

MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL

2013 Planned Council Meeting Topics

February 12-14, 2013 -- Hampton, VA

- Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee review of alternatives for Amendment 16
- Amendment 16 to Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish (deep sea corals) Scoping Hearing
- Black Sea Bass Specifications for 2013 and 2014
- Special Management Zone recommendations for Delaware reefs
- Discuss approach to alternative development for Amendment 15 to Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish FMP
- Marine Recreational Information Program Update

April 9-11, 2013 -- Raleigh, NC

- Tilefish Specifications for 2014
- Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Omnibus Amendment draft EA approval
- Omnibus Recreational Amendment alternatives for public hearing document
- Squid Workshop update from January 15-17, 2013
- Forage Fish Workshop

June 11-13, 2013 -- Eatontown, NJ

- Butterfish Specifications for 2014 and other Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish management measures
- *Illex* Control Date approval
- Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Specifications for 2014, 2015, and 2016
- Surfclam and Ocean Quahog data collection protocol review
- Research Set-Aside award recommendations for 2014
- Omnibus Recreational Amendment submission approval
- Draft Strategic Plan document public hearing approval
- Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology alternatives approval

August 13-15, 2013 -- Wilmington, DE

- Swearing-in of new and reappointed Council members
- Election of Officers
- Research Set-Aside 2015 Research and Information Priorities List
- Final Draft Strategic Plan document approval
- Deep Sea Coral Amendment alternatives for public hearing

October 8-10, 2013 -- Philadelphia, PA

- Spiny Dogfish Specifications for 2014
- Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Commercial Specifications for 2014 (and beyond)
- Bluefish Specifications for 2014
- Amendment 15 to Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish FMP - River Herring/Shad as Stocks in a Fishery
- Monkfish Framework 8 alternatives for further analysis
- Research Set-Aside Priorities for 2015 Request for Proposal
- SAW/SARC 57 Benchmark Assessment review of summer flounder and striped bass

December 10-12, 2013 --Annapolis, MD

- Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Recreational Specifications for 2014
- SSCs 5-year Research Priority Recommendations
- Framework to address scup gear restricted areas (GRAs)

MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL

2013 Schedule of Events

August

- 1 Scup Allocation Project Review, Baltimore, MD
- 5-8 Review of Fishery Independent & Dependent Data for Stock Assessments, Woods Hole, MA
- 6-8 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting, Alexandria, VA
- 9 Deep Sea Corals Alternatives, Lund's in Cape May, NJ
- 13-15 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Wilmington, DE
- 19 Habitat PDT, Rockland, MA
- 26-30 Butterfish SAW - Data, Woods Hole, MA
- 28 Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel Meeting - Webinar
- 29 Bluefish Advisory Panel Meeting - Webinar

September

- 4-5 Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation Workshop on Short-Lived Species, URI, Kingston, RI
- 5-12 American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Little Rock, AR
- 9 Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Advisory Panel Meeting, Warwick, RI
- 10 Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- 10 House Hearing on Magnuson, Washington, DC
- 16 Seismic Survey Panel, W. Long Branch, NJ
- 17 Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Amendment 15 (river herring/shad) FMAT Webinar
- 17 Senate staff briefing on Climate Change and Fisheries, Washington, DC
- 17-19 SSC Meeting - ABC recommendations for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish and Dogfish, Baltimore, MD
- 19 Closed Area Technical Team Meeting, Taunton, MA
- 19-20 Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committees, Baltimore, MD

October

- 1-2 Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation Summit on Collaborative Research, Narragansett, RI
- 3-4 MARACOOS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- 7-10 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 9-10 ACCSP Joint Operations & Advisors Committee, Hanover, MD
- 15-18 Butterfish SAW Modeling, Woods Hole, MA
- 16 Seismic Testing Panel, Newark, DE
- 21-25 Tilefish Working Group Meeting (SARC 58), Woods Hole, MA
- 22-23 National Fish Habitat Action Plan Board Meeting, Charleston, SC
- 27-31 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting, Georgia

November

- TBD Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel Meeting
- 13-16 Fisheries Forum - Responsive and Adaptive Management Strategies, Monterey, CA
- 26-28 WinMon.BE 2013 Conference - Wind Energy and Fisheries

December

- 2-6 Butterfish SARC, Woods Hole, MA
- 2-6 Tilefish SARC 58, Woods Hole, MA
- 10-12 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Annapolis, MD

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Specifications

(As of September 26, 2013)

Fishery Management Plans	2012					2013					2014		
	Council Approved	Specs Package Submitted	NMFS Proposed Rule	NMFS Final Rule	Council Approved	Specs Package Submitted	NMFS Proposed Rule	NMFS Final Rule	Council Approved	Specs Package Submitted	NMFS Proposed Rule	NMFS Final Rule	
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Commercial Recreational	08/17/11 12/14/11	10/02/11 03/18/12	12/30/11 04/30/12	04/23/12 05/23/12	08/15/12 12/13/12	10/04/12 03/14/13	11/16/12 ^b 04/29/13 ^e	12/31/12 ^d 06/21/13					
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	06/15/11	08/09/11	10/26/11	03/21/12	06/12/12	07/31/12	11/19/12 ^c	01/16/13	06/12/13	08/15/13			
Dogfish	10/12/11	01/27/12	03/19/12	05/22/12	10/17/12	02/08/13	03/12/13	05/03/13 ^f					
Bluefish	08/17/11	12/02/11	02/15/12	04/27/12	08/15/12	12/02/12	02/20/13	05/07/13 ^g					
Surfclam, Ocean Quahog				12/27/10a					06/12/13	08/16/13			

^a Final rule applies for surfclam and ocean quahog fishing years 2011, 2012, and 2013.

^b Proposed rule applies for summer flounder and scup fishing years 2103 and 2014 and black sea bass fishing year 2013.

^c Proposed rule applies for mackerel fishing years 2013-2015 and butterfish fishing year 2013 (longfin and Illex squids were set in 2012 for fishing years 2012-2014).

^d Final rule applies for summer flounder and scup fishing years 2013 and 2014 and black sea bass fishing year 2013.

^e Proposed rule applies to 2013 and 2014 black sea bass catch limits and 2013 recreational measures.

^f Final rule applies for spiny dogfish fishing years 2013-1015.

^g Final rule applies for bluefish fishing years 2013-2014.

*Status of Open Amendment/Framework Actions
(as of September 26, 2013)*

<u>FMP</u>	<u>AMD/FW</u>	<u>Issues Addressed</u>
Mackerel / Squid Butterfish	Amendment 14	<i>Alosine</i> incidental catch
	Amendment 15	Consider adding river herrings (blueback and alewife) and shads (American and hickory) as Council-managed species.
	Amendment 16	Deep sea corals
	Framework 8	Trimester 2 butterflyfish cap closure
		Quota transfer between landings at end of year
Summer Flounder/ Scup/Black Sea Bass	Amendment 18	Black sea bass recreational management
	Amendment 20	Scup allocation
Dogfish	Amendment 3	Authorize RSA program
		Consider alternatives to seasonal quotas
		Limited access
		Quota rollover
		EFH definitions
Surfclam/ Ocean Quahog	Amendment 17	Cost recovery
		EFH updates
		Ocean quahog overfishing definition
	Amendment 18	Excessive shares
Omnibus Recreational Accountability Measures		Recreational AMs: Includes Amendment 17 to Mackerel/Squid/Butterfish; Amendment 19 to Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass; and Amendment 4 to Bluefish
Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology		Bycatch Monitoring: Includes Amendment 18 to Mackerel/Squid/Butterfish; Amendment 17 to Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass; Amendment 4 to Dogfish; Amendment 15 to Surfclam/Ocean Quahog; Amendment 5 to Bluefish; and Amendment 3 to Tilefish

Status of FMPs, Amendments and Frameworks

(As of September 26, 2013)

FMP/Amendment	Date Approved by Council	Lapse	Date submitted to NMFS/NERO	Lapse	FR Notice of Plan Availability	Lapse	Proposed Rule Publication Date	Lapse	Plan Approval/Disapproval Letter	Lapse	Final Rule Publication Date
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Framework 8	12/12/12	212	07/12/13								
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Amendment 14	06/14/12	257	02/26/13	166	08/12/13	17	08/29/13				
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Amendment 15											
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Amendment 16 (Deep Sea Corals)											
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Amendment 17											
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Amendment 18											
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Amendment 18											
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Amendment 20											
Spiny Dogfish Amendment 3	10/17/12	289	08/02/13								
Omnibus Recreational AM Amendment*	06/12/13	29	07/23/13	43	09/04/13	14	09/18/13				

* Includes Amendment 17 to Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish FMP; Amendment 19 to Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP; and, Amendment 4 to Bluefish FMP.

"Lapse" is the amount of time in days from Council approval to column-heading action.



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Richard B. Robins, Jr., Chairman | Lee G. Anderson, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: 25 September 2013
To: Christopher Moore
From: José Montañez
Subject: Fluke, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee Meeting - 20 September 2013

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee (TC) met on 20 September 2013 to review two projects which evaluated the effects of recreational measures. The first project was a "Model to Evaluate Recreational Management Measures" developed and presented by Dr. John Ward which evaluated recreational management measures for an upcoming fishing year by predicting the landings that occur across all length categories using a logistic regression analysis. Dr. Michael Wilberg presented the second project entitled "Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation" developed by John Wiedenmann et al. (funded by the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science - PMAFS), which tested the effects of current an alternative regulatory and management options in the summer flounder recreational fishery on both the population and fishery dynamics using a management strategy evaluation (MSE) simulation model.¹

After each presentation, the TC engaged each presenter in a question and answer session. Subsequently, the TC proceeded to prepare a preliminary report where they presented pros and cons associated with each project and how they may be best used for management purposes.

In general terms, I believe that the TC found that each model presented has the potential to be used as tools by the Council and Commission to complement management decisions. However, before making a final determination on the usefulness of these models, the TC suggested that modifications to the analyses be made in order to ascertain if more robust results are possible. In fact, the TC is planning to have a follow-up conference call next week with John Ward to discuss a number of issues that the TC would like to further discuss to better understand some of the data considerations and features of the model.

Finally, I have spoken with John Ward regarding his availability to conduct further work to incorporate comments and suggestions from the TC and John responded that he would be available to conduct such work.

¹ The documentation for these projects can be found at: <http://www.mafmc.org/docs/sfscbsb-mc>



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Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 13, 2013
To: Christopher Moore
From: José Montañez
Subject: Scup Allocation Project Review and Next Steps

The Council convened a panel of experts to review the analytical framework of the Scup Allocation Analysis work conducted by Gentner Consulting Group (GCG). The panel was selected based on expertise in analysis of the economics of commercial and recreational fisheries valuation and consumer demand. The panel included members from the MAFMC SSC (Dr. Doug Lipton, NOAA Fisheries Senior Economist), the NEFMC SSC (Dr. Eric Thunberg, NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology) as well as outside experts Dr. Jorge Holzer (University of Maryland), Dr. Jenny Sun (Gulf of Marine Research Institute), and Dr. Kurt Schnier (Georgia State University). The technical review panel met on August 1, 2013 in Baltimore, MD.

The final report was distributed via e-mail to the Council members on August 27, 2013.¹ The review panel provided comments on the TORs that focused on the technical aspects of the analytical framework. In addition, they made some overarching comments on the use of the analytical framework as a whole as it relates to management decisions under current scup ACLs. Furthermore, the review panel offered comments on potential research and data collection needs to improve future development of the analytical framework for scup used by GCG or its application to other Council managed species.

The final report indicates that the "analytical framework developed by GCG is consistent with economic theory and the overall approach is reasonable and consistent with professional standards." However, the panel noted that "the application of the analytical framework is not likely to be useful to inform commercial and recreational allocations of scup under present and expected near-future ACLs. This conclusion is driven more by the practical reality that marginal values for scup are effectively zero when quota levels are not binding than it is with the data and empirical models that underlie the valuation modules. If ACLs return to levels where quotas are likely to be binding then the model may be useful." The usefulness of the model would be conditional on potential improvements to the modules noted in the panel's findings for each of the TORs.

Staff recommends that the comments made by the panel of experts be used to guide future research to assess scup allocations. For example, the panel of experts discussed the potential use of site choice models (choice modeling attempts to model the decision process of an individual or segment in a particular context) for the commercial fishery. This could then be used to obtain estimates on the marginal value of scup instead of using the commercial valuation model detailed in the GCG report. Staff will continue to discuss with NEFSC personnel and other partners ways to improve the analytical

¹ The report can be found on line at:
http://static.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/52370660e4b0b842899476b0/1379337824098/scup_allocation_review_panel_report_FINAL.pdf

framework developed for the scup allocation analysis and suggest a contractor be hired in 2014 to complete the work.

Moore, Christopher

From: Richard Robins <richardbrobins@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 11:17 AM
To: Moore, Christopher
Cc: Anderson, Lee; Boreman, John
Subject: Multi-year Specifications

Chris

Following the most recent SSC meeting, I think we need to consider developing solutions to several issues:

1. Multi-year specifications. If our goals in using multi-year specs are to enhance the stability of our fisheries and to achieve regulatory efficiencies, then we need to modify the ABC-setting process for multi-year specs. Currently, the SSC is applying the P^* harvest control rule to the updated OFL projections and deriving ABCs for the multi-year period that maintain a constant P^* , but may result in variable quotas. Additionally, for stocks that have an annual assessment update, SSC is compelled to give the Council an updated ABC in the interim year, even if the changes are small. If these ABC values are lower than existing specs, then the Council would have to respecify the fishery.

I would suggest that we consider allowing a bandwidth for multi-year specs that would enable the Council to set constant catches for a multi-year period that correspond to an average P^* for the period, with the caveat that specs could not result in overfishing in any year within the period, based on projected biomass and F . The bandwidth could also be used to obviate the need to respecify a fishery if the assessment updates are within a predetermined percentage of the projected reference points in the interim years.

2. The SSC categorized the most recent Summer flounder benchmark as a Tier 3 assessment. This is the 18th benchmark in 30 years and represents our most sophisticated finfish assessment. The tiering decision has been driven largely by the details in the Tier 2 definition, which has made the tier elusive in practical terms. I would suggest that we review the Tier 2 definition to ensure that it allows us to discriminate more effectively between the qualities and characteristics of the stock assessments in the Northeast region. It may be necessary to clarify the definition or add a protocol for creating OFL distributions for high quality assessments that should be recognized as Tier 2 assessments.

I will bring these issues up under new business or we can discuss them under your report or the SSC report.

Best regards,
Rick Robins

Sent from my iPhone



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Tom A. Nies, Executive Director
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SEP 10 2013

Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Tom and Chris:

Since our July 30, 2013, letter to Tom, the agency working group on observer funding has been working to resolve the legal issues related to proposed observer cost sharing measures. We concluded that these issues required further discussion among NMFS, NOAA General Counsel, and Department of Commerce staff and that our lack of internal resolution of these issues prevented the joint observer funding plan development team and fishery management action team (Joint PDT/FMAT) from advancing their efforts. We now have a plan as to how to incorporate industry-funded observer coverage into fishery management plans (FMPs), which we will present at your upcoming September and October meetings; the plan is summarized below. Our plan would not specify fishery-by-fishery provisions for industry coverage programs, but would allow the Councils to use industry funding to increase observer coverage levels in their fisheries.

There are two components to the costs of observer coverage, and funding must be available for both components in order to achieve desired observer coverage levels. These components are:

- 1) Observer monitoring costs, which include the costs that would be incurred by an observer service provider, such as observer salary and travel; and
- 2) NMFS support and infrastructure costs, which include observer training, data processing, and infrastructure.

Under existing law, NMFS and industry cannot share responsibility for observer monitoring costs in the regulations. For example, we cannot cap the industry contribution and require NMFS to be responsible for the remainder of observer monitoring costs, such as the \$325 per day cap on industry contribution that was proposed in the recent Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel amendments. Also, any increases to observer coverage, even when industry is paying the full costs for the observers, will result in NMFS incurring additional support and infrastructure costs. Because NMFS's appropriations to cover support and infrastructure costs are limited and variable, the Councils cannot mandate specific levels of observer coverage that could impose financial obligations beyond what is appropriated.

The only way to increase observer coverage levels above levels set to cover legal mandates or the standardized bycatch reporting methodology (SBRM) is for industry to be responsible for 100 percent of observer monitoring costs, and for the Council to recommend coverage targets



rather than mandating specific coverage levels. We believe the best way to provide the Councils the tools to use industry funding of increased observer coverage is through an omnibus amendment for all New England and Mid-Atlantic fishery management plans (FMPs). As we have done with SBRM, we have asked our staffs to take the technical lead on developing this amendment if the Councils choose to proceed. The omnibus amendment would:

- 1) Define both NMFS and industry cost responsibilities for observer coverage consistent with the allocations noted above;
- 2) Create industry-funding requirements, similar to those currently in place in the Northeast multispecies and the Atlantic sea scallop FMPs, that can be referenced by any FMP that needs to implement industry funding requirements; and
- 3) Establish an annual process in which NMFS and both Councils would prioritize observer coverage levels above SBRM that will inform NMFS's decisions on the allocation of available NMFS support and infrastructure funds to achieve regional coverage goals, consistent with considering efficiency in the utilization of resources and minimizing costs as required by National Standards 5 and 7.

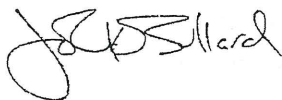
We intend to keep this action focused exclusively on the observer issue to avoid lengthy development that could result from the addition of other issues and management measures. Council input and meetings remain critical to ensure the public is involved, so we recommend leaving the Joint PDT/FMAT intact, with expanded membership to include experts from other FMPs.

We acknowledge that the observer monitoring costs can be a significant burden for industry. That is why we have identified a potential mechanism that may enable NMFS, when funding is available, to help offset some of industry's costs. This model was used to fund NE multispecies Sector dockside monitoring coverage in 2010 and 2011.

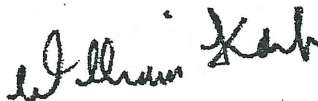
In order for these concepts to work, we need support from both Councils. This proposed approach would require both Councils to be willing to work together to prioritize regional monitoring goals. The Councils must remember that available funds limit the amount of observer coverage for all of our fisheries, regardless of the source of funding. The Councils must not prescribe specific observer coverage levels or specific industry contribution levels in future Council actions.

There are many details of this plan that still need to be resolved, but if both Councils agree with this approach, our staff will begin to develop alternatives for the omnibus amendment. Our goal is to present both Councils with an initial range of alternatives at their January and February 2014 meetings.

Sincerely,



John K. Bullard
Regional Administrator



William A. Karp, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director