



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

Decision Tree Tables

January 2022

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

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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
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