The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) has partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Region, NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation, and NMFS Office of Science and Technology to organize a Habitat-Ecosystem Workshop. The Workshop will be held on December 13 and 14 at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 3001 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Speakers will include representatives from the Mid-Atlantic, New England, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils; Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; states; regional governance bodies (including Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Oceans (MARCO)); fishing industries; environmental groups; and, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Coastal and marine resources and the habitats that support them are important to many groups in the mid-Atlantic region for a variety of reasons. The Council plans to use its specific role in the fishery management process to forge broader discussions about coastal and marine ecosystems, current and projected human activities, and the full array of resource management approaches and tools available to improve habitat and ecosystem health in the mid-Atlantic.

Dr. Gene Kray, Chairman of the Council's Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee, stated "The Council is excited about bringing fisheries scientists and managers together to have a dialogue about how we can bring ecosystem based approaches into our fishery management plans. Much of the discourse in Washington in recent years has been focused on incorporating this concept into the coastal and marine spatial efforts. I believe this workshop can give us, as fishery managers, a road map to initiate this effort."

For the complete agenda for the Habitat-Ecosystem Workshop, please visit the MAFMC website at www.mafmc.org.