



# Deep Sea Corals Workshop

**Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 1:00 PM – Thursday, April 30, 2015, 3:30 PM**

**Doubletree Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel**

*890 Elkridge Landing Rd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090*

*TEL: +1-410-859-8400*

## **Overview**

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a workshop in conjunction with a joint meeting of the Council's Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Advisory Panel and Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Advisory Panel. The purpose of this workshop is to review, and potentially refine, the spatial alternatives for discrete coral protection zones proposed under the Deep Sea Corals Amendment to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan.

The Council is developing this amendment to address the potential impacts of bottom fishing activity on deep sea corals in the Mid-Atlantic. During the January 2015 public comment period and the February 2015 Council meeting, many stakeholders requested an additional opportunity for Council advisors to comment on the areas being considered for designation as discrete coral zones. This workshop will provide a forum for members of the Council's advisory panels and other stakeholders to provide input on these zones and potentially develop a refined set of spatial alternatives for Council consideration.

## **Workshop Objectives**

- Review all proposed discrete coral zone alternatives, including alternatives proposed by industry advisors during the public comment period;
- Identify key areas of importance for coral protection and fishing activity;
- Develop recommendations for modified discrete zone boundaries for Council consideration; and
- Summarize advisor and other stakeholder comments and concerns related to discrete zone alternatives.

## **Participants**

Workshop participants will include the Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Advisory Panel, the Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Advisory Panel, members of the Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT), deep sea coral experts, and other interested stakeholders. Although the workshop will be open to the public, the format will be focused on active participation from invited participants. There will be limited opportunities for other members of the public to provide input as time allows.

## **Registration**

Everyone planning to attend this workshop should register on the Council's website at <http://www.mafmc.org/forms/2015/deep-sea-corals-workshop-registration>.

## **Contacts**

- Kiley Dancy, [kdancy@mafmc.org](mailto:kdancy@mafmc.org), (302) 526-5257
- Chris Moore, [cmoore@mafmc.org](mailto:cmoore@mafmc.org), (302) 526-5255

Additional information about the Deep Sea Corals Amendment and the workshop can be found at [www.mafmc.org/actions/msb/am16](http://www.mafmc.org/actions/msb/am16).