2019 Planned Council Meeting Topics

Updated 11/25/19

December 10-12, 2019 – Annapolis, MD

- Bluefish Allocation Amendment – Review and approve supplemental scoping document for additional scoping hearings
- Summer Flounder 2020 Recreational Management Measures – Develop and Approve
- Scup 2020 Recreational Management Measures – Develop and Approve
- Black Sea Bass 2020 Recreational Management Measures – Develop and Approve
- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment – Approve
- EAFM Summer Flounder Conceptual Model – Review Results and Next Steps
- 2020-2024 Comprehensive Research Priorities – Review and Approve
- Risk Policy Framework – Framework Meeting 2 (Final Action)
- Review of New SSC Membership
- 2020 Implementation Plan – Approve Discuss (final approval in February)
- 2020-2024 Strategic Plan – Approve
- Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Excessive Shares Amendment – Final Action
- Summer-Flounder-Commercial/Recreational-Allocation Study Update (postponed)
- Commercial eVTR Omnibus Framework – Framework Meeting 2 (Final Action)
- Update on Habitat Activities

February 11-13, 2019 – Duck, North Carolina

- Review and approve new SSC membership
- Illex Permitting & MSB FMP Goals Amendment – Review Public Hearing Document and Select Any Preliminary Preferred Alternatives (moved from December)
- Update on GARFO/NEFSC Fishery Dependent Data Initiative (FDDI)
- NEFSC Survey and Data Collection Program Overview
- Scenario planning as a tool to evaluate climate change and governance issues
- 2020 Implementation Plan – Approve
- RSA Workshop – Initial Planning Discussion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 11-13, 2020</td>
<td>The Sanderling Resort</td>
<td>1461 Duck Road, Duck, NC 27949</td>
<td>855-412-7866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7-9, 2020</td>
<td>Stockton Seaview</td>
<td>401 South New York Road, Galloway, NJ 08205</td>
<td>609-652-1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4-7, 2020</td>
<td>ASMFC &amp; MAFMC Joint Meeting</td>
<td>Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Hwy</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE CHANGE</td>
<td>Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront</td>
<td>3001 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23151</td>
<td>757-213-3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10-13, 2020</td>
<td>Hyatt Place Long Island East End</td>
<td>451 East Main St., Riverhead, NY 11901</td>
<td>631-208-0002</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6-8, 2020</td>
<td>Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Baltimore</td>
<td>550 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21202</td>
<td>410-234-0550</td>
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<td>December 14-17, 2020</td>
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## Status of Council Actions Under Development

**AS OF 11/26/19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FMP</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Staff Lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish</td>
<td>Illex Permit and MSB Goals and Objectives Amendment</td>
<td>To ensure optimal management and fishery operation, the Council is considering modifications to the Illex permitting system as well as revisions to the goals and objectives for the MSB FMP. <a href="http://www.mafmc.org/actions/illex-permitting-msb-goals-amendment">http://www.mafmc.org/actions/illex-permitting-msb-goals-amendment</a></td>
<td>The Council reviewed comments in June, and development is expected through 2019 and into 2020.</td>
<td>Didden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment</td>
<td>This joint Council/ASMFC amendment will reevaluate and potentially revise the commercial and recreational sector allocations for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. This action was initiated in part to address the allocation-related impacts of the revised recreational data from MRIP. <a href="http://www.mafmc.org/actions/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment">http://www.mafmc.org/actions/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment</a></td>
<td>The Council and Board initiated this action at their October 2019 joint meeting. A draft scoping document will be considered for approval at the December joint meeting.</td>
<td>Beaty/Coutre/Dancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment</td>
<td>This joint Council/ASMFC amendment considers potential revisions to the allocation of Atlantic bluefish between the commercial and recreational fisheries and the commercial allocations to the states. This action will also review the goals and objectives of the bluefish FMP and the quota transfer processes and establish a rebuilding plan for bluefish. <a href="http://www.mafmc.org/actions/bluefish-allocation-amendment">http://www.mafmc.org/actions/bluefish-allocation-amendment</a></td>
<td>At the October meeting the Council and Board agreed to add rebuilding to this action. At the December meeting the Council and Board will review a supplemental scoping document for additional scoping hearings</td>
<td>Seeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs</td>
<td>Excessive Shares Amendment</td>
<td>This amendment considers options to ensure that no individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) privileges. In addition, the goals and objectives for the SCOQ FMP will be reviewed and potentially revised. <a href="http://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-excessive-shares-amendment">http://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-excessive-shares-amendment</a></td>
<td>Council will review public comments and input from the SCOQ AP and SCOQ Committee at its December 2019 Council meeting, when the Council discusses the final action/approval of the Excessive Shares Amendment.</td>
<td>Montañez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMP</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Staff Lead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omnibus</td>
<td>Risk Policy Framework</td>
<td>The purpose of this framework action is to provide for a review of the ABC control rule framework and Council Risk Policy established in 2010 and to recommend any changes.</td>
<td>The Council held Framework Meeting 1 at the August 2019 meeting. Staff, along with a workgroup, is currently evaluating nine different control rule alternatives approved by the Council that consider both biological and economic factors and trade-offs. The Council will take final action on the risk policy framework at their December meeting.</td>
<td>Muffley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omnibus</td>
<td>Amendment for Data Modernization</td>
<td>This amendment will address the regulatory changes needed to fully implement the Agency’s Fishery-Dependent Data Initiative.</td>
<td>The Council received an update at the October 2018 meeting.</td>
<td>GARFO/ NEFSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omnibus</td>
<td>Commercial eVTR Framework</td>
<td>This framework considers requiring commercial fishing vessels with federal permits for species managed by the Council to submit VTRs electronically. <a href="http://www.mafmc.org/actions/commercial-evtr-framework">http://www.mafmc.org/actions/commercial-evtr-framework</a></td>
<td>The first Framework meeting for this action was held in April 2019. In June the NEFMC initiated a joint eVTR action with the MAFMC and chose to expand the framework action to include all NEFMC-managed fisheries. The Council will take final action at the December 2019 meeting.</td>
<td>Coutre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-FMP</td>
<td>Golden and Blueline Tilefish Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting Issues</td>
<td>This action will develop permitting and reporting regulations for private recreational tilefish vessels. The action was approved in a final rule amending the golden tilefish FMP to include blueline tilefish in November 2017 with delayed implementation.</td>
<td>The Council will receive a status update at the February Council meeting. Implementation and outreach is expected by May 1, 2020.</td>
<td>GARFO lead MAFMC Contact: Seeley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Timeline and Status of Recent MAFMC Actions and Amendments/Frameworks Under Review

As of 11/22/2019

The table below summarizes the status of actions after they have been approved by the Council. For information about the status of Council actions under development, please see the document titled “Status of Council Actions Under Development.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Amendment/Framework</th>
<th>Action Number</th>
<th>Council Approval</th>
<th>Initial Submission</th>
<th>Final Submission</th>
<th>NOA Published</th>
<th>Proposed Rule Published</th>
<th>Approval/Disapproval Letter</th>
<th>Final Rule Published</th>
<th>Regs Effective</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Squid Amendment</td>
<td>MSB AM 20</td>
<td>6/7/17</td>
<td>12/12/17</td>
<td>7/20/18</td>
<td>7/27/18</td>
<td>8/31/18</td>
<td>10/23/18</td>
<td>12/14/18</td>
<td>3/1/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding Framework</td>
<td>MSB FW 13</td>
<td>8/13/18</td>
<td>9/27/18</td>
<td>2/28/19</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6/7/19</td>
<td>10/30/19</td>
<td>11/29/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Framework on Conservation Equivalency, Block Island Sound Transit, and Slot Limits</td>
<td>SFSBSB FW 14</td>
<td>12/11/18</td>
<td>3/21/19</td>
<td>5/8/19</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>8/8/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Summer Flounder Commercial Issues and Goals and Objectives Amendment</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>3/6/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Chub Mackerel Amendment</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>3/7/19</td>
<td>5/31/19</td>
<td>10/25/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Specifications</td>
<td>Year(s)</td>
<td>Council Approval</td>
<td>Initial Submission</td>
<td>Final Submission</td>
<td>Proposed Rule</td>
<td>Final Rule</td>
<td>Regs Effective</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Tilefish</td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>4/11/17</td>
<td>6/5/17</td>
<td>8/16/17</td>
<td>9/7/17</td>
<td>11/7/17</td>
<td>11/2/17</td>
<td>2019 specs were reviewed in April 2018. No changes were recommended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surfclam and Ocean Quahog</td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>6/6/17</td>
<td>8/14/17</td>
<td>9/22/17</td>
<td>12/8/17</td>
<td>2/6/18</td>
<td>3/8/18</td>
<td>2020 specs were reviewed in June 2019. No changes were recommended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Longfin Squid and Butterfish</td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>6/7/17</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/24/17</td>
<td>12/13/17</td>
<td>3/1/18</td>
<td>4/2/18</td>
<td>2019 specs were reviewed in October 2018. No changes were recommended.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Illex Squid</td>
<td>2019-2021</td>
<td>10/3/18</td>
<td>12/4/18</td>
<td>2/11/19</td>
<td>5/1/19</td>
<td>8/2/19</td>
<td>8/1/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic Mackerel (MSB FW 13)</td>
<td>2019-2021</td>
<td>8/13/18</td>
<td>9/27/18</td>
<td>2/28/19</td>
<td>6/7/19</td>
<td>10/30/19</td>
<td>11/29/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic Mackerel (including RH/S cap)</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>6/5/19</td>
<td>8/22/19</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chub mackerel</td>
<td>2020-2022</td>
<td>3/7/19</td>
<td>5/31/19</td>
<td>10/25/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scup</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blueline Tilefish</td>
<td>2019-2021</td>
<td>4/11/18</td>
<td>8/17/18</td>
<td>11/19/18</td>
<td>2/12/19</td>
<td>2/12/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>8/15/18</td>
<td></td>
<td>12/26/18</td>
<td>3/12/19</td>
<td>3/12/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>3/7/19</td>
<td>6/11/19</td>
<td>7/24/19</td>
<td>7/26/19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interim specs to be replaced as soon as possible after results of 2019 operational assessment are available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/15/18</td>
<td>10/12/18</td>
<td>11/28/18</td>
<td>11/15/18</td>
<td>12/17/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3/6/19</td>
<td>4/12/19</td>
<td>4/12/19</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3/6/19</td>
<td>6/25/19</td>
<td>7/18/19</td>
<td>7/26/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Revised specifications based on the 2019 operational stock assessment</td>
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### Recreational Management Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Management Measures</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Council Approval</th>
<th>Initial Submission</th>
<th>Final Submission</th>
<th>Proposed Rule</th>
<th>Final Rule</th>
<th>Regs Effective</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Summer flounder recreational measures</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3/6/19</td>
<td>4/18/19</td>
<td>4/18/19</td>
<td>5/17/19</td>
<td>7/3/19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Christopher M. Moore  
Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 N. State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Dr. Moore:

We received a letter on November 15, 2019, from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission which officially notified the Secretary of Commerce that the Commonwealth of Virginia is out of compliance with Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan. The Commission’s letter is enclosed. Under the provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 5101 et seq., the Commission’s determination of non-compliance could lead to a federally imposed moratorium on fishing for Atlantic menhaden in Virginia waters.

The Act requires the Secretary to make findings on (1) whether Virginia has failed to carry out its responsibilities under a Commission Plan; and (2), if so determined, whether the measures in the Plan that Virginia has failed to implement and enforce are necessary for the conservation of the fishery in question. The Secretary’s finding must be made no later than 30 days after receiving a notification of noncompliance from the Commission. The Act further requires that the Secretary, in making a finding on non-compliance, solicit and consider the comments from Virginia, the Commission, and the applicable Councils. The responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the Act has been delegated from the Secretary to NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service).

This letter solicits comments from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council so that NOAA Fisheries Service may further consider those comments as it proceeds in this matter. Because of the tight statutory timeline, we request you submit any comments on this matter to Alan Risenhoover, Director, Sustainable Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 [alan.risenhoover@noaa.gov], as soon as possible, but no later than December 6, 2019. Our intention is to complete our evaluation and make necessary findings by December 17, 2019.

Sincerely,

Chris Oliver  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

Enclosure (letter)
2019 FALL NRCC MEETING AGENDA
The Bostonian – 26 North St., Boston, MA

All times are approximate

Wednesday, November 20

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements
   (Beal, Gilbert)

10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
2. Discuss NMFS Policy Directive 01-101-10 “Framework for determining that
   stock status determination and catch specifications are based on the best scientific
   information available (BSIA)”
   Discussion leader: Pentony
   • Discuss best way to develop a regional BSIA framework, which is required
     in the next 3 years

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
3. Data Management Update
   Discussion leader: Gouveia/McCarty
   • Update on electronic monitoring, electronic reporting, and Fishery
     Dependent Data Initiative topics
   • Update on a shared GARFO-NEFSC Catch Accounting and Monitoring
     System project

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
   Discussion leader: Pentony
   • Diane Borggaard (GARFO Protected Resources Division) will offer an
     overview of scenario planning, followed by NRCC discussion on this tool as
     it relates to jurisdictional issues.
   • Update on “FMP Inventory” action item from the Spring 2019 meeting
     The Councils and Commission were each going to select an FMP and
     describe what is in those plans that facilitates and/or hinders the ability to
     react to climate change.

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
5. Priorities Discussions
   NEFMC, MAFMC, ASMFC, GARFO, and NEFSC outline priorities
   • Discuss prioritization and coordination of resources, as needed.
5:00 p.m.  Adjourn Day 1

6:45 p.m. – Dinner at Euno, 119 Salem Street (0.3 miles from the hotel)
   www.eunorestaurant.com

Thursday, November 21

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Break as needed)
6. Stock Assessment Schedule and Related Topics
   Discussion leader: Simpkins, unless otherwise noted
   - Review of 2019 implementation of management track assessments,
     including processes that may need to be adjusted
   - Review of management and research track schedules: 2020-2021
   - Update on the Assessment Communications Framework (Discussion Leader: Beal)

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
7. Update on the Ecosystem Roadmap Implementation Plan
   Discussion leaders: Simpkins
   - Brief update on the Ecosystem Roadmap Implementation Plan and discuss current coordination across NRCC partners.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
8. Offshore Wind Energy
   Discussion leaders: Pentony/Hare
   - Discuss any updates and strategies for continued engagement
   - Discuss how NRCC wants to move forward with considering changes to the NEFSC surveys and how NEFSC should engage with partners

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
9. Meeting wrap-up and Other Business
   - Complete any unfinished discussions or unresolved new business
   - Review action items and assignments
   - Identify Spring 2020 meeting date (MAFMC chair/host)
   - Adjourn meeting

3:30 p.m. Meeting adjourns
1. Add Continued Wind Energy Discussion to Fall NRCC Agenda  
   Lead: NRCC staff and NRCC Chair (Beal)  
   Appointees needed:  
   Next step(s):  
   Due date(s): Fall 2019 NRCC meeting

2. GARFO to investigate options for workshop/meeting/symposium to discuss wind development issues with States, etc.  
   Lead: GARFO  
   Appointees needed:  
   Next step(s): Discuss with GARFO wind energy leads  
   Due date(s): Fall 2019 NRCC Meeting

3. Focus draft Assessment Communications Framework on the new assessment process, how to communicate results, and how to promote stakeholder engagement.  
   Lead: ASMFC  
   Appointees needed:  
   Next step(s): ASMFC will work with communications staff to revise the current draft framework and then distribute to NRCC for review.  
   Due date(s): Prior to Fall 2019 NRCC meeting

4. Center to Rollout New Assessment Schedule  
   Lead: NEFSC  
   Appointees needed:  
   Next step(s): In addition, the NEFSC and NEFMC will post the new assessment schedule on their respective websites.  
   Due date(s): ASAP

5. Add Briefing on Scenario Planning experiences from GARFO staff to Fall 2019 NRCC Agenda  
   Lead: GARFO  
   Appointees needed:  
   Next step(s): Identify Presenter (Update: Diane Borggaard (GARFO PRD) is prepared to provide an overview at the next NRCC meeting)  
   Due date(s): Prior to Fall 2019 NRCC Meeting
6. Inter-jurisdictional Issues Inventory (Pick FMPs and describe issues and opportunities)

Leads: ASMFC, MAFMC, and NEFMC

Appointees needed:

Next step(s): Each partner will select one FMP to look at what facilitates or hinders reactions to climate change.

Due date(s): Report out on at the next NRCC meeting

Fall 2019 NRCC Meeting (ASMFC Host) - November 20-21, 2019
Location - TBD