Potential Redevelopment of the Mid-Atlantic Council’s Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program

Decision Tree Tables

February 2022

Draft answers to top tier priority questions identified by the Research Steering Committee during the January 18, 2022 Committee meeting¹ are identified in orange font. Additional priority question alternatives and suggested language changes recommended by the Committee are identified in green font.

### Topic #1 - Who is involved in the RSA program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Tier/Highest Priority Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A. Allow commercial sector participation only</td>
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<tr>
<td>1B. Allow commercial and for-hire sector participation (no private recreational fishermen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1Bi. Phase-in participation by one sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>1C. Allocation of quota across sectors or keep separate</td>
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<tr>
<td>2A. Fixed percentage of ABC for each fishery (i.e., different percentages for each fishery)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2B. Fixed percentage of ABC across all fisheries</td>
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<tr>
<td>2C. Fixed number of pounds for each fishery</td>
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<tr>
<td>3A. Allow participation only by federally-permitted vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>3B. Allow participation by federally-permitted and state-permitted vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>3Bi. Phase-in participation by permitted (state) vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>3Bii. Appropriate/standardized reporting for all vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>3C. Do not allow participation by vessel owners that are also dealers unless dealer has a physical address for place of business</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Allow states to opt out of shoreside participation in an RSA program (e.g., providing required state exemption permits, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5A. Cap the number of vessels that can participate within each state</td>
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<tr>
<td>5Ai. Cap by sector (depending on alternatives 1A-1C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6A. <strong>Require</strong> Allow observers/state staff onboard all RSA compensation fishing trips</td>
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<tr>
<td>6B. <strong>Require</strong> Allow all vessels to be equipped with VMS or AIS</td>
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</table>

¹The January 18, 2022 Research Steering Committee meeting summary, which includes Committee rationale for the priority question alternatives selected, can be found at: [https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2022/research-steering-committee-jan18](https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2022/research-steering-committee-jan18).
### Topic #2 - How would you allocate/divide RSA quota

**Top Tier/Highest Priority Questions**

1A. RSA applies to all fisheries/species  
1B. RSA only for select fisheries/species  

2A. Allow specific percentage of projected revenue from species quota sale to be used for research on other species  
2B. All revenue from species quota sale can only be used for research related to that species  

3A. Funding mechanism should include ability to use both bilateral agreements and third party auctions  
3B. Funding mechanism should include the use of only bilateral agreements or third party auctions (only one)  
   3A-Bi. Conduct periodic review of funding mechanism(s) to determine approach supports or undermines project or program objectives

**Secondary Tier Priority Questions**

4A. Single species quota lots only  
   4Ai. Allow specific percentage of revenue from species quota sale to be used for other species research  
   4Aii. All revenue from species quota sale can only be used for that species  
4B. Bundled and single species quota lots  

5A. Support short-term projects only (2-3 years max)  
5B. Support short- and long-term projects (i.e., monitoring)  

6A. Proposals need to identify scientific need and how results will reduce uncertainty  
6B. Proposals need to identify how results will address a timely/relevant management issue  
6C. Proposals need to include a detailed data sharing/management plan

### Topic #3 - What does an RSA trip look like

**Top Tier/Highest Priority Questions**

1A. Compensation harvest completely decoupled from funded research (i.e. vessels harvesting RSA quota are not vessels conducting research)  
1B. Compensation harvest decoupled from research activity, but vessels harvesting RSA quota also participate in research trips  
   1C. Where feasible, compensation harvest is coupled with research activity  

2A. Require RSA harvest to occur on separate trips from non-RSA harvest  
2B. Allow both RSA and non-RSA harvest on the same trip  

3A. Limit RSA offloads to specific ports in each state  
   3Ai. Limit RSA sales to specific dealers in each state  
      3Ai(1). Limit RSA sales to only federally permitted dealers  
3B. Require all RSA quota to be offloaded at the same port from pre-trip notification  

4. Limit RSA offloads to specific hours (e.g., 6am-8pm)  

5A. Require all participating vessels to submit a pre-trip notification 24hrs in advance to declare intent to harvest RSA quota that includes port and anticipated day/time of landing.  
5B. Require all vessels to report port of landing, amount of RSA quota onboard, and complete an electronic trip report at least six hours prior to landing  

6A. Allow RSA trips to land quota after the regular season closes  
6B. Allow RSA trips to increase trip limits during the regular season  
6C. Allow RSA trips flexibility in both the timing and landings throughout the year

**Secondary Tier of Priority Questions**

7A. Unlimited transfer/leasing of RSA quota between vessels  
7B. Do not allow transfer/leasing of RSA quota except under catastrophic circumstances.  
7C. Allow for one or limited number of transfers/leases of RSA quota between vessels