 2020 Proposed Actions and Deliverables

### SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, BLACK SEA BASS

1. Review 2021 specifications for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass
2. Develop and approve 2021 recreational management measures for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass
3. Develop advisory panel fishery performance reports
4. Initiate action to revise recreational management system for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass to allow for greater stability and flexibility
5. Evaluate commercial scup discards and gear restricted areas
6. Conduct scoping and develop alternatives for Recreational/Commercial Allocation Amendment
7. Continue development of Black Sea Bass Commercial Amendment
8. Initiate EAFM management strategy evaluation for summer flounder

### BLUEFISH

9. Review 2021 bluefish specifications
10. Develop and approve 2021 bluefish recreational measures
11. Develop advisory panel fishery performance report
12. Continue development of Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment

### GOLDEN AND BLUELINE TILEFISH

13. Develop and approve 2021-2022 golden tilefish specifications
14. Review 2021 blueline tilefish specifications
15. Develop advisory panel fishery performance reports
16. Support efforts to address private recreational permitting and reporting issues (GARFO lead)
17. Tilefish survey (ongoing)

### MACKEREL, SQUID, BUTTERFISH

18. Develop and approve 2021-2023 specifications for Atlantic mackerel, squids, and butterfish
19. Develop advisory panel fishery performance reports
20. Review butterfish cap performance report
21. Take final action on *Illex* Permit and MSB Goals and Objectives Amendment
22. Review recommendations of working group for real time *Illex* management to consider stock assessment information
23. *Illex* growth and maturity data project
24. Review 2020-2021 chub mackerel specifications
25. HMS/chub mackerel diet study (final report)

### RIVER HERRING AND SHAD

26. Develop and approve RH/S cap for Atlantic mackerel fishery for 2021-2023
27. Develop RH/S discussion papers (e.g. biological caps, New England alignment, hotspots)

### SPINY DOGFISH

28. Review 2021 spiny dogfish specifications

29. Develop advisory panel fishery performance report

## SURFCLAMS AND OCEAN QUAHOGS

30. Develop and approve 2021-2024 surfclam specifications and 2021-2026 ocean quahog specifications
31. Develop advisory panel fishery performance reports
32. Initiate Commingling/Discarding Issues Action<sup>1</sup>
33. Surfclam genetic study (contract; ongoing)

## SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

34. Initiate a workshop to review and consider redevelopment of the RSA program
35. Continue to support the Fishery Dependent Data Initiative (GARFO lead)
36. Identify new SSC membership
37. Convene joint Council-SSC meeting
38. Maryland Recreational Ocean Effort Video Estimation project (contract)
39. Develop a process to track progress toward addressing the Council's research priorities.

## ECOSYSTEM AND OCEAN PLANNING/HABITAT

40. Coordinate Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment (NRHA)
41. Continue work on EFH Redo
42. Update the EAFM risk assessment
43. Develop habitat- and fishery-related comments on offshore energy development
44. Maintain joint MAFMC-NEFMC Offshore Wind web page and Offshore Wind Notices to Mariners web page
45. Initiate climate change and distribution shift scenario planning

## GENERAL

46. Complete the Commercial Fisheries eVTR Framework
47. Track relevant MSA/fisheries legislation and develop comments as requested

## COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

48. Continue to implement Council communication and outreach plan
49. Develop and maintain Council action web pages
50. Develop fact sheets and outreach materials as needed
51. Complete website update and improvement project
52. Establish a Communication/Outreach Advisory Panel

## POSSIBLE ADDITIONS

53. Expand summer flounder recreational management strategy evaluation to cover scup and black sea bass (contract)
54. Review red crab and lobster fishery exemptions for discrete deep sea coral protected zones
55. Develop a white paper on fixed/variable costs and employment information (all Northeast fisheries)
56. Initiate action to address right whale issues
57. Modify list of ecosystem component species from Unmanaged Forage Amendment (e.g., addition of cancer crabs)
58. Review RH/S annual progress update
59. Convene a workshop to discuss the impacts of pollutants on Mid-Atlantic fisheries

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<sup>1</sup> Additional details and background on these proposed deliverables:  
[http://www.mafmc.org/s/NextStepsITQReview\\_Input\\_2019-10-02.pdf](http://www.mafmc.org/s/NextStepsITQReview_Input_2019-10-02.pdf)