



December 2023 Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 12 – Thursday, December 14, 2023

The Notary Hotel - Philadelphia
(21 N. Juniper Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107; 215-496-3200)
or via Webex webinar

This meeting will be an in-person meeting with a virtual option. Council members, other meeting participants, and members of the public will have the option to participate in person at The Notary Hotel or virtually via Webex webinar. Webinar connection instructions and briefing materials will be available at: <https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/december-2023>.

Tuesday, December 12th

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| 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Executive Committee Meeting (Closed Session) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– 2023 Ricks E Savage Award discussion | |
| 10:00 a.m. | <i>Council Convenes with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board</i> | |
| 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Summer Flounder Commercial Mesh Size Regulations and Exemptions <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Review industry and Monitoring Committee recommendations on summer flounder commercial minimum mesh size, Small Mesh Exemption Program, and flynet exemption– Consider any necessary changes to the regulations– Identify next steps and research priorities as needed | (Tab 1) |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | ----- LUNCH ----- | |
| 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Recreational Demand Model Overview – Lou Carr-Harris, Northeast Fisheries Science Center <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Overview of Northeast Fishery Science Center (NEFSC) Recreational Demand Model and development of Decision Support Tool | (Tab 2) |
| 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | 2024-2025 Summer Flounder Recreational Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Review Advisory Panel and Monitoring Committee recommendations– Adopt target level of coastwide harvest based on the Percent Change Approach– Recommend conservation equivalency or coastwide management and associated measures for 2024-2025 | (Tab 3) |
| 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | 2024-2025 Scup Recreational Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Review Advisory Panel and Monitoring Committee recommendations– Adopt target level of coastwide harvest based on the Percent Change Approach | (Tab 4) |

- Recommend 2024-2025 recreational management measures for federal waters, provide preliminary guidance to the Technical Committee on development of state measures proposals, and discuss the federal waters closure for January - April 2024

Wednesday, December 13th

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	2024 Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review Advisory Panel and Monitoring Committee recommendations - Adopt target level of coastwide harvest based on the Percent Change Approach - Recommend conservation equivalency or coastwide management and associated measures for 2024 - Review and consider approval of Virginia’s proposal for February 2024 recreational fishery (Board only) 	(Tab 5)
10:30 a.m.	<i>Council and Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board Adjourn</i> <i>Council Convenes with the ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Program Policy Board</i>	
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on progress - Consider refining range of preliminary alternatives based on recommendation of FMAT/PDT - Discuss next steps 	(Tab 6)
11:00 a.m.	<i>Council and ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Program Policy Board Adjourn</i> <i>Council Convenes</i>	
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Guidance Document for Council Review of Exempted Fishing Permit Applications for Unmanaged Forage Amendment Ecosystem Component Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review revisions to the document - Review Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Advisory Panel and Committee input - Approve document 	(Tab 7)
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) - René Reilly, ROSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of ROSA’s Strategic Plan, activities, and steps to support the Council’s offshore wind efforts 	(Tab 8)
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	----- LUNCH -----	

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| 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | 2024-2026 Spiny Dogfish Specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review recommendations from the SSC, Monitoring Committee, Advisory Panel, and staff – Adopt specifications for 2024-2025 – Review and revise 2024-2025 commercial measures if needed | (Tab 9) |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | 2024-2025 Atlantic Mackerel Specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review recommendations from the SSC, Monitoring Committee, Advisory Panel, and staff | (Tab 10) |
| 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Golden Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program Twelve-Year Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation of final report (Melissa Errend, Northern Economics, Inc.) – Initiate public comment period | (Tab 11) |
| 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | 2024 Implementation Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review and approve 2024 Implementation Plan | (Tab 12) |

Thursday, December 14th

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| 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Business Session | |
| | Committee Reports:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Scientific and Statistical Committee | (Tab 13) |
| | Executive Director’s Report – Dr. Chris Moore | (Tab 14) |
| | Organization Reports:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Office of General Counsel, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard | |
| | Liaison Reports:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New England Council, South Atlantic Council | (Tab 15) |
| | Other Business and General Public Comment | |

This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change, as necessary. Other items may be added, but the Council cannot take action on such items even if the item requires emergency action without additional public notice. Non-emergency matters not contained in this agenda may come before the Council and / or its Committees for discussion, but these matters may not be the subject of formal Council or Committee action during this meeting. Council and Committee actions will be restricted to the issues specifically listed in this agenda. Any issues requiring emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that arise after publication of the Federal Register Notice for this meeting may be acted upon provided that the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency. The meeting may be closed to discuss employment or other internal administrative matters.