



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: January 28, 2022
To: Council
From: Chris Moore, Executive Director
Subject: Executive Director's Report

The following materials are enclosed for review during the Executive Director's Report at the February 2022 Council Meeting:

1. 2022 Planned Council Meetings Topics
2. Status of Council Actions Under Development
3. Timeline and Status of Completed Council Actions and Specifications
4. SSC Membership Reappointments
5. Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary Review – Public Comment and Staff Memo
6. Press Release: Climate Change Scenario Planning Webinars
7. NEFMC Letter to MAFMC: Dogfish Trip Limit Priority
8. Great South Channel Habitat Management Area (GSCHMA) and Atlantic Surfclam Fishery Access – January 12 Meeting Summary
9. Offshore Wind Updates

2022 Planned Council Meeting Topics

February 8-9, 2022 Council Meeting (Webinar)

- Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Working Group: Update
- 2022 Recreational Management Measures for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass: Review and Consider Revisions to Previous Recommendations
- Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework / Addenda: Review and Approve Alternatives (Joint with ASMFC Policy Board)

April 5-7, 2022 Council Meeting - Galloway, NJ

- 2023 Golden Tilefish Specifications: Review
- 2023 Blueline Tilefish Specifications: Review
- 2022 Illex Specifications: Review
- Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amendment: Approve Alternatives for Public Hearing Document
- Review River Herring and Shad Spatial/Temporal Analyses
- Climate Change Scenario Planning: Update
- 2022 Mid-Atlantic State of the Ecosystem Report
- 2022 EAFM Risk Assessment Update
- Research Set-Aside Redevelopment Workshop: Update
- Atlantic Surfclam Genetics Project: Presentation
- Offshore Wind Updates
- Sea Turtle Bycatch in MAFMC Trawl Fisheries: Update and Feedback

June 7-9, 2022 Council Meeting - Riverhead, NY

- Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda: Final Action (Joint with ASMFC Policy Board)
- 2023-2025 Chub Mackerel Specifications: Approve
- Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amendment (includes RH/S cap and 2023-2025 Mackerel Specifications): Final Action
- 2023 Longfin Squid Specifications: Review
- 2023 Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Specifications: Review
- Aquaculture Policy: Review and Approve
- Research Set-Aside Program Redevelopment: Review Committee Recommendations and Consider Council Action
- Habitat Activities Update (including aquaculture and a preview of Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment products)
- Unmanaged Commercial Landings Report
- Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Phase II: Update and Feedback

August 8-11, 2022 Council Meeting - Philadelphia, PA

- 2023 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Specifications and Commercial Measures: Review (Joint with ASMFC SFSBSB Board)
- 2023 Bluefish Specifications and Recreational Management Measures: Review (Joint with ASMFC Bluefish Board)
- EAFM Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation: Final Results and Recommendations (Joint with ASMFC SFSBSB Board)
- Evaluation of Commercial Scup Discards and Gear Restricted Areas: Review
- Recreational Reform Initiative Technical Guidance Document: Discuss Next Steps (Joint with ASMFC Policy Board)
- Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment: Discuss Next Steps (Joint with ASMFC Policy Board)
- 2023 Illex Specifications: Approve
- 2023-2024 Butterfish Specifications: Approve
- Offshore Wind Updates
- Climate Change Scenario Planning: Update

October 4-6, 2022 Council Meeting - Dewey Beach, DE

- 2023 Implementation Plan: Review Draft (Executive Committee)
- Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment: Approve Alternatives for Public Hearing Document
- Ocean City Video Project: Review Results
- Private Recreational Tilefish Permitting and Reporting: Review Performance
- Joint Council-SSC Meeting
- Essential Fish Habitat Redo: Initiate Amendment

December 12-15, 2022 Council Meeting - Annapolis, MD

- 2023 Implementation Plan: Approve
- 2023-2026 Spiny Dogfish Specifications: Approve
- Spiny Dogfish Trip Limit White Paper: Review
- 2023 Recreational Management Measures for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass: Approve (Joint with ASMFC SFSBSB Board)
- Recreational Reform Initiative Technical Guidance Document: Review Draft (Joint with ASMFC Policy Board)
- Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment: Approve Scoping Document (Joint with ASMFC Policy Board)
- Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment: Final Action
- EAFM Risk Assessment Comprehensive Review: Update
- Habitat Activities Update (Including Aquaculture)
- Offshore Wind Updates

2022 Council Meeting Topics At-a-Glance

	February	April	June	August	October	December
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish and River Herring and Shad (RH/S)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Illex Specs Review • RH/S Spatial/Temporal Analyses • Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amd: Approve Alternatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023-2025 Chub Mackerel Specs • 2023 Longfin Squid Specs • Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amd: Final Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Illex Specs Review • 2023-2024 Butterfish Specs 		
Recreational Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec HCR FW/ Addenda: Approve Alternatives 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec HCR FW/ Addenda: Final Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec Reform Technical Guidance Doc: Discuss • Rec Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amd: Discuss 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec Reform Technical Guidance Doc: Review Draft • Rec Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amd: Approve Scoping Doc
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass (SF/S/BSB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 SF/S/BSB Rec Measures: Reconsider 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF/S/BSB 2023 Specs Review • Commercial Scup Discards and GRAs: Review 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF/S/BSB 2023 Rec Mgmt Measures
Bluefish				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluefish 2023 Specs and Rec Mgmt Measures Review 		
Tilefish		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Golden Tilefish Specs Review • 2023 Blueline Tilefish Specs Review 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Tilefish Permitting/Reporting Update 	
Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog (SC/OQ)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surfclam Genetics Project Presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC/OQ 2023 Specs Review 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC/OQ Species Separation Amd: Approve Public Hearing Doc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC/OQ Species Separation Amd: Final Action
Spiny Dogfish						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023-2026 Dogfish Specs • Dogfish Trip Limit White Paper
Science Issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSA Workshop: Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSA Redevelopment: Final Action 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Council-SSC Meeting • Ocean City Video Project: Review Results 	
EAFM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 State of the Ecosystem Report • 2022 EAFM Risk Assessment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAFM Summer Flounder MSE: Review Final Results 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAFM Risk Assessment Comprehensive Review: Update

	February	April	June	August	October	December
Habitat, Aquaculture, Wind		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore Wind Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat Update Aquaculture Policy: Approve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore Wind Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFH Redo Amd: Initiate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat Update Offshore Wind Update
Protected Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Working Group: Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Turtle Bycatch: Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Phase II 			
Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Scenario Planning Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unmanaged Commercial Landings Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Scenario Planning Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft 2023 Implementation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 Implementation Plan: Approve

Acronyms/Abbreviations

Amd	Amendment	MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	Rec	Recreational
FW	Framework	RH/S	River Herring and Shad
GRAs	Gear Restricted Areas	SC/OQ	Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog
HCR	Harvest Control Rule	SF/S/BSB	Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass
Mgmt	Management	Specs	Specifications
MSB	Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish	SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee

Actions Referenced in this Document

- **Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amd:** Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amendment
- **Rec HCR FW/ Addenda:** Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda
- **Rec Reform Technical Guidance Doc:** Recreational Reform Initiative Technical Guidance Document
- **Rec Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amd:** Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment
- **SC/OQ Species Separation Amendment:** Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment



Status of Council Actions Under Development

AS OF 1/25/22

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish	Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda	<p>The goal of this action is to establish a process for setting recreational bag, size, and season limits for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish such that measures aim to prevent overfishing, are reflective of stock status, appropriately account for uncertainty in the recreational data, take into consideration angler preferences, and provide an appropriate level of stability and predictability in changes from year to year.</p> <p>https://www.mafmc.org/actions/recreational-reform-initiative</p>	<p>The Council and Policy Board may approve a final range of alternatives for public hearings in February 2022. Public hearings will be held through the Commission process for addenda.</p>	Beaty
	Recreational Reform Initiative Technical Guidance Document	<p>The Council and Policy Board agreed to develop a technical guidance document to address the following topics: (1) identifying and smoothing MRIP outlier estimates, (2) use of preliminary current year MRIP data, and (3) maintaining status quo recreational measures. Some of these topics have been partially developed through the Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda. No additional progress has been made on a technical guidance document due to prioritization of the Harvest Control Rule.</p> <p>https://www.mafmc.org/actions/recreational-reform-initiative</p>	<p>Further progress is not expected until after final action on the Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda.</p>	Beaty
	Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment	<p>This joint MAFMC/ASMFC amendment considers (1) options for managing for-hire recreational fisheries separately from other recreational fishing modes and (2) options related to recreational catch accounting, such as private angler reporting and enhanced vessel trip report requirements for for-hire vessels.</p> <p>https://www.mafmc.org/actions/recreational-reform-initiative</p>	<p>The Council and Policy Board initiated this action in October 2020. No additional progress has been made due to prioritization of the Harvest Control Rule Framework/ Addenda. The Council and Policy Board may consider approval of a scoping document for this amendment by the end of 2022.</p>	Dancy

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog	Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment	<p>As surfclams have shifted toward deeper water in recent years, catches including both surfclams and ocean quahogs have become more common. Current regulations do not allow surfclams and ocean quahogs to be landed on the same trip or in the same tagged cage. The Council is developing and Amendment to modify species separation requirements in these fisheries in the short-term. In addition, staff/NEFSC will explore longer term solutions for monitoring (such as electronic monitoring testing on the clam survey).</p> <p>https://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-species-separation</p>	<p>In December 2021 the Council reviewed a white paper and decided to initiate an Amendment. The Council also requested that the staff/NEFSC explore the feasibility of longer-term solutions. Letters to form an FMAT were sent 1/25.</p>	Coakley/Montañez
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish	Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amendment	<p>This action will re-set Atlantic mackerel rebuilding and consider related management measures, including the river herring and shad cap.</p>	<p>In December 2021 the Council decided to complete the revised rebuilding plan through an FMP amendment instead of a framework action, as had been previously planned. This decision will allow for additional public comment opportunities and more thorough engagement of stakeholders who may be affected. Two public information webinars were held on January 11 and 12.</p>	Didden
Omnibus	Omnibus Amendment for Data Modernization	<p>This action will address any regulatory changes needed to fully implement the Agency’s Fishery-Dependent Data Initiative (FDDI).</p>	<p>The Council last received an update at the October 2018 meeting. In 2019 the Council took final action on the Commercial eVTR Omnibus Framework jointly with the NEFMC in support of FDDI.</p>	GARFO/NEFSC

Timeline and Status of Recent MAFMC Actions and Amendments/Frameworks Under Review

As of 1/25/2022

The table below summarizes the status of actions after they have been approved by the Council. For information about the status of Council actions under development, please see the document titled "Status of Council Actions Under Development."

Title	Action Number	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	NOA Published	Proposed Rule Published	Approval/Disapproval Letter	Final Rule Published	Regs Effective	Notes
Excessive Shares Amendment	SCOQ Amd 20	12/9/19	4/24/20	9/25/20						
MSB FMP Goals/Objectives and Illex Permits Amendment	MSB Amd 22	7/16/20	3/15/21							EA edits & letter received 10/8/21 - staff working on edits.
Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment	TBD	8/4/21	11/19/21							Council/Board took final action in Feb 2021 and then revised their final action on 8/4/21 based on a remand from the ASMFC Policy Board.
Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment	Bluefish Amd 7	6/8/21	7/19/21	9/2/21	9/1/21	9/13/21	11/22/21	11/24/21	1/1/22	
Tilefish Multi-Year Specifications Framework	Tilefish FW 6	8/11/21	7/10/21	10/7/21						
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment	TBD	12/14/21								EA currently in development. Implementation expected 1/1/2023.

Timeline and Status of Current and Upcoming Specifications for MAFMC Fisheries

As of 1/25/22

Current Specifications	Year(s)	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Regs Effective	Notes
Golden Tilefish	2022-2024	8/11/21	10/7/21					Submitted under the Tilefish Multi-Year Specifications Framework 6
Blueline Tilefish	2022-2024	4/7/21	10/20/21					
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog	2021-2026	8/12/20	9/2/20	2/24/21	2/17/21	5/13/21	6/14/21	
Longfin Squid	2021-2023	8/10/20	10/14/20	7/2/21	5/26/21	7/22/21	7/22/21	
Butterfish	2021-2022	8/10/20	10/14/20	7/2/21	5/26/21	7/22/21	7/22/21	
Illex Squid	2021-2022	6/17/20	10/14/20	7/2/21	5/26/21	7/22/21	7/22/21	In-season adjustment to Illex from June 2021 Council meeting. SSC will review 2022.
Atlantic Mackerel (including RH/S cap)	2022 (through July 11, 2022, likely extended through 2022)	8/11/21	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/12/22	1/7/22	Emergency action requested by the Council at August 2021 meeting. Emergency actions should lock 2022 catch to near 2021.
Chub mackerel	2020-2022	3/7/19	5/31/19	10/25/19	3/9/20	8/4/20	9/3/20	Reviewed October 2020. No changes recommended.
Bluefish	2022-2023	8/9/21	10/18/21					
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	2022-2023	8/9/21	10/4/21	11/5/21	11/24/21	12/23/21	1/1/22	
Spiny Dogfish	2021-2022	10/6/20	12/7/20	2/3/21	3/4/21	5/1/21	5/1/21	Trip limit change to 7500 on track for NLT May 1, 2022 (SIR)

Recreational Management Measures

Current Management Measures	Year(s)	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Regs Effective	Notes
Summer flounder rec measures	2022	12/14/21						Rulemaking required each year to continue use of conservation equivalency
Black sea bass rec measures	2022	12/14/21						Will be reviewed by Council on Feb 8, 2022 and possibly revised in response to January 2022 ASMFC Board action.
Scup rec measures	2022	12/14/21						
Bluefish rec measures	2022-2023	12/13/21	1/23/20	3/19/20	5/25/20	6/29/20	6/29/20	Reviewed in 2021. No changes from previous year's measures.



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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 21, 2022
To: Council
From: Brandon Muffley, Council staff
Subject: SSC Membership Re-appointments

On Wednesday, February 9, 2022, as part of the Executive Director's report, the Council will review and consider the re-appointment of existing SSC members. Council SOPPs specify that SSC members shall serve three-year terms and are subject to re-appointment at the discretion of the Council. There are 16 members (out of 20) whose three-year term expires in March 2022 and, therefore, are up for reappointment. All 16 members (listed below) have expressed interest in remaining on the SSC for another three-year term.

As part of the review, Council members can find more information about each SSC member (e.g., education, background, areas of expertise) by reviewing the membership directory – found here [SSC Membership Directory and Short Bios](#). Also included is a table showing SSC member attendance for all SSC meetings from 2019 – 2021.

Existing SSC members up for re-appointment include:

Dr. Paul Rago (Chair)	Dr. Michael Wilberg (Vice-chair)
Dr. Lee Anderson	Dr. John Boreman
Dr. Michael Frisk	Dr. Wendy Gabriel
Dr. Sarah Gaichas	Dr. Mark Holliday
Dr. Edward Houde	Dr. Olaf Jensen
Dr. Yan Jiao	Dr. Cynthia Jones
Dr. Robert Latour	Dr. Tom Miller
Dr. Brian Rothschild	Dr. David Secor

SSC Meeting Attendance: 2019 - 2021

Name	Start of 3-year term	Feb '19	March '19	May '19	Sept '19	March '20	May '20	July '20	Sept '20	March '21	May '21	July '21	Sept '21	% of Meetings attended
		webinar	in-person	in-person	in-person	hybrid	webinar	webinar	webinar	webinar	webinar	webinar	webinar	
John Boreman	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.00
Geret DePiper	Mar-20					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	0.88
Tom Miller	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.00
Lee Anderson	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.00
Gavin Fay	Mar-20						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.88
Michael Frisk	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		0.83
Wendy Gabriel	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	0.83
Sarah Gaichas	Mar-19		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.83
Mark Holliday	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		0.83
Jorge Holzer	Mar-20					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.00
Ed Houde	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.00
Olaf Jensen	Mar-19		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.92
Yan Jiao	Mar-19	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.92
Cynthia Jones	Mar-19	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.75
Robert Latour	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	0.92
Paul Rago	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.00
Brian Rothschild	Mar-19		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.92
David Secor	Mar-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.00
Alexei Sharov	Mar-20					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	0.88
Michael Wilberg	Mar-19	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.92
Total participating per meeting		13	15	12	14	17	20	20	19	20	20	17	18	

From: Gregory DiDomenico <gregdidomenico@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 3:50 PM

To: Moore, Christopher <cmoore@mafmc.org>; Luisi, Michael <michael.luisi@maryland.gov>;

Townsend, Wes <pakafish1@yahoo.com>; Reid, Eric <ericreidri@gmail.com>

Subject: Review of Nomination for Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary

Good Afternoon,

Below you will find a link to the Federal Register.

[2022-01085.pdf \(federalregister.gov\)](#)

The Notice included is a request for written comments on the nomination of the Hudson Canyon.

As you recall in April of 2017 the MAFMC voted against this nomination.

I respectfully request the MAFMC review this again.

Thank you

Greg DiDomenico

Lund's Fisheries



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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 2022
To: Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: Kiley Dancy, Staff
Subject: NOAA's Five-Year Review of Nomination for Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary

In 2014, NOAA established a National Marine Sanctuary nomination process allowing communities to propose areas for National Marine Sanctuary designation. Nominations are reviewed against a set of 11 national significance criteria and management considerations. If successful, the nomination is added to a standing inventory of areas NOAA could consider for National Marine Sanctuary designation. Addition of an area to the inventory does not necessarily mean that the area will be designated as a marine sanctuary. Designation is a separate, highly participatory process that typically takes 3-5 years and involves a public scoping process, the development of an Environmental Impact Statement, and a public comment process.

If NOAA does not take action to start the designation process on a nomination in the inventory, the nomination is re-evaluated after five years. If the nomination still meets the sanctuary nomination process criteria, the area may remain on the inventory for another five years.

On January 21, 2022, NOAA published a notice in the Federal Register¹ seeking comments on its five-year review of the nomination for Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary. This area was added to the inventory on February 23, 2017 after NOAA's consideration of a November 17, 2016 nomination from the Wildlife Conservation Society's New York Aquarium.² No action has been taken since that time to begin the designation process for this nomination.

In April 2017, following addition of the Hudson Canyon area to the inventory, the Mid-Atlantic Council wrote a letter expressing concerns about sanctuary designation of the area and requesting that the nomination not move forward to the designation stage.³ In these comments, the Council noted concerns that sanctuary designation may hinder or conflict with the Council's management authority and objectives for marine resources in the area. While the nomination included the recommendation that the authority to manage fisheries within the sanctuary remain solely with the

¹ 87 FR 3283, available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/01/21/2022-01085/review-of-nomination-for-hudson-canyon-national-marine-sanctuary>.

² <https://nominate.noaa.gov/media/documents/hudson-canyon.pdf>

³ April 26, 2017 letter available at: <https://www.mafmc.org/s/MAFMC-Hudson-Sanctuary-Comment-Letter-26-April-2017.pdf>

Council and NMFS, the Council was concerned that this could not be guaranteed through the designation process and over the longer term. The Council also noted that Hudson Canyon is included as part of the Frank R. Lautenberg Deep Sea Coral Protected Area (effective January 2017), the boundaries for which were carefully developed using a cooperative and transparent process involving several stakeholder groups.

The recent Federal Register notice requesting comments on the five year review specifies that comments should “focus solely on any new and relevant information relating to NOAA's 11 sanctuary nomination evaluation criteria” that may influence their decision of whether the area should remain on the inventory for another five years. After reviewing the criteria, staff did not believe there was relevant new information to provide relative to the Council’s previous points. However, if NOAA were to move forward with the designation process for Hudson Canyon Marine Sanctuary, as noted above, the Council would have several opportunities for involvement and comments during scoping as well as review of a draft management plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement.⁴

⁴ See the designation process steps at: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/designations.html>.



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2022

PRESS CONTACT: Mary Sabo
(302) 526-5261

Climate Change Scenario Planning: Upcoming Webinars to Focus on Oceanographic, Biological, and Social/Economic Drivers of Change

Over the past year, East Coast fishery management bodies have been collaborating on a [climate change scenario planning initiative](#) designed to prepare fishing communities and fishery managers for an era of climate change. The goals of this project are to assess how climate change might affect stock distribution and availability of East Coast marine fisheries over the next 20 years and to identify the implications for fishery management and governance.

Last summer and fall, many stakeholders participated in the *Scoping* phase of the project by attending introductory scoping webinars and providing input through an online questionnaire. A summary of the scoping process and input received is available [here](#).

The next step in the scenario planning process is the *Exploration* phase. Building on the input gathered during scoping, this phase will include a series of three webinars which will focus on identifying and analyzing the major drivers of change in greater depth. Once again, stakeholder involvement is key, and the webinars are open to the public. The outcomes of these webinars will form the “building blocks” for a future scenario creation workshop to be held in Spring 2022.

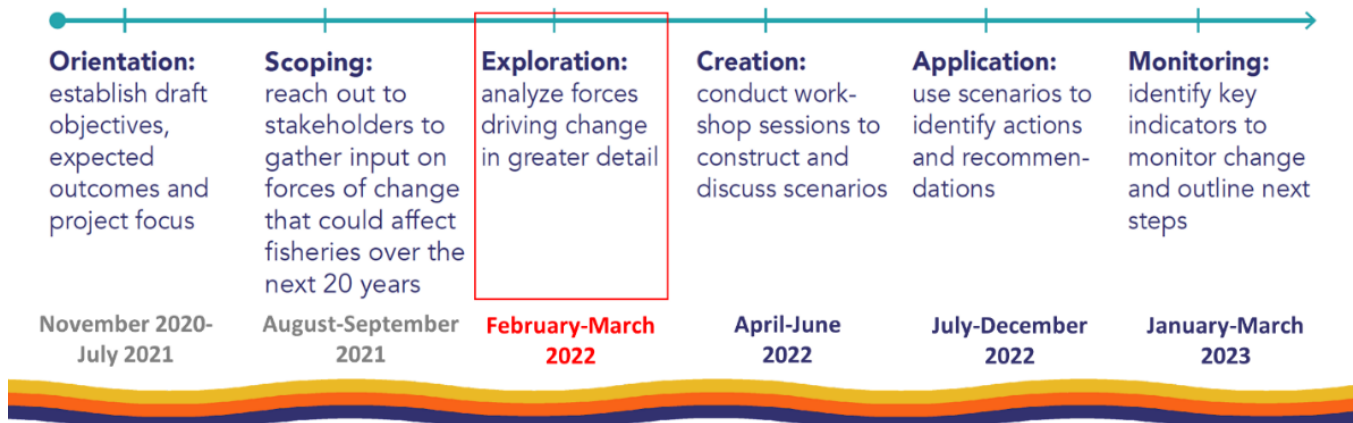
Mark Your Calendars

- **Webinar #1** – Monday, February 14, 2022
- **Webinar #2** – Wednesday, February 23, 2022
- **Webinar #3** – Wednesday, March 2, 2022

NOTE: All webinars will run from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Participants are encouraged to **attend all three webinars** to take in the full range of issues being explored. Each webinar will address a different category of forces driving change in East Coast fisheries (see next page for details).*

Steps in this Multi-Year Initiative



Webinar Details

Each of the three webinars will address a different category of forces driving change in East Coast fisheries (see schedule below for details). **Participants are encouraged to attend all three webinars, if possible, to take in the full range of issues being explored.** The webinars will contain a keynote address, a panel discussion, and a limited opportunity for comments, questions, and discussion. Three background documents are being developed with specific information to support each webinar. Once completed, these documents will be posted [here](#). Participants are encouraged to review these backgrounders before the webinars begin and come prepared to share comments on the primary drivers of change for East Coast fisheries.

Webinar Schedule and Topics

Click on the webinar titles below to view webinar registration details.

Webinar #1: Oceanographic Drivers of Change

February 14, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This webinar will look in detail at the trends in oceanography that are poised to shape East Coast fisheries over the next 20 years, such as changing ocean temperature, acidification, sea level rise, ocean currents and other developments. How predictable are these trends, and what impact might they have?

Webinar #2: Biological Drivers of Change

February 23, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This webinar will explore expected and possible biological trends, including changes in the geographic range, distribution, and productivity of stocks, as well as changes in habitat, predator/prey relationships, and other ecosystem dynamics. What are the prospects for how these factors might develop and interact over the next 20 years?

Webinar #3: Social and Economic Drivers of Change

March 2, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This webinar will focus on social and economic trends that may affect fisheries, such as changing consumer demand and food production, other competing ocean uses (e.g., offshore energy and aquaculture), loss of working waterfronts, and other developments. How important will these developments be in shaping fisheries in the next 20 years?

Learn More

Additional information is available on the [Climate Change Scenario Planning Web Page](#) and in the [Introductory brochure](#).



New England
Fishery Management
Council



**NOAA
FISHERIES**





New England Fishery Management Council

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Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

January 28, 2022

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

Dear Chris,

At its December 7-9, 2021 meeting, the New England Fishery Management Council adopted as one of its 2022 priorities for spiny dogfish that our Council support a framework adjustment under the lead of the MAFMC to develop possible additional changes to the trip limit.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our Council's decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas A. Nies".

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



New England
Fishery Management
Council



MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Discussion on the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area (GSCHMA) and Atlantic Surfclam Fishery Access (January 14, 2022, 2pm - 3pm)

Leadership from both the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) and New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) met via webinar on January 14, 2022 (from 2pm-3pm) to discuss the above subject. The purpose of this meeting was to bring the leadership of both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils to a common level of understanding on the history of and current issues related to Atlantic surfclam fishing access within the GSCHMA, and identify opportunities to further coordinate on this issue within the scope of the Council process.

Council Leadership: Eric Reid (NEFMC Chair, Habitat Committee Chair), Rick Bellevance (NEFMC Vice-Chair), Tom Nies (NEFMC Executive Director), Mike Luisi (MAFMC Chair), Wes Townsend (MAFMC Vice-chair), Peter Hughes (Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee Chair), Chris Moore (MAFMC Executive Director). Council Staff: Jessica Coakley and José Montañez (MAFMC staff), and Michelle Bachman (NEFMC staff).

Staff provided a brief overview of the history of the GSCHMA. The discussion began and it was noted that in addition to the request for this meeting that occurred at the December MAFMC Meeting, there was also a request for emergency action made at the December NEFMC meeting and via correspondence. This request will be taken up by the NEFMC in February.

A question was asked about the Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP; issued to Coonamessett Farm Foundation) in the GSCHMA and if there were any final reports from the habitat data collection that occurred under the permit. NEFMC has not received a final analysis/report.

A discussion about the areas followed. In their correspondence, some industry members indicated that one area cannot be fished year-round because of a seasonal closure, another because of winter weather due to further distance from shore/rough bottom, and yet another has low catch per unit of effort for surfclam. These are areas that had been historically fished, but presently there are not enough surfclams coming out of them to support processing/demand for clams. Some industry members feel they aren't being given fair access, because they applied for an EFP that was denied. One fishing/processing business has fared better because they were allowed to fish under the EFP.

It was noted that it was known when the NEFMC delineated and closed the GSCHMA that it would cause adverse impacts to the surfclam fishery. The NEFMC also knew that impacts would only be partially mitigated by designating the exemption areas. During development of Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 and the subsequent Clam Dredge Framework, the surfclam industry indicated that they would do the research needed to support opening these areas. To date, the

NEFMC has only received a progress report on the information collected under Coonamessett Farm Foundation's EFP. Another EFP was applied for but has not been approved by NOAA Fisheries.

The request for action is not a specific proposal in terms of areas or seasons where access is requested. It will be difficult to determine whether the request for emergency action would be consistent with NOAA's 2008 policy guidance unless the fishing industry comes forward with more details. The group agreed that more details on the specifics of the request would help the Councils to evaluate whether to recommend Secretarial emergency action.

The group discussed the upcoming schedule for NEFMC: Habitat Committee Meeting (1/18), Executive Committee Meeting (1/21), and February Council Meeting (2/1), during which the emergency action request would be discussed. It was noted that for the NEFMC to take up this work as a Council action in 2022, it would take 2/3 council members voting affirmative (not just a simple majority) to revisit their work priorities.

Follow-up Actions: The group agreed to send an email to the MAFMC surfclam advisory panel letting them know these 3 meetings are happening and that they provide an opportunity to comment on the request for emergency action. Council staff will also reach out to GARFO staff so they are prepared for these discussions. This summary will be prepared by staff and provided to both Councils.



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 28, 2022
To: Council
From: Julia Beaty, staff
Subject: Updates on Offshore Wind Energy Development

The following major updates in offshore wind energy development occurred since the December 2021 Council meeting. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

- The Council submitted the following comment letters:
 - [Letter from MAFMC to BOEM on Central Atlantic Planning Areas and Coral Protection Areas](#) (12/27/21)
 - [MAFMC Letter to GARFO: Fisheries Mitigation](#) (1/6/22)
 - [MAFMC and NEFMC Letter to BOEM: Fisheries Mitigation](#) (1/7/22)
- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) published a [final sale notice](#) for six lease areas offshore of New York and New Jersey. A lease auction will take place on February 23, 2022.
- In January 2022, BOEM held four fisheries meetings on offshore wind planning areas in the Central Atlantic (i.e., offshore of Delaware through New Jersey). BOEM will hold a Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Task Force meeting on February 16, 2022. More information is available [here](#).
- NOAA and BOEM [announced a new interagency memorandum](#) in support of advancing offshore wind energy.