



# 2023 Implementation Plan

December 2022 Council Meeting



MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# 2020-2024 Strategic Plan

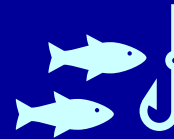
*Approved December 2019*

# Annual Implementation Plans

- Link between the 5-year strategic plan and the Council's annual activities
- A tool for **planning** at the beginning of the year, **tracking** throughout the year, and **reporting** at the end of the year.

# 2022 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN END-OF-YEAR UPDATES

# Council Actions



Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework / Addendum  
(completed)

Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amendment (completed)

Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements (final  
action postponed)

Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment  
(in development)

Recreational Reform Technical Guidance Documents (in progress)

# Stock Assessments



## Research Track

- Black sea bass
- Bluefish
- Butterfish
- *Illex* squid
- Spiny dogfish
- Applying state-space models

## Management Track

- Butterfish
- *Illex* squid

# Specifications (New)



Species	Year and Measures
Chub Mackerel	2023-2025 specifications
Butterfish	2023-2024 specifications
Longfin squid	2023 specifications
<i>Illex</i> squid	2023 specifications
Atlantic mackerel	2023-2024 specifications and RH/S cap
Spiny Dogfish	2023 specifications
Summer flounder, scup, black sea bass	2023 recreational management measures

# Specifications (Review)



Species	Year and Measures
Summer flounder, scup, black sea bass	2023 specifications
Bluefish	2023 specifications and recreational management measures
Golden tilefish	2023 specifications
Blueline tilefish	2023 specifications
<i>Illex</i> squid	2022 specifications
Surfclam/Quahog	2023 specifications



# Other Projects and Initiatives

EAFM Management Strategy Evaluation for Summer Flounder

RSA Redevelopment Workshops

East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative

Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment and Data Explorer

Aquaculture Policy

Golden Tilefish 5-Year IFQ Review (initiated)

# 2022 CCC Chair

Hosted May 2022 CCC meeting and supported October 2022 CCC Meeting

Coordinated CCC comment letters

Chaired or participated on CCC work groups

## 2022 Highlights:

- Area-Based Management Subcommittee: An Evaluation of Conservation Areas in the U.S. EEZ
- Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD) Work Group: First CMOD Workshop held November 15-16, 2022
- Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Work Group: EEJ in Fisheries Management: Brief Overview
- ESA-MSA Work Group: Report on NMFS ESA Policy Directive
- Communications Work Group: Joint Council meeting calendar

# Science and Research



Surfclam Genetic Study

Maryland Recreational Ocean Effort Video Estimation project

SSC Ecosystem Work Group

SSC Economic Work Group

Joint Council/SSC Meeting

# Reviews and Updates



Commercial Landings of Unmanaged Species

Private Recreational Tilefish Permitting and Reporting

2022 State of the Ecosystem Report and EAFM Risk Assessment

Offshore Wind Updates

Habitat Updates

# Protected Resource Issues



**Atlantic sturgeon** bycatch in large mesh gillnet fisheries

**Sea turtle** bycatch in trawl fisheries

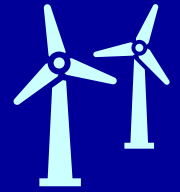
**Atlantic large whale** entanglement in U.S. East Coast gillnet, Atlantic mixed species trap/pot, and Mid-Atlantic lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fisheries



# Council Comments

- Hudson Canyon Sanctuary Proposal
- MSC Standards Review (spiny dogfish issue)
- Proposed Amendments to the CITES Appendices
- NOAA IATC Seafood Inspection Program
- Draft Northeast Regional Climate Action Plan
- North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule
- Draft Action Plan to Reduce Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch In Federal Large Mesh Gillnet Fisheries
- USFWS Squid Export Issue (email follow up on 2020 letter)

# Offshore Wind Comments



- Request for Information on Fisheries Mitigation
- Federal Survey Mitigation Implementation Strategy
- Central Atlantic Call for Information
- Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS for U.S. Wind
- Programmatic EIS for New York Bight Wind Leases
- Ocean Wind 1 Draft EIS
- Draft Fisheries Mitigation Guidance

# QUESTIONS?



# DRAFT 2023 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The following slides have been updated to reflect revisions approved by the Council on 12/14/22. These changes are highlighted in yellow with red text

# Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass

1. Develop 2024-2025 specifications
2. Develop 2024-2025 recreational management measures
3. Evaluate commercial scup discards and gear restricted areas
4. Review and potentially revise commercial minimum mesh size regulations

*[Recreational Reform deliverables 5-7 are addressed on the following slide]*

8. Facilitate development of AP fishery performance reports
9. Support black sea bass research track assessment
10. Support 2023 management track assessments

# Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass

5. Initiate development of action to replace Recreational Harvest Control Rule after sunset period

6. Continue development of amendment to consider recreational sector separation and recreational catch accounting

~~7. Continue development of a framework and technical guidance documents to address the remaining prioritized Recreational Reform Initiative topics~~

## Added to Possible Additions:

- Develop framework to allow quota transfer between commercial and recreational sectors for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass

# Bluefish

11. Develop 2024-2025 specifications
12. Develop 2024-2025 recreational management measures
13. Facilitate development of AP fishery performance report
14. Support 2023 management track assessment

Note: Deliverables 5, 6, and 7 in the previous section will also address bluefish recreational management issues

# Golden and Blueline Tilefish

15. Review 2024 specifications for golden tilefish
16. Review 2024 specifications for blueline tilefish
17. Complete and review Golden Tilefish IFQ Program Review
18. Facilitate development of AP fishery performance reports
19. Review private recreational tilefish permitting and reporting
20. Work with SAFMC to support 2024 blueline operational assessment
21. Coordinate the 2023 golden tilefish survey pending approval of funding/logistics
22. Support 2024 golden tilefish research track assessment

# Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish

23. Initiate an action to address disapproved portions of Illex Permit Amendment (move to Possible Additions\*)
24. Develop 2024-2025 Atlantic mackerel specifications
25. Develop 2024-2026 longfin squid specifications
26. Review 2023 specifications for Illex
27. Develop 2024-2025 specifications for Illex
28. Review 2024 specifications for butterfish
29. Review 2024 specifications for chub mackerel
30. Facilitate development of AP fishery performance reports
31. Support 2023 management track assessments for Atlantic mackerel and longfin squid

\* Staff Note: This item will be discussed further during the MSB Committee report on Thursday

# River Herring and Shad

32. Develop 2024-2025 cap (paired with Atlantic mackerel specifications), including consideration of river herring assessment

# Spiny Dogfish

33. Develop 2024-2026 specifications and/or a rebuilding plan (possibly including trip limit changes), as appropriate given outcome of research and management track assessments

34. Facilitate development of spiny dogfish advisory panel fishery performance report

35. Support 2023 spiny dogfish management track assessment



# Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog

36. Review 2024 specifications

37. Facilitate development of AP fishery performance reports

38. Oversee SCOQ Electronic Monitoring Project

## Add to Surfclam/Quahog Deliverables:

- Develop alternatives for the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment

# Science and Research

39. Conduct biennial review of 2020-2024 research priorities
40. Approve SSC membership
41. Review SSC Ecosystem WG outcomes and recommendations
42. Review past action and consider possible redevelopment of a revised Research Set-Aside program
43. Review results and determine potential application of the research project on short-term forecasts of species distributions
44. Support the 2023 Applying State Space Models Research Track Assessment
45. Coordinate and facilitate the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel

# Ecosystem and Ocean Planning/Habitat

46. Continue development of EFH Amendment
47. Maintain and integrate NRHA products
48. Oversee National Fishing Effects Database Project
49. Maintain joint MAFMC and NEFMC offshore wind web page
50. Develop comments on offshore energy development
51. Complete comprehensive review and update to EAFM risk assessment
52. Complete East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative and identify priorities for resulting action

# General

53. Review commercial landings of unmanaged species
54. Participate on CCC Working Groups and Subcommittees
55. Respond to requests for information associated with MSC certification or audits for MSC-certified fisheries
56. Track relevant legislation and provide comments as requested
57. Continue to participate on marine mammal take reduction teams and protected resources working groups, and initiate necessary actions
58. Initiate action in response to the action plan developed by the Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch WG to reduce sturgeon bycatch in gillnet fisheries

# Communication and Outreach

- 59. Continue to inform and engage stakeholders using a variety of communication tools and channels
- 60. Conduct outreach to increase stakeholder awareness and understanding of Council actions under development
- 61. Further develop and refine the Council's website content and structure to increase usefulness and functionality
- 62. Develop fact sheets and outreach materials as needed
- 63. Continue additional outreach to improve awareness/compliance with private recreational tilefish reporting requirements

# Staff Wrap Up on Completed Actions

64. ~~Finalize Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment~~

65. Finalize and submit any outstanding specifications packages for 2023

# Possible Additions

66. Initiate action to implement "did not fish" reports for commercial, for-hire, and private tilefish permit holders

67. Initiate action to implement a possession limit for frigate and bullet mackerel in the Mid-Atlantic

**Move 68 and 69 up to EOP/Habitat Deliverables:**

68. Continue to track thread herring Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application and develop comments, if needed

69. Develop a policy and/or process for reviewing EFP applications for new or expanding fisheries as it relates to the unmanaged forage amendment

# Possible Additions

70. ~~Coordinate development of economic, recreational fleet dynamics, and population dynamic simulation models for black sea bass, scup, and/or bluefish~~ (Remove from possible additions and add "including enhanced use of the models" to the appropriate deliverable)

71. Explore the use of unused ACL carryover for the Council's fisheries

72. Develop an action to authorize an experimental Atlantic surfclam fishery in the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area (HMA)

73. Develop spatial management options for Atlantic surfclam open water aquaculture in the New York Bight and central Atlantic.



# DRAFT MOTION:

Move to approve the 2023 Implementation Plan with the revisions approved by the Council today.

Duval/Feller

Motion carries by unanimous consent