



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org
P. Weston Townsend, Chairman | Michael P. Luisi, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 27, 2024
To: Council
From: Jessica Coakley, Staff
Subject: Habitat Activities Update

The Council will receive a presentation from the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division (HESD) on activities of interest in the region.

Back in December 2015, when the Council initially adopted its habitat policies on fishing and non-fishing activities (<https://www.mafmc.org/habitat>), the Council also asked GARFO HESD to provide the Council with updates on projects of concern that are occurring throughout the region. Since there are numerous projects in the region each year, the Council identified its projects of concern to include: 1) All offshore projects (e.g., energy projects, cables, sand mining, etc.), and 2) Only large scale nearshore/estuarine projects (i.e., includes any large transportation and port development projects). In addition, the Council requested periodic written and/or verbal updates on projects of concern including other habitat activities of interest occurring at least biannually, if possible.

During this April presentation, HESD staff will highlight habitat and offshore wind activities. They will provide project updates related to coastal development, infrastructure, and upcoming federal navigation and civil work projects from the New York and Philadelphia Districts of the Army Corp of Engineers. They will also provide a summary of alternatives considered for the reevaluation of Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS), highlighting a concept to identify an offshore fishery enhancement beneficial use site in the New York Bight. HESD staff will also provide a brief update on some of NOAA's activities associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.