



ENGAGING THE RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PROCESS

With a focus on Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

Baltimore, MD
December 2-3, 2011

Focus Group Purpose:

To diversify the involvement of the recreational fishing community in the Council management process

Focus Group Objectives

- To enhance the recreational community's understanding of the regulatory process, focusing on the recreational summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries;
- To gather perspectives from the recreational community on their engagement in the Council process, including clear steps that the Council can take to improve communication;
- To increase awareness of the Council's Visioning Process, and support the recreational community's participation in creating a vision for the future of Mid-Atlantic fisheries; and
- To identify and communicate different perspectives on the regulatory options and tradeoffs for managing the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass recreational fisheries.

Friday, December 2: Building the future of recreational fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic

1:00 – 1:30 Welcome and Introductions

Andy Loftus & Gil Radonski, Loftus Consulting

- Rick Robins, MAFMC Chair
- Participant introductions

1:30 – 1:45 Workshop Process and Ground Rules

Katie Latanich and John Henderschedt, Fisheries Forum (FF)

1:45 – 3:00 Presentations and Group Discussion

Looking ahead: Engaging an active and informed recreational community
Rick Robins (20 minutes)



Key Changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and key points and timeframes where the recreational community can weigh in on the establishment of regulations
Dr. Christopher Moore (20 minutes)

Group Discussion and Q&A (35 minutes)
FF Staff

Discussion questions:

- General questions
- Why has participation by the recreational community declined?
- What are some of the challenges to participation?

3:00 – 3:15 Introduction to Breakout Sessions
FF Staff

3:15 – 3:30 BREAK

3:30 – 4:45 Concurrent Breakout Sessions: Perspectives on Meaningful Participation by the Recreational Community
FF Staff

Discussion questions:

- What do participants view as elements of effective participation in the annual process for setting recreational regulations?
- What types of information do different components of the recreational community feel are important to support their informed participation and desired level of involvement in the Council process?
- What steps could the Council take to implement and support the recreational community's vision of effective participation, and address the challenges to participation identified by participants?

4:45-5:15 Summary Group Discussion: How Can the Council Support Meaningful Participation by All Facets of the Recreational Community?
FF Staff

Discussion questions:

- What elements of process, outcome, and/or follow-up are important to all facets of the recreational community, to demonstrate that the Council recognizes the recreational community's perspectives on an ongoing basis?
- What outcomes and follow-up from the Council will demonstrate a commitment to supporting participation by the recreational community?

5:15-5:30 Summary Remarks and Looking Ahead -Rick Robins



Saturday, December 3 – Supporting Engagement and Capacity Building in the Recreational Community

8:30 – 8:45 **Introductory Remarks, Recap of Day 1, Overview of Day 2**
Gil Radonski and Andy Loftus

8:45 – 10:00 **Group discussion: How Does the Recreational Community Currently Communicate and Receive Information from the Council, and How Can Communications be Improved in The Future?**
FF Staff

Discussion Questions:

- How does the recreational community communicate and share information?
- How does the recreational community obtain information from the Council?
- What would make it easier for people to participate in Council processes? How can the Council and the recreational community utilize existing networks and channels to facilitate information sharing?
- What are new ideas and strategies for communicating with and engaging the recreational community?

10:00 – 10:15 BREAK

10:15-10:30 **The Council's Visioning Project**
Mary Clark

10:30-11: 45 **Concurrent Breakout Sessions: Eliciting Priorities and Values for the Vision Of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries**
FF Staff

Discussion questions:

- What are some of the priorities and values held by the recreational community (including anglers, for-hire, retail, manufacturing, media, etc.) for Mid Atlantic fisheries?
- What is important to communicate to the Council about the recreational community about their vision for Mid-Atlantic fisheries, including shared perspectives as well as differences of opinion?
- How does the recreational community define successful management of fully rebuilt stocks?

11:45 – 12:15 Summary Group Discussion - FF Staff

:12:15-12:30 **Visioning Project Next Steps and Additional Opportunities for Participation**
Rick Robins



12:30 – 1:30 LUNCH (Note: Buffet in-house lunch provided)

1:30 – 1:50 Council, Commission, and State Interactions: Challenges, Trade-offs, and Opportunities
Jack Travelstead

1:50 – 2:30 Presentation and Discussion: The Process for Setting Recreational Regulations for Summer Flounder, Scup, And Black Sea Bass
Jessica Coakley

- Process, timeline, and information inputs for setting recreational regulations for each species
- Challenges, structure of regulations, and tradeoffs between regulatory options
 - Summer Flounder
 - Scup
 - Black Sea Bass

Discussion/Q&A

2:30 – 2:45 Breakout Group Instructions and Break
FF Staff

2:45 – 4:00 Concurrent Breakout Sessions: What Are The Recreational Community's Views On Various Regulatory Options For Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass?

Discussion questions:

- What are some of the benefits, drawbacks, and tradeoffs associated with different regulatory options, including size limits, bag limits, and seasons?
 - By species (summer flounder, scup, black sea bass)
 - By component of the recreational community
 - By geographic region?

4:00 – 4:45 Summary Group Discussion: How Can the Recreational Community Communicate About Preferences and Tradeoffs Between Regulatory Options? - FF Staff

Discussion questions:

- How can the recreational community communicate with the Council about benefits, drawbacks, and tradeoffs of different regulatory options?
- What steps can the Council take to gather and integrate information about the recreational community's preferences into the development of annual regulations for each fishery?

4:45 – 5:00 Next Steps and Closing Remarks - Rick Robins