



## **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting**

July 12, 2023

### **Terms of Reference**

In May 2023, the NMFS released the draft Fisheries Climate Governance Policy. This policy is intended to provide guidance on Council authority for stocks that may extend across the geographic area of more than one Council, pursuant to §304(f) of the Magnuson Stevens Act. The Mid-Atlantic Council intends to submit comments to NMFS and has requested that the SSC review and comment on the draft policy. Upon review of the draft policy, the SSC will provide a written report that addresses the following:

- 1) Comment on the overall proposed process to review the geographic scope and/or Council authority as described in the draft Fisheries Climate Governance Policy developed by the NMFS.
- 2) Provide feedback on the application and potential implications of the proposed review criteria, metrics, and data sources described in Section III, Step 1 (Review Considerations), Step 2 (Geographic Scope of Fishery), and Step 3 (Council Designation). For Steps 1 to 3 consider appropriateness of the criteria and metrics, their feasibility of application, and the ability of current data streams to support decision making. Propose alternative criteria, metrics, and data sources where appropriate.
- 3) Comment on any social and economic implications and considerations the draft policy could have on Mid-Atlantic fisheries and communities.
- 4) Comment on the potential science and stock assessment implications of this policy (including development and timing of scientific advice to inform the management process).
- 5) Provide guidance and/or recommendations for Council consideration and possible inclusion in the Council's comments on the draft policy.