



# MAFMC Draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan Overview

*This overview is intended to provide an abbreviated, “at-a-glance” view of the topics addressed in the Council’s Draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. Please refer to the complete draft plan for additional details.*

## Mission

The Council manages fisheries in federal waters of the Mid-Atlantic region for their long-term sustainability and productivity consistent with the national standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Council is committed to the stewardship of these fisheries, and associated ecosystems and communities, through the collaborative development of effective, science-based fishery management plans and policies.

## Vision

Healthy marine ecosystems and thriving, sustainable fisheries and fishing communities that provide the greatest overall benefit to the nation.

## Core Values

- Stewardship
- Integrity
- Effectiveness
- Fairness
- Competence
- Transparency

<p><b>Communication:</b> Engage stakeholders and the public through education and outreach that foster sustained participation in, and awareness of, the Council process.</p>		
<p><b>Tools and methods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a variety of traditional, web-based, and social media tools</li> <li>• Upgrade the website content and organization</li> <li>• Coordinate with management partners</li> <li>• Expand media coverage</li> <li>• Expand the use of “interested parties” lists</li> <li>• Maintain online calendar</li> <li>• Establish Communication/Outreach Advisory Panel</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stakeholder participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold workshops to develop innovative management approaches</li> <li>• Develop outreach materials to facilitate stakeholder participation</li> <li>• Schedule and conduct meetings/hearings in a manner that encourages participation</li> <li>• Develop action-specific web pages</li> <li>• Expand use of online comment forms</li> <li>• Use webinars to enable remote participation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Education and awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop outreach and education materials on Council fisheries and process</li> <li>• Promote partner organizations’ workshops and educational opportunities</li> <li>• Collaboratively develop outreach materials on fisheries science and data collection</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science:</b> Ensure that the Council’s management decisions are based on timely and accurate scientific information and methods.</p>		
<p><b>Planning and addressing research needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leverage opportunities to include Council research priorities in external funding programs</li> <li>• Engage in regional collaboration on research priorities and planning</li> <li>• Support the new NRCC stock assessment process</li> <li>• Develop a process for cross-communication between SSCs</li> <li>• Develop a comprehensive research plan</li> </ul>	<p><b>Collaborative research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand/enhance existing Northeast Cooperative Research Program initiatives</li> <li>• Identify research needs suitable for collaborative research</li> <li>• Support priorities identified by NEAMAP operations committee</li> <li>• Support the use of “vessels of opportunity”</li> <li>• Support innovations in gear development to reduce bycatch</li> <li>• Evaluate future RSA options</li> </ul>	<p><b>Data collection, monitoring and reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Fishery Dependent Data Initiative</li> <li>• Support development of a unique trip identifier</li> <li>• Work to eliminate duplicative/unnecessary reporting</li> <li>• Address inconsistencies in commercial and for-hire permitting/reporting/inspection requirements</li> <li>• Consider phone apps for recreational reporting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social and economic data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify existing social/economic data sources</li> <li>• Incorporate fishermen’s knowledge in the stock assessment process</li> <li>• Identify data/information gaps that can be addressed with on-the-water observations.</li> <li>• Support improvements to social/economic analyses</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority setting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct periodic reviews of Five-Year Research Priorities</li> <li>• Review research needs identified in stock assessments</li> <li>• Track progress toward addressing the Council’s research priorities.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Management:</b> Develop effective management strategies that provide for sustainable fisheries and healthy marine ecosystems and consider the needs of fishing communities and other resource users.</p>		
<p><b>Coordinated management through partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the NRCC to enhance coordination and communication</li> <li>• Coordinate with partners to ensure efficient allocation of staff resources</li> <li>• Address inconsistencies across state/federal/regional boundaries</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adapt management approaches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor variability in species distribution, abundance, and availability</li> <li>• Use FPRs and SOE reports to develop management responses to changing conditions</li> <li>• Review the performance of existing measures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Consider social/economic impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the use of MSEs to determine social/economic impacts</li> <li>• Evaluate the impacts of current measures on recreational participation and satisfaction</li> <li>• Expand the use of multi-year management approaches</li> <li>• Evaluate the impacts of management on fishing businesses</li> </ul>

<b>Ecosystem:</b> Support the ecologically sustainable utilization of living marine resources in a manner that maintains ecosystem productivity, structure, and function.			
<b>EAFM Implementation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track EAFM implementation progress</li> <li>Use the structured framework process as a tool to implement EAFM</li> <li>Collaborate with science partners to address ecosystem information needs</li> </ul>	<b>Climate change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify climate-related data needs</li> <li>Consider management and governance responses to shifting species distributions</li> <li>Evaluate ability of current management approaches to respond to shifting species distributions</li> <li>Consider management strategies that are responsive to the impacts of climate change on fishery allocations</li> </ul>	<b>Habitat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the contributions of inshore habitats to offshore productivity</li> <li>Review EFH designations</li> <li>Develop the linkages between habitat science/conservation and fishery outcomes</li> <li>Participate in regional habitat partnerships</li> <li>Ensure that Council habitat policies reflect current scientific information and best management practices</li> <li>Examine the use of EFH/HAPCs to ensure ecosystem integrity</li> </ul>	
<b>Offshore energy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with partners on offshore energy issues to identify information needs and evaluate impacts</li> <li>Comment on proposed offshore energy projects</li> </ul>	<b>Forage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the role of Council-managed species in the ecosystem</li> <li>Consider and account for the impacts of Council-managed species on the forage base</li> <li>Monitor unmanaged forage landings</li> </ul>	<b>Ecosystem impacts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate information from the SOE reports to identify impacts of Council decisions on the ecosystem</li> <li>Consider measures that promote fewer regulatory discards and greater utilization of catch</li> <li>Avoid/reduce negative impacts on protected resources</li> </ul>	
<b>Governance:</b> Ensure that the Council's practices accurately represent and consider fishery, community, and public interests through a transparent and inclusive decision-making process.			
<b>Open, accessible process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop/update policies for Council committees and advisory/technical bodies.</li> <li>Provide annual updates on Council activities</li> <li>Review/update SOPP on a regular basis</li> <li>Provide webinars whenever possible</li> </ul>	<b>Collaboration with management partners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review/update regional operating agreement</li> <li>Clarify roles, responsibilities, procedures with ASMFC for joint meetings/actions</li> <li>Develop agreements with NEFMC and SAFMC</li> <li>Review composition/operation of Council committees to address management partner concerns</li> </ul>	<b>Stakeholder interests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create new opportunities for general public comment during meetings</li> <li>Add opportunities for public comment on implementation plans</li> <li>Evaluate the composition of advisory bodies</li> <li>Improve communication regarding the use of public input in management decisions</li> </ul>	<b>Member and staff training and development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunities for Council member training</li> <li>Support staff development</li> <li>Promote staff-to-staff collaboration with management partners</li> </ul>

## Managed Fisheries

Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass • Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish  
 Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs • Golden and Blueline Tilefish  
 Bluefish • Spiny Dogfish • Monkfish

