



2019 Planned Council Meeting Topics

Updated 11/25/19

December 10-12, 2019 – Annapolis, MD

- Bluefish Allocation Amendment – Review and approve supplemental scoping document for additional scoping hearings ~~Approve Range of Alternatives~~
- Summer Flounder 2020 Recreational Management Measures – Develop and Approve
- Scup 2020 Recreational Management Measures – Develop and Approve
- Black Sea Bass 2020 Recreational Management Measures – Develop and Approve
- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment – Approve scoping ~~plan~~ document
- EAFM Summer Flounder Conceptual Model – Review Results and Next Steps
- 2020-2024 Comprehensive Research Priorities – Review and Approve
- Risk Policy Framework – Framework Meeting 2 (Final Action)
- Review of New SSC Membership
- 2020 Implementation Plan – ~~Approve~~ Discuss (final approval in February)
- 2020-2024 Strategic Plan – Approve
- Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Excessive Shares Amendment – Final Action
- ~~Summer Flounder Commercial/Recreational Allocation Study Update (postponed)~~
- Commercial eVTR Omnibus Framework – Framework Meeting 2 (Final Action)
- Update on Habitat Activities
- ~~Illex Permitting & MSB FMP Goals Amendment – Review Public Hearing Document and Select Any Preliminary Preferred Alternatives~~

February 11-13, 2019 – Duck, North Carolina

- Review and approve new SSC membership
- Illex Permitting & MSB FMP Goals Amendment – Review Public Hearing Document and Select Any Preliminary Preferred Alternatives (moved from December)
- Update on GARFO/NEFSC Fishery Dependent Data Initiative (FDDI)
- NEFSC Survey and Data Collection Program Overview
- Scenario planning as a tool to evaluate climate change and governance issues
- 2020 Implementation Plan – Approve
- RSA Workshop – Initial Planning Discussion

MAFMC 2020 COUNCIL MEETINGS

February 11-13, 2020	The Sanderling Resort 1461 Duck Road Duck, NC 27949 855-412-7866
April 7-9, 2020	Stockton Seaview 401 South New York Road, Galloway, NJ 08205 609-652-1800
May 4-7, 2020	ASMFC & MAFMC Joint Meeting Westin Crystal City 1800 Richmond Hwy Arlington, VA 22202
DATE CHANGE June 16-18, 2020	Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront 3001 Atlantic Avenue Virginia Beach, VA 23151 757-213-3000
August 10-13, 2020	The Notary Hotel 21 N. Juniper St. Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-496-3200
October 6-8, 2020	Hyatt Place Long Island East End 451 East Main St. Riverhead, NY 11901 631-208-0002
December 14-17, 2020	Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Baltimore 550 Light St. Baltimore, MD 21202 410-234-0550



Status of Council Actions Under Development

AS OF 11/26/19

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish	<i>Illex</i> Permit and MSB Goals and Objectives Amendment	To ensure optimal management and fishery operation, the Council is considering modifications to the <i>Illex</i> permitting system as well as revisions to the goals and objectives for the MSB FMP. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/illex-permitting-msb-goals-amendment	The Council reviewed comments in June, and development is expected through 2019 and in to 2020.	Didden
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment	This joint Council/ASMFC amendment will reevaluate and potentially revise the commercial and recreational sector allocations for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. This action was initiated in part to address the allocation-related impacts of the revised recreational data from MRIP. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment	The Council and Board initiated this action at their October 2019 joint meeting. A draft scoping document will be considered for approval at the December joint meeting.	Beaty/Coutre/Dancy
Bluefish	Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment	This joint Council/ASMFC amendment considers potential revisions to the allocation of Atlantic bluefish between the commercial and recreational fisheries and the commercial allocations to the states. This action will also review the goals and objectives of the bluefish FMP and the quota transfer processes and establish a rebuilding plan for bluefish. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/bluefish-allocation-amendment	At the October meeting the Council and Board agreed to add rebuilding to this action. At the December meeting the Council and Board will review a supplemental scoping document for additional scoping hearings	Seeley
Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs	Excessive Shares Amendment	This amendment considers options to ensure that no individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) privileges. In addition, the goals and objectives for the SCOQ FMP will be reviewed and potentially revised. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-excessive-shares-amendment	Council will review public comments and input from the SCOQ AP and SCOQ Committee at its December 2019 Council meeting, when the Council discusses the final action/approval of the Excessive Shares Amendment.	Montañez

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
Omnibus	Risk Policy Framework	The purpose of this framework action is to provide for a review of the ABC control rule framework and Council Risk Policy established in 2010 and to recommend any changes.	The Council held Framework Meeting 1 at the August 2019 meeting. Staff, along with a workgroup, is currently evaluating nine different control rule alternatives approved by the Council that consider both biological and economic factors and trade-offs. The Council will take final action on the risk policy framework at their December meeting.	Muffley
	Omnibus Amendment for Data Modernization	This amendment will address the regulatory changes needed to fully implement the Agency's Fishery-Dependent Data Initiative.	The Council received an update at the October 2018 meeting.	GARFO/ NEFSC
	Commercial eVTR Framework	This framework considers requiring commercial fishing vessels with federal permits for species managed by the Council to submit VTRs electronically. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/commercial-evtr-framework	The first Framework meeting for this action was held in April 2019. In June the NEFMC initiated a joint eVTR action with the MAFMC and chose to expand the framework action to include all NEFMC-managed fisheries. The Council will take final action at the December 2019 meeting.	Coutre
Non-FMP	Golden and Blueline Tilefish Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting Issues	This action will develop permitting and reporting regulations for private recreational tilefish vessels. The action was approved in a final rule amending the golden tilefish FMP to include blueline tilefish in November 2017 with delayed implementation.	The Council will receive a status update at the February Council meeting. Implementation and outreach is expected by May 1, 2020.	GARFO lead MAFMC Contact: Seeley

Timeline and Status of Recent MAFMC Actions and Amendments/Frameworks Under Review

As of 11/22/2019

The table below summarizes the status of actions after they have been approved by the Council. For information about the status of Council actions under development, please see the document titled "Status of Council Actions Under Development."

Status	Amendment/Framework	Action Number	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	NOA Published	Proposed Rule Published	Approval/Disapproval Letter	Final Rule Published	Regs Effective
Complete	Squid Amendment	MSB AM 20	6/7/17	12/12/17	7/20/18	7/27/18	8/31/18	10/23/18	12/14/18	3/1/19
Open	Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding Framework	MSB FW 13	8/13/18	9/27/18	2/28/19	N/A	6/7/19		10/30/19	11/29/19
Open	Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Framework on Conservation Equivalency, Block Island Sound Transit, and Slot Limits	SFSBSB FW 14	12/11/18	3/21/19	5/8/19	N/A	8/8/19			
Open	Summer Flounder Commercial Issues and Goals and Objectives Amendment	TBD	3/6/19							
Open	Chub Mackerel Amendment	TBD	3/7/19	5/31/19	10/25/19					

Timeline and Status of Current and Upcoming Specifications for MAFMC Fisheries

As of 11/22/2019

Current Specifications	Year(s)	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Regs Effective	Notes
Golden Tilefish	2018-2020	4/11/17	6/5/17	8/16/17	9/7/17	11/7/17	11/2/17	2019 specs were reviewed in April 2018. No changes were recommended.
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog	2018-2020	6/6/17	8/14/17	9/22/17	12/8/17	2/6/18	3/8/18	2020 specs were reviewed in June 2019. No changes were recommended.
Longfin Squid and Butterfish	2018-2020	6/7/17		8/24/17	12/13/17	3/1/18	4/2/18	2019 specs were reviewed in October 2018. No changes were recommended.
<i>Illex</i> Squid	2019-2021	10/3/18	12/4/18	2/11/19	5/1/19	8/2/19	8/1/19	
Atlantic Mackerel (MSB FW 13)	2019-2021	8/13/18	9/27/18	2/28/19	6/7/19	10/30/19	11/29/19	
Atlantic Mackerel (including RH/S cap)	2020	6/5/19	8/22/19	9/30/19				
Chub mackerel	2020-2022	3/7/19	5/31/19	10/25/19				
Scup	2018-2019	8/8/17	10/2/17	12/1/17	11/7/17	12/22/17	12/22/17	
Scup	2020	10/8/19						Revised specifications based on the 2019 operational stock assessment
Blueline Tilefish	2019-2021	4/11/18	8/17/18		11/19/18	2/12/19	2/12/19	
Bluefish	2019	8/15/18			12/26/18	3/12/19	3/12/19	
Bluefish	2020	3/7/19	6/11/19	7/24/19	7/26/19			Interim specs to be replaced as soon as possible after results of 2019 operational assessment are available
Summer Flounder	2019 (interim)	8/15/18	10/12/18	11/28/18	11/15/18	12/17/18		
Summer Flounder	2019 (revised)	3/6/19	4/12/19	4/12/19	N/A	5/17/19	5/17/19	
Summer Flounder	2020-2021	3/6/19	6/25/19	7/18/19	7/26/19			
Black Sea Bass	2020	10/8/19						Revised specifications based on the 2019 operational stock assessment

Spiny Dogfish	2019-2021	10/2/18	11/30/18	3/5/19	3/29/19	5/15/19	5/15/19	
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Recreational Management Measures

Current Management Measures	Year(s)	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Regs Effective	Notes
Summer flounder recreational measures	2019	3/6/19	4/18/19	4/18/19	5/17/19	7/3/19	7/3/19	
Black sea bass recreational measures	2019	2/14/18	3/5/18	4/10/18	4/11/18	5/31/18	5/31/18	Reviewed in 2018. No changes from previous year's measures.
Scup recreational measures	2019	12/10/14	3/20/15		5/5/15	6/19/15	6/19/15	Reviewed in 2018. No changes from previous year's measures.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dr. Christopher M. Moore
Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 N. State Street, Suite 201
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Dr. Moore:

We received a letter on November 15, 2019, from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission which officially notified the Secretary of Commerce that the Commonwealth of Virginia is out of compliance with Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan. The Commission's letter is enclosed. Under the provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 5101 *et seq.*, the Commission's determination of non-compliance could lead to a federally imposed moratorium on fishing for Atlantic menhaden in Virginia waters.

The Act requires the Secretary to make findings on (1) whether Virginia has failed to carry out its responsibilities under a Commission Plan; and (2), if so determined, whether the measures in the Plan that Virginia has failed to implement and enforce are necessary for the conservation of the fishery in question. The Secretary's finding must be made no later than 30 days after receiving a notification of noncompliance from the Commission. The Act further requires that the Secretary, in making a finding on non-compliance, solicit and consider the comments from Virginia, the Commission, and the applicable Councils. The responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the Act has been delegated from the Secretary to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service).

This letter solicits comments from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council so that NOAA Fisheries Service may further consider those comments as it proceeds in this matter. Because of the tight statutory timeline, we request you submit any comments on this matter to Alan Risenhoover, Director, Sustainable Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 [alan.risenhoover@noaa.gov], as soon as possible, but no later than December 6, 2019. Our intention is to complete our evaluation and make necessary findings by December 17, 2019.

Sincerely,

Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

Enclosure (letter)

2019 FALL NRCC MEETING AGENDA

The Bostonian – 26 North St., Boston, MA

All times are approximate

Wednesday, November 20

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements
(Beal, Gilbert)

10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

2. Discuss NMFS Policy Directive 01-101-10 “Framework for determining that stock status determination and catch specifications are based on the best scientific information available (BSIA)”

Discussion leader: Pentony

- Discuss best way to develop a regional BSIA framework, which is required in the next 3 years

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

3. Data Management Update

Discussion leader: Gouveia/McCarty

- Update on electronic monitoring, electronic reporting, and Fishery Dependent Data Initiative topics
- Update on a shared GARFO-NEFSC Catch Accounting and Monitoring System project

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. *Lunch*

1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

4. Jurisdictional Issues and Shifting Stocks: Introduction to Scenario Planning

Discussion leader: Pentony

- Diane Borggaard (GARFO Protected Resources Division) will offer an overview of scenario planning, followed by NRCC discussion on this tool as it relates to jurisdictional issues.
- Update on “FMP Inventory” action item from the Spring 2019 meeting *The Councils and Commission were each going to select an FMP and describe what is in those plans that facilitates and/or hinders the ability to react to climate change.*

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. *Break*

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

5. Priorities Discussions

NEFMC, MAFMC, ASMFC, GARFO, and NEFSC outline priorities

- Discuss prioritization and coordination of resources, as needed.

5:00 p.m. *Adjourn Day 1*

6:45 p.m. – Dinner at Euno, 119 Salem Street (0.3 miles from the hotel)
www.eunorestaurant.com

Thursday, November 21

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. *(Break as needed)*

6. Stock Assessment Schedule and Related Topics

Discussion leader: Simpkins, unless otherwise noted

- Review of 2019 implementation of management track assessments, including processes that may need to be adjusted
- Review of management and research track schedules: 2020-2021
- Update on the Assessment Communications Framework (Discussion Leader: Beal)

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

7. Update on the Ecosystem Roadmap Implementation Plan

Discussion leaders: Simpkins

- Brief update on the Ecosystem Roadmap Implementation Plan and discuss current coordination across NRCC partners.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. *Lunch*

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

8. Offshore Wind Energy

Discussion leaders: Pentony/Hare

- Discuss any updates and strategies for continued engagement
- Discuss how NRCC wants to move forward with considering changes to the NEFSC surveys and how NEFSC should engage with partners

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

9. Meeting wrap-up and Other Business

- Complete any unfinished discussions or unresolved new business
- Review action items and assignments
- Identify Spring 2020 meeting date (MAFMC chair/host)
- Adjourn meeting

3:30 p.m. *Meeting adjourns*

NRCC Spring Meeting 2019 Action Items

May 16-17, 2019 Frances Marion Hotel, Charleston SC

1. Add Continued Wind Energy Discussion to Fall NRCC Agenda
Lead: **NRCC staff and NRCC Chair** (Beal)
Appointees needed:
Next step(s):
Due date(s): Fall 2019 NRCC meeting
2. GARFO to investigate options for workshop/meeting/symposium to discuss wind development issues with States, etc.
Lead: **GARFO**
Appointees needed:
Next step(s): Discuss with GARFO wind energy leads
Due date(s): Fall 2019 NRCC Meeting
3. Focus draft Assessment Communications Framework on the new assessment process, how to communicate results, and how to promote stakeholder engagement.
Lead: **ASMFC**
Appointees needed:
Next step(s): ASMFC will work with communications staff to revise the current draft framework and then distribute to NRCC for review.
Due date(s): Prior to Fall 2019 NRCC meeting
4. Center to Rollout New Assessment Schedule
Lead: **NEFSC**
Appointees needed:
Next step(s): In addition, the NEFSC and NEFMC will post the new assessment schedule on their respective websites.
Due date(s): ASAP
5. Add Briefing on Scenario Planning experiences from GARFO staff to Fall 2019 NRCC Agenda
Lead: **GARFO**
Appointees needed:
Next step(s): Identify Presenter (Update: Diane Borggaard (GARFO PRD) is prepared to provide an overview at the next NRCC meeting)
Due date(s): Prior to Fall 2019 NRCC Meeting

6. Inter-jurisdictional Issues Inventory (Pick FMPs and describe issues and opportunities)

Leads: **ASMFC**, **MAFMC**, and **NEFMC**

Appointees needed:

Next step(s): Each partner will select one FMP to look at what facilitates or hinders reactions to climate change.

Due date(s): Report out on at the next NRCC meeting

Fall 2019 NRCC Meeting (ASMFC Host) - November 20-21, 2019

Location - TBD