

MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL

2012 Planned Council Meeting Topics

October 15-18, 2012 -- Long Branch, NJ

- Approve Dogfish Specifications for 2013 (and beyond)
- Approve Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP for secretarial submission
- Approve Framework 7 to Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish FMP to change butterfish catch cap for longfin squid fishery to butterfish discard cap
- Approve Visioning and Strategic Planning Mission Statement
- Approve options for designation of DE artificial reefs in the EEZ
- ~~▪ Review Public Hearing comments and/or Adopt/Approve Amendment 17 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP (black sea bass recreational management)~~

December 11-13, 2012 --Baltimore, MD

- Adopt Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Recreational Specifications for 2013 (and beyond)
- Review and approve SSCs 5-year research priority recommendations
- ~~▪ Council reviews Draft Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Advisory Document and recommends additions/changes~~
- Report on Ecosystems Approaches to Fishery Management
- Update of Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Amendment 17.
- Approve Framework 8 to the Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish FMP to consider adding a butterfish cap closure in trimester 2 and consider transferring quota between landings and discards in the butterfish cap.
- Discuss goals for Visioning and Strategic Planning Project
- Discuss Coral Alternatives for Amendment 16 to Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish FMP

MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL

2012 Schedule of Events

September

- Sep 4 Spiny Dogfish Amendment 3 Public Hearing, Virginia Beach, VA
- Sep 4-7 West Coast Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum, Monterey, CA
- Sep 5 Spiny Dogfish Amendment 3 Public Hearing, Manahawkin, NJ
- Sep 6 Spiny Dogfish Amendment 3 Public Hearing, Warwick, RI
- Sep 7 NEFMC Recreational Model SSC Review, Woods Hole, MA
- Sep 10 NERO New Member Training, Gloucester, MA
- Sep 11 NEFSC New Member Training, Woods Hole, MA
- Sep 10-14 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Charleston, SC
- Sep 13 SSC Webinar for 2012 ABC Butterfish Specification
- Sep 14 Emergency Council Webinar for 2012 ABC Butterfish Specification
- Sep 15-21 Sea Grant Week, Girdwood, AK
- Sep 17-19 NEFSC Surfclam Invertebrate Subcommittee Meeting, Woods Hole, MA
- Sep 17-21 SC/OQ Invertebrate Subcommittee Meeting, Woods Hole, MA
- Sep 18 Dogfish AP Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- Sep 19-21 Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel Meeting, Bethesda, MD
- Sep 21 Strategic Planning Working Group, Annapolis, MD
- Sep 25-27 New England Fishery Management Council Meeting, Plymouth, MA
- Sep 26-27 SSC and Monitoring Committee Meetings - ABC recommendations for Spiny Dogfish, Baltimore, MD

October

- Oct 3 Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee, Warwick, RI
- Oct 6 Harbor Day - At the Docks, Ocean City, MD
- Oct 8-12 NEFSC Surfclam Invertebrate Subcommittee Meeting, Woods Hole, MA
- Oct 10 Habitat AP and PDT meeting, Hampton, NH
- Oct 15-18 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Long Branch, NJ
- Oct 21-25 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 71st Annual Meeting, Phila., PA
- Oct 23-25 New Council Member Training, Silver Spring, MD

November

- Nov 1-2 NRCC Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- Nov 7-9 SC/OQ Invertebrate Subcommittee Meeting, Woods Hole, MA
- Nov 13-15 New England Fishery Management Council Meeting, Newport, RI

December

- Dec 3-7 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Atlantic Beach, NC
- Oct 5-7 International WorkBoat Show, New Orleans, LA
- Dec 11-13 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- Dec 17-20 SC/OQ Invertebrate Subcommittee Meeting, Woods Hole, MA

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Specifications

(As of October 4, 2012)

Fishery Management Plans	2012				2013				2014			
	Council Approved	Specs Package Submitted	NMFS Proposed Rule	NMFS Final Rule	Council Approved	Specs Package Submitted	NMFS Proposed Rule	NMFS Final Rule	Council Approved	Specs Package Submitted	NMFS Proposed Rule	NMFS Final Rule
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Commercial Recreational	08/17/11 12/14/11	10/02/11 03/18/12	Interim Rule: 12/30/11 04/30/12	04/23/12 05/23/12	08/15/12	10/04/12						
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	06/15/11	08/09/11	10/26/11	03/21/12	06/12/12	07/31/12						
Dogfish	10/12/11	01/27/12	03/19/12	05/22/12								
Bluefish	08/17/11	12/02/11	02/15/12	04/27/12	08/15/12							
Surfclam, Ocean Quahog	12/27/10 ^a											

^a Final rule applies for surfclam and ocean quahog fishing years 2011, 2012, and 2013.

*Status of Open Amendment/Framework Actions
(as of October 4, 2012)*

<u>FMP</u>	<u>AMD/FW</u>	<u>Issues Addressed</u>
Squid / Mackerel / Butterfish	Amendment 14 Amendment 15	Alosine incidental catch
	Framework 7	Butterfish discard cap
	Framework 8	Trimester 2 butterfish cap closure quota transfer between landings at end of year
Summer Flounder/ Scup/Black Sea Bass	Amendment 17 Amendment 18	Spatial/regional management of black sea bass recreational fishery Scup Allocation
Dogfish	Amendment 3	Authorize RSA program Consider alternatives to seasonal quotas Limited Access Quota Rollover EFH Definitions
Surfclam/ Ocean Quahog	Amendment 15	Cost Recovery EFH updates Ocean Quahog overfishing definition
	Amendment 16	Excessive shares and ownership disclosure

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Status of FMPs, Amendments and Frameworks
 (As of October 4, 2012)

FMP/Amendment	Date Approved by Council	Lapse	Date submitted to NMFS/NERO	Lapse	FR Notice of Plan Availability	Lapse	Proposed Rule Publication Date	Lapse	Plan Approval/Disapproval Letter	Lapse	Final Rule Publication Date
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Framework 5	04/12/12	5	04/17/12	X	N/A	157	09/21/12	X	N/A		
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Framework 6	04/12/12	5	04/17/12	X	N/A	72	06/28/12	X	N/A	60	08/27/12
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Framework 7											
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Framework 8											
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Amendment 14	06/14/12										
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Amendment 15											
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Amendment 15											
Spiny Dogfish Amendment 3											

"Lapse" is the amount of time in days from Council approval to column-heading action.



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Richard B. Robins, Jr., Chairman | Lee G. Anderson, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

Mid-Atlantic Council - 2012 Priorities

Amendment 3 to Spiny Dogfish

Amendment 14 to MSB

Amendment 15 to SC/OQ

Amendment 17 to SF/Sc/BSB

Amendment 6 to Monkfish

Annual Specifications:

- SF/SC/BSB
- MSB
- SC/OQ
- Tilefish
- Bluefish
- Dogfish

Fishery Performance Reports for all species

SMZs for Delaware Reefs

RSA Program Review Completion and Implementation

Scup allocation analysis, review, and consideration

Visioning Project:

- Review Visioning Document
- Develop Strategic Plan

Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Planning

Advisory Panel Governance Workgroup - report and implementation

Develop Comprehensive Research Priority Plan

Communications:

- develop comprehensive communications plan
- complete web redesign
- Twitter / photo library
- Online newsletter

Ecosystem and Ocean Planning:

- develop / implement Committee Project
- CMSP, BOEM, Deep-Sea Corals, MACOORA
- EFH updates for Bluefish, SF, Scup, Dogfish

SSC Meetings

Vessel Baseline Regulations - Possible Consistency Amendment

Complete Voices of the Fisheries Project

Other

- MREP
- ACCSP
- MRIP:
 - Wave 1 Sampling Project
 - Volunteer Angler Survey Workshop
 - Online workshop to improve for-hire registry
- PMAFS
- Chesapeake Bay Goal Implementation Team
- Specifications Concision Workshop
- NRCC Operational Assessment and ACL working groups
- Protected Resources Take Reduction meetings
- SBRM redo

**Draft Action Plan
To Develop an Amendment for
Protections of Deep Sea Corals in the Mid-Atlantic Region
September 2012**

Council: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Additional expertise sought:

Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT)		
Agency	Role	Person
MAFMC	FMAT Chair	Kiley Dancy
NEFMC	Fisheries Management	Michelle Bachman
NMFS NERO	General Counsel	Denise Desautels
NMFS NERO	Sustainable Fisheries	Staff
NMFS NERO	NEPA	Staff
NMFS NERO	Habitat	Staff
NMFS NERO	Protected Resources	Staff
NMFS NERO	Fisheries Statistics (FSO)	Staff
NMFS S&T NEFSC	Socioeconomics	Staff

Title of Action: Amendment 16 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP.

Purpose and Need: The purpose of this amendment is to develop measures for the protection of deep sea corals in the mid-Atlantic. Deep sea corals are fragile and slow-growing, and as such are highly vulnerable to disturbance by fishing gear. Bottom-tending gear poses a particular threat to deep sea coral communities, causing negative impacts ranging from scarring and damage to complete removal and destruction. Under the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), the Regional Fishery Management Councils have the authority to implement management measures to mitigate fishery impacts to deep sea corals. Specifically, Section 303(b)(2)(b) of the reauthorized MSA gives the Councils discretionary authority to designate deep sea coral protection zones, Section 305(b) mandates minimizing adverse effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), and Section 301(a)(9) requires the Councils to minimize bycatch of non-target species. This amendment is necessary to develop management measures using some combination of these authorities in order to protect deep sea corals.

Fisheries that apply: Although this action amends the Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish FMP, measures would likely apply to all federally managed fisheries within the geographic range of the squid, mackerel, and butterfish fisheries, as described in the FMP.

Types of Measures Expected to be Considered: At this time, the FMAT will be developing a wide range of management options for the Council to consider. These could include, but are not limited to:

- Designation of coral protection zones based on the discretionary authority described in Section 303(b)(2)(b) of the MSRA. These zones could possibly include:

- Large precautionary areas based on a freeze-the-footprint of fishing approach
- Enhanced protections in discrete areas known to or expected to contain high concentrations of corals
- Designation of deep sea corals as a component of Essential Fish Habitat or as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
- Measures to minimize bycatch of deep sea coral species
- Special access programs to provide for continued fishing in or near coral areas for specific fisheries or gear types
- Exploratory fishing programs to allow for future development of new fisheries in a way that protects corals

Type of NEPA Analysis Expected: Council will develop an EA; if, during the development of the EA or at such time that the analysis indicates a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) statement cannot be supported, the Council will initiate the development of an EIS.

Applicable laws/issues:

Magnuson-Stevens Act	Yes
Administrative Procedures Act	Yes
Regulatory Flexibility Act	Yes
Paperwork Reduction Act	Possibly; depends on data collection needs
Coastal Zone Management Act	Possibly; depends upon effects of the action on the resources of coastal states in the management unit
Endangered Species Act	Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken
Marine Mammal Protection Act	Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken
E.O. 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review)	Yes
E.O. 12630 (Takings)	Possibly; legal review will confirm
E.O. 13132 (Federalism)	Possibly; legal review will confirm
Essential Fish Habitat	Likely; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken
Information Quality Act	Yes

Timing Issues: The target implementation date for these measures is 2014.

Timeline for development/review/implementation (Assuming EA):

Action	Timeline, based on current Council meeting schedule
Council initiates amendment	August 2012
First FMAT meeting	October/November 2012
FMAT develops alternatives, draft EA writing begins	November/December 2012
Advisory Panel Meeting	January 2013

Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Committee selects preferred alternatives	January 2013
MAFMC Meeting (Council review and adopt public hearing draft)	February 2013
Public hearings and summarization of comments (need at least 21 days of FR notice and 30 days comment period with hearings)	April 2013
MAFMC Meeting (Approve/adopt amendment)	June 2013
Staff submits to NMFS for secretarial approval	September 2013
Final rule effective	April/May 2014

Moore, Christopher

From: Coakley, Jessica
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 3:37 PM
To: Moore, Christopher
Subject: BRP Framework
Attachments: Framework 7 SFScupBSB 2007-07-05.doc

Hi Chris,

Attached is the categorically excluded framework I mentioned in staff meeting that “fixes” the FMPs so we don’t have to update new BRP definitions. This came up a few years back when the summer flounder overfishing limit definition was changed at a stock assessment from F(max) to F(35%) and technically NMFS wasn’t able to implement a quota under F(35%) until the FMP was amended. There was a big scramble to do an emergency framework and Pentony, Ruccio, and I developed a permanent fix for the SFSCBSB FMP.

It would make sense to consider this “fix” for all our FMPs so it isn’t an issue in the future.

Thanks,

Jessica

Jessica Coakley, Fishery Plan Coordinator
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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Moore, Christopher

From: Moore, Christopher
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 11:43 AM
To: Moore, Christopher
Subject: MREP Mid-Atlantic INVITATION

Dear Chris,

During the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Visioning Project one message came through loud and clear – fishermen and other stakeholders are seeking opportunities to learn more about fisheries science and they want greater understanding of the details of the management process. I am pleased to announce the first step toward addressing these key recommendations.

The Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) was originally developed by New England fishermen with similar concerns. We have invited expansion of the MREP program for Mid-Atlantic fishermen and a steering committee has been meeting for months to make it happen. Following is an invitation from the MREP Implementation Team. You will soon receive more detailed information by postal mail as well.

Sincerely,
Chris Moore, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Dear Fishery Colleague,

Sometimes it seems like fishermen, scientists and managers speak different languages. Each group has a different perspective based on their professional backgrounds. For fishery management to be smart and effective these differences must be reconciled. The Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) was developed to empower fishermen as effective contributors and advance the dialogue among these three groups. Over 400 fishermen and other marine resource professionals in the Northeast have taken the MREP courses.

During the past year, Mid-Atlantic fishermen have been working to develop this training opportunity tailored to the needs of the Mid-Atlantic community. The MREP curriculum will be presented in two three-day workshops later this year. This initial course, a pilot program, is being offered as a priority to Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Advisory Panel members and select community leaders.

If you are interested, please watch for our mailing which will include a detailed course description and application. The application and program materials are also available online at: <http://www.mafmc.org/MREP/MREP.htm>. Participant travel expenses, lodging and meals are covered by the program. Space is limited to twenty seats, though we hope to offer this again in the near future.

The Science Module, on November 27-29, provides an overview of fish population dynamics, data collection, and how stock assessments are constructed. We will discuss how environmental factors affect fisheries, and how fishermen's knowledge can make a difference in assessments. This is a candid examination of the science process which affects us all.

The Management Module, on January 22-24, is for fishermen who actively follow or participate in the management process. It is designed to assist fishermen as leaders and contributors to management, to understand where, when and how to most effectively present their information.

Both workshops will be held in Baltimore, MD. Presenters will include prominent university researchers, Congressional staff, key participants and staff from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and key personnel from NMFS Northeast Fishery Science Center and Regional Office.

Again, please watch for our mailing. And please feel free to contact either of us with questions.

Best regards,

For the MREP Implementation Team

John Williamson

john@seakeeper.org

Mary Beth Tooley

mbtooley@roadrunner.com



New England Fishery Management Council

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C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

October 4, 2012

Mr. Christopher Moore
Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Suite 201, 800 N. State Street
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Chris,

I am writing to inform you of actions by the New England Council regarding gear stowage requirements for nets. Our Council proposes to eliminate these requirements under the Multispecies (Groundfish) FMP in Framework 48 which will be implemented in late spring 2013. Also, based on the results of a workshop that included enforcement agencies, fishermen and Council members, the VMS/Enforcement Committee and Council agreed that the wording of the stowage regulations should be changed as indicated in the attachment and recommend that these changes apply to all FMPs in the Northeast. Finally, because these regulations currently are included in the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish FMP, our Council recommends that they be moved into the General Provisions section of fishery regulations for the Northeastern U.S.

I have attached the report from the Gear Stowage Workshop. The gear covers that were recommended by the workshop subsequently were tested at-sea on several fishing vessels and found to be practical. Our VMS/Enforcement Committee and Council, however, decided that the Regional Administrator should have the flexibility to specify stowage requirements under §648.23 (b) (5), which allows for "any other method of stowage authorized in writing by the Regional Administrator and subsequently published in the *Federal Register*". Under this provision, the Regional Administrator may decide to require a net covering, or some other method, and thereafter could easily make changes to this requirement.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Howard
Executive Director

cc: George Darcy, NERO

attachments (2)

VMS/Enforcement meeting
Gear Stowage Workshop
USCG Northeast Regional Fisheries Training Center
Buzzards Bay, MA

November 29, 2011

The Committee met with the purpose to reduce the fishing industry's safety concerns regarding gear stowage regulations (section 648.23), while maintaining enforcement's ability to enforce gear stowage regulations from the air.

LCDR Curtis Brown described the overflight program, showed videos from actual fisheries enforcement flights, and took questions. He recommended a difference in color between the reel and the net be required. Rodney Avila recommended the development of a chart to show Coastguardsmen the different vessel types, for instance, draggers and scallopers. Currently, overflights can contact the boat below by radio, but not by email or text. Airplane pilots do have VMS printouts available to them. The video of the boat's activity shows the calculated Lat/Lon of that boat.

Practical demonstrations of alternatives to make nets on reels not available for immediate use were done with the NRFTC mock dragger. These included orange plastic mesh fencing available at Home Depot for \$20, clipped to the reeled net with carabineers, and a painted harness used by USCG helicopters. A requirement to make the cod-end orange in color was mentioned as well, but it was felt that a color, in contrast to the Home Depot mesh, was essential. Three boats were volunteered by Terry Alexander, Allyson Jordan, and Rodney Avila to test the orange mesh alternative. There also were comments that an orange mesh that acts like a giant '6-pack of cans' would result in protected resource concerns if they get lost overboard.

The Committee approved a motion by David Goethel and seconded by Rodney Avila (approved 3:0), to remove from Section 648.23(b)(1)(iv), part (B) that requires the towing wires are detached from the doors. The reasons for this included: 1) whether the wires are attached or detached cannot be observed from the air; 2) it is unsafe to detach and re-attach the wires from the doors; and 3) the doors, when detached, are unsecure and tend to damage the side of the boat, especially for small, fiberglass boats. Section 648.23 (b)(1)(iii), part (B) that requires the towing wires are detached from the net, was not included in this motion because it is irrelevant; the towing wires are never attached to the net.

The Committee also approved a motion by David Goethel and seconded by Rodney Avila (approved 4:0), to change completely the wording of sections 648.23 (b)(1)(iii), part (A) and 648.23 (b)(1)(iv), part (A) to say "the net is on the reel and its surface is covered with an approved material". There is a problem with the current wording of these two parts, in that the Coast Guard cannot see the net under an "opaque material", during overflights. The approved material will be the result of the testing being conducted, as mentioned above, and may be implemented via Section 648.23 (b)(5), which states that any other method of stowage authorized in writing by the Regional Administrator and subsequently published in the *Federal Register* may be used.

The Committee approved a third motion by Captain Peter DeCola and seconded by David Goethel (approved 4:0), to recommend that the Groundfish Committee review Section 648.23 (b), definition of "not available for immediate use", and determine if the regulations under that section are still necessary. Rodney Avila supported this because he felt that many of these regulations may be outdated. For instance, vessels circumvent below-deck stowage regulations by adding a second net reel. This was not common practice when these regulations were first implemented, but it is now common for boats to have 2 net reels.

Meggan Engelke-Ros described GCEL (General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation) concerns with Section 648.23 (b). Terms like highly visible must be more clearly defined; it would be difficult to prove in court that something was not highly visible. Colors, texture (transparent or opaque), and types of material (strips, mesh, etc.) may all be used to define covering requirements more clearly. VMS alone cannot establish a case.

Changes to definition of fishing gear “not available for immediate use” recommended by the New England Fishery Management Council

October 3, 2012

Additional wording is shown in red typeface.

§ 648.23 Mackerel, squid, and butterfish gear restrictions.

(a)

(b) *Definition of “not available for immediate use.”* Gear that is shown not to have been in recent use and that is stowed in conformance with one of the following methods is considered to be not available for immediate use:

(1) Nets —(i) *Below-deck stowage.* (A) The net is stored below the main working deck from which it is deployed and retrieved;

(B) The towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net; and

(C) It is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference.

(ii) *On-deck stowage.* (A) The net is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference;

(B) It is securely fastened to the deck or rail of the vessel; and

(C) The towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net.

~~(iii) *On-reel stowage.* (A) The net is on a reel, its entire surface is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material, and the canvas or other material is securely bound;~~ (A) The net is on a reel and its entire surface is covered with an approved material (see subsection 5 below)

(B) The towing wires are detached from the net; and

(C) The codend is removed and stored below deck.

(iv) On-reel stowage for vessels transiting the Gulf of Maine Rolling Closure Areas, the Georges Bank Seasonal Area Closure, and the Conditional Gulf of Maine Rolling Closure Area.

~~(A) The net is on a reel, its entire surface is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material, and the canvas or other material is securely bound;~~ (A) The net is on a reel and its entire surface is covered with an approved material (see subsection 5 below)

~~(B) The towing wires are detached from the doors; and~~

(C) No containment rope, codend tripping device, or other mechanism to close off the codend is attached to the codend.

(2) *Scallop dredges.* (i) The towing wire is detached from the scallop dredge, the towing wire is completely reeled up onto the winch, the dredge is secured, and the dredge or the winch is covered so that it is rendered unusable for fishing; or

(ii) The towing wire is detached from the dredge and attached to a bright-colored poly ball no less than 24 inches (60.9 cm) in diameter, with the towing wire left in its normal operating position (through the various blocks) and either is wound back to the first block (in the gallows) or is suspended at the end of the lifting block where its retrieval does not present a hazard to the crew and where it is readily visible from above.

(3) *Hook gear (other than pelagic).* All anchors and buoys are secured and all hook gear, including jigging machines, is covered.

(4) *Sink gillnet gear.* All nets are covered with canvas or other similar material and lashed or otherwise securely fastened to the deck or rail, and all buoys larger than 6 inches (15.24 cm) in diameter, high flyers, and anchors are disconnected.

(5) *Other methods of stowage.* Any other method of stowage authorized in writing by the Regional Administrator and subsequently published in the Federal Register .

(c) *Mesh obstruction or constriction.* The owner or operator of a fishing vessel shall not use any mesh construction, mesh configuration, or other means that effectively decreases the mesh size below the minimum mesh size, except that a liner may be used to close the opening created by the rings in the aftermost portion of the net, provided the liner extends no more than 10 meshes forward of the aftermost portion of the net. The inside webbing of the codend shall be the same circumference or less than the outside webbing (strengthened). In addition, the inside webbing shall not be more than 2 ft (61 cm) longer than the outside webbing.

Didden, Jason T.

From: JDHLCL@aol.com
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2012 5:24 PM
To: Robins, Rick
Cc: Didden, Jason T.; Moore, Christopher; Nolan, Laurie
Subject: (no subject)

Hello Rich,Chris,Jason

I am sending this email to you in regards to non-federally permitted vessels engaging in the long fin squid and butterfish fisheries. I am asking the council to write letters to every state(this may mean going outside the mid-atlantic) that allows, non federally permitted vessels,(state boats) to land trips in excess of the federal guidelines , to change their policy and FOLLOW the mandates set forth by the federal government.

As we our currently experiencing,these particular vessels have the potential to run up large volumes of landings in either fishery and ultimately cause far reaching consequences to the federally permitted vessels. They,an entirely different user group than trimester 1&3 boats, are having a strong impact on our allocations..Butterfish and squid are not part of the state by state management debacle and should not be allowed to operate as such!!

I thank you for your consideration of this important issue..

Hank Lackner