



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

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

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 29, 2021
To: Council
From: Chris Moore
Subject: Executive Director's Report

The following materials are enclosed for Council review at the April 2021 Council Meeting during the Executive Director's Report:

1. 2021 Planned Council Topics
2. 2022 Council Meeting Schedule
3. Status of Council Actions Under Development
4. Status of Completed MAFMC Actions and Specifications
5. GARFO Letter to MAFMC Regarding Black Sea Bass Catch Accounting Revisions (2/24/21)
6. MAFMC Letter to Secretary of Interior Regarding the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument (3/16/21)
7. CCC Letter to Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Commerce Regarding Section 216(a) of Executive Order (EO) 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (3/12/21)
8. Press Release: Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment Public Hearings (2/22/21)
9. Press Release: Mid-Atlantic Council Seeks Applicants for Advisory Panels (3/22/21)
10. Notice: NOAA Fisheries Action to Continue to Waive Observer Coverage (3/25/21)
11. Staff Memo: Revisions to the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel Charter (3/24/21)
12. Offshore Wind Updates as of 3/29/21



2021 Planned Council Meeting Topics

Updated 3/26/21

April 6-8, 2021 Council Meeting

- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment: Final action (Joint with SFSBSB Board)
- Climate Change Scenario Planning: Update
- Golden Tilefish Multi-Year Specifications Framework: Framework Meeting 1
- 2022-2024 Blueline Tilefish Specifications: Approve
- 2021 Mid-Atlantic State of the Ecosystem Report
- 2021 EAFM Risk Assessment
- EAFM Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation: Update
- RSA Redevelopment Workshop: Update

June 8-10, 2021 Council Meeting (Virginia Beach, VA)

- Advisory Panel Appointment Recommendations (Executive Committee Closed Session)
- Unmanaged Commercial Landings Report: Review
- Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment: Final Action (Joint with Bluefish Board)
- 2022 Longfin Squid and Butterfish Specifications: Review
- 2022 *Illex* Squid Specifications: Approve
- *Illex* Incidental Trip Limit and Butterfish Mesh Regulation Modification: Review and Recommend Changes if Appropriate
- Surfclam and Ocean Quahog 2022 Specifications: Review
- Habitat Activities Update (including wind and aquaculture)

August 9-12, 2021 Council Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)

- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass 2022-2023 Specifications and Commercial Measures: Approve (Joint with SFSBSB Board)
- ~~Commercial Scup Discards and Gear Restricted Areas: Review~~
- Bluefish 2022-2023 Specifications: Approve (Joint with Bluefish Board)
- Recreational Reform Initiative (Joint with Policy Board)
- EAFM Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation: Update and Feedback (Joint with SFSBSB Board)
- SSC Economic Work Group: Update on RSA Redevelopment Case Study
- Golden Tilefish Multi-Year Specifications Framework: Final Action
- Golden Tilefish Specifications: Review 2022 and Approve 2023-2024
- 2022 Atlantic Mackerel Specifications (including RH/S cap): Review (note that 2021 management track assessment may necessitate re-setting for 2022-2023)
- Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements: Review White Paper and Identify Next Steps

October 5-7, 2021 Council Meeting (New York, NY)

- 2022 Implementation Plan: Discuss Draft Deliverables (Executive Committee)
- Joint Council-SSC Meeting
- HMS Diet Study Final Report: Review
- Chub Mackerel 2022 Specifications: Review
- Action to Implement a Possession Limit for Bullet and Frigate Mackerel: Update
- 2022 Spiny Dogfish Specifications: Review
- Spiny Dogfish Trip Limit Analyses: Review and Recommend Changes if Appropriate
- Ocean City, MD Video Project: Review Results
- Private Tilefish Permitting/Reporting Evaluation

December 13-16, 2021 Council Meeting (Annapolis, MD)

- 2022 Implementation Plan: Approve
- Recreational Reform Initiative (Joint with Policy Board)
- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass 2022 Recreational Management Measures: Approve (Joint with SFSBSB Board)
- Bluefish 2022 Recreational Management Measures: Approve (Joint with Bluefish Board)
- Biennial Review of 2020-2024 Research Priorities Document: Review and Approve
- EAFM Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation: Update and Feedback (Joint with SFSBSB Board)
- RSA Workshop Report: Review
- Habitat Activities Update (including wind and aquaculture)

2021 Council Meeting Topics At-a-Glance

	April 6-8	June 8-10	August 8-12	October 5-7	December 13-16
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish and River Herring and Shad (RH/S)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 <i>IIIex</i> Specs • 2022 Longfin and Butterfish Specs Review • <i>IIIex</i> Incidental Trip Limit and Butterfish Mesh Regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Mackerel Specs Review (including RH/S cap) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chub mackerel 2022 Specs Review 	
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass (SF/S/BSB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF/S/BSB Com/Rec Allocation Amd: Final Action 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF/S/BSB 2022-2023 Specs • Rec Reform Initiative 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec Reform Initiative • SF/S/BSB 2022 Rec Mgmt Measures
Bluefish		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluefish Amd: Final Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluefish 2022-2023 Specs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluefish 2022 Rec Mgmt Measures
Tilefish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Tilefish Multi-Year Specs FW • 2022-2024 Blueline Tilefish Specs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Tilefish Multi-Year Specs FW: Final Action • Golden Tilefish Specs: Review 2022 and Approve 2023-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Tilefish Permitting/Reporting Evaluation 	
Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog (SC/OQ)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC/OQ 2022 Specs Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC/OQ Species Separation: Review White Paper and Identify Next Steps 		
Spiny Dogfish				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Dogfish Specs Review • Dogfish Trip Limit Analysis 	
Science Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSA Workshop: Update 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSC Economic Work Group: Update on RSA Case Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Council-SSC Meeting • HMS Diet Study Report • Ocean City Video Project: Review Results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennial Review of 2020-2024 Research Priorities • RSA Workshop Report: Review
EAFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Mid-Atlantic State of the Ecosystem Report • 2021 EAFM Risk Assessment • EAFM Summer Flounder MSE Update 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAFM Summer Flounder MSE Update 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAFM Summer Flounder MSE Update
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Scenario Planning Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Panel Appointments • Unmanaged Commercial Landings Report • Habitat Update 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss 2022 Draft Deliverables • Bullet and Frigate Mackerel Action Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Implementation Plan: Approve • Habitat Update

Acronyms/Abbreviations

Amd	Amendment	MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
Com/Rec	Commercial/Recreational	Mtg	Meeting
Com	Commercial	Rec	Recreational
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	RH/S	River Herring and Shad
FMP	Fishery Management Plan	SC/OQ	Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog
GRAs	Gear Restricted Areas	SF/S/BSB	Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass
HMS	Highly Migratory Species	Specs	Specifications
Mgmt	Management	SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
MSB	Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish		

Actions Referenced in this Document

- **Bluefish Amd:** Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment
- **SF-S-BSB Com/Rec Allocation Amd:** Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment
- **Rec Reform Initiative:** Recreational Management Reform Initiative
- **Golden Tilefish Multi-Year Specs FW:** Golden Tilefish Multi-Year Specifications Framework
- **SC/OQ Species Separation:** Action to address current species separation requirements in the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries
- **Bullet and Frigate Mackerel Action Update:** Action to implement a possession limit for bullet and frigate mackerel

MAFMC 2022 COUNCIL MEETINGS

February 8-10, 2022	Meeting: Durham Convention Cntr, 301 W. Morgan St, Durham, NC 27701 Sleeping Rooms: Marriott Durham Hotel, 201 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701
April 5-7, 2022	Seaview Dolce Hotel 401 S. New York Road Galloway, NJ 08205
June 7-9, 2022	Hyatt Place, Long Island East End 451 East Main Street Riverhead, NY 11901
August 8-11, 2022	The Notary Hotel 21 Juniper Street Philadelphia, PA 19107
October 4-6, 2022	Hyatt Place, Dewey Beach 1301 Coastal Highway Dewey Beach, DE 19971
December 12-15, 2022	The Westin 100 Westgate Circle Annapolis, MD 21401



Status of Council Actions Under Development

AS OF 3/26/21

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment	This joint MAFMC/ASMFC amendment will reevaluate and potentially revise the commercial and recreational sector allocations for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. This action was initiated in part to address the allocation-related impacts of the revised recreational data from MRIP. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment	The Council and Board will consider public comments and take final action at the April 2021 Council Meeting.	Dancy/Coutre/Beaty
Bluefish	Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment	This joint MAFMC/ASMFC amendment considers potential revisions to the allocation of Atlantic bluefish between the commercial and recreational fisheries and the commercial allocations to the states. This action will also review the goals and objectives of the bluefish FMP and the quota transfer processes and establish a rebuilding plan for bluefish. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/bluefish-allocation-amendment	Public hearings will be held March 24 - April 8. Written comments are due April 23, 2021.	Seeley
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish	Recreational Reform Framework and Technical Guidance Documents	The Council and Policy Board initiated a framework/addendum to address the following topics for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish: (1) better incorporating MRIP uncertainty into the management process; (2) guidelines for maintaining status quo recreational management measures (i.e., bag, size, and season limits) from one year to the next; (3) a process for setting multi-year recreational management measures; (4) changes to the timing of the recommendation for federal waters recreational management measures; and (5) a proposal put forward by six recreational organizations called a harvest control rule. The Council and Policy Board may consider addressing some of these topics through a technical guidance document, rather than a framework/addendum. https://www.mafmc.org/actions/recreational-reform-initiative	The Council and Policy Board discussed next steps during their joint meeting on February 1.	Beaty

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
	Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment	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. https://www.mafmc.org/actions/recreational-reform-initiative	The Council and Policy Board initiated this action at the joint October 2020 meeting. Minimal progress is expected in 2021 due to other priorities.	Beaty
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog	Addressing Current Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements	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. The Council is exploring options to address this issue.	An FMAT has been established, and their first meeting was held 11/17/2020.	Coakley/ Montañez
Tilefish	Golden Tilefish Multi-Year Specs Framework	This framework action will consider allowing specifications to be set for more than 3 years (e.g. 5 years) when assessment data support the development of longer-term projections. This action is intended to increase administrative efficiency and predictability from year to year.	Framework Meeting #1 will take place at the April 2021 Council Meeting.	Montañez
Omnibus	Omnibus Amendment for Data Modernization	This amendment will address the regulatory changes needed to fully implement the Agency's Fishery-Dependent Data Initiative.	The Council last received an update at the October 2018 meeting.	GARFO/NEFSC

Timeline and Status of Current and Upcoming Specifications for MAFMC Fisheries

As of 3/22/21

Current Specifications	Year(s)	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Regs Effective	Notes
Golden Tilefish	2021-2022	4/8/20	5/11/20	7/21/20	11/13/20	12/21/20	12/21/20	
Blueline Tilefish	2019-2021	4/11/18	8/17/18	10/24/18	11/19/18	2/12/19	2/12/19	
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog	2021-2026	8/12/20	9/2/20	2/24/21	2/17/21			
Longfin Squid	2021-2023	8/10/20	10/14/20					Working on EA edits received in March, status quo from previous year.
Butterfish	2021-2022	8/10/20	10/14/20					Working on EA edits received in March, reduction from previous year but timeline not expected to be an issue.
Illex Squid	2020-2021	6/17/20	10/14/20					Working on EA edits received in March, status quo from previous year.
Atlantic Mackerel (including RH/S cap)	2021-2022	8/10/20	10/14/20					Working on EA edits received in March, status quo from previous year.
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	2021 (revised)	8/11/20	9/24/20	10/26/20	11/5/20	12/16/20	12/16/20	
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	2021 (revised)	8/11/20	9/30/20	11/20/20	11/17/20	12/21/20	1/1/21	
Spiny Dogfish	2021-2022	10/6/20	12/7/20	2/3/21	3/4/21			

Recreational Management Measures

Current Management Measures	Year(s)	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Regs Effective	Notes
Summer flounder recreational measures	2021	12/15/20	1/20/21					Rulemaking required each year to continue use of conservation equivalency
Black sea bass recreational measures	2021	2/14/18	3/5/18	4/10/18	4/11/18	5/31/18	5/31/18	Reviewed in 2020. No changes from previous year's measures.
Scup recreational measures	2021	12/10/14	3/20/15		5/5/15	6/19/15	6/19/15	Reviewed in 2020. No changes from previous year's measures.
Bluefish recreational measures	2021	12/10/19	1/23/20	3/19/20	5/25/20	6/29/20	6/29/20	Reviewed in 2020. No changes from previous year's measures.



Dr. Christopher Moore
 Executive Director
 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
 800 North State Street, Suite 201
 Dover, DE 1990

Dear Chris,

After discussing the 2019 black sea bass catch accounting at the February Council meeting, we reviewed the recreational discard values detailed in my previous letter. In doing so, we discovered an error. We inadvertently listed the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) Marine Recreational Information Program estimate of recreational discards as the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) estimate for black sea bass. The tables below show the corrected information, as well as the recreational estimates in both units.

As you can see, this brings the total catch below the overfishing limit and reduces the concern regarding excessive discards in the recreational fishery for black sea bass. Moving forward all specifications and catch accounting will only use the FES estimates.

Table 1: Corrected 2019 Black Sea Bass Specifications and Year-End Data (mt)

2019 Specifications		2019 Catch Data		Difference
OFL	4,667	Total Catch	4,127	-12%
ABC	4,055	Total Catch	4,127	1.8%
Commercial ACL = ACT	1,974	Commercial Catch	2,330	16%
Projected Commercial Discards	377	Commercial Dead Discards	731	64%
Commercial Quota	1,596	Commercial Landings	1,599	0.2%
Recreational ACL = ACT	2,083	Recreational Catch*	1,797	-15%
Projected Recreational Discards	422	Recreational Dead Discards*	225	-61%
Recreational Harvest Limit	1,661	Recreational Landings*	1,572	-6%

*CHTS-equivalent



Table 2: Comparison of FES and CHTS Recreational Catch Estimates (mt)

	2019 FES Landings	2019 FES Discards	2019 CHTS Landings	2019 CHTS Discards
Black Sea Bass	3,905	1,468	1,572	225

We apologize for the confusion and the error. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Keiley at (978) 281-9116.

Sincerely,

Kimberly B. Damon-Randall

For Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. Jon Hare, Science and Research Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center



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

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Haaland:

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Mid-Atlantic Council) regarding your review of the commercial fishing prohibition in the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument (Northeast Marine Monument). The Mid-Atlantic Council manages fifteen species of fish and shellfish under seven fishery management plans (FMPs), plus more than 50 forage species that are managed as ecosystem component species across all of our FMPs. Although our management area extends from New York through Virginia, a considerable portion of the catch from some of our managed fisheries comes from New England waters.

Section 3 of President Biden's "Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis" requires you to recommend whether a commercial fishing prohibition within the Northeast Marine Monument should be restored. The Mid-Atlantic Council recommends that management of fisheries in marine monument areas should remain under the jurisdiction of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Any fishing restrictions within the Northeast Marine Monument should be developed through the science-based, participatory management process required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The Mid-Atlantic Council joins the seven other RFMCs in unanimous opposition to the use of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to implement fishing restrictions in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).¹

Working in partnership with NMFS, the RFMCs have more than four decades of experience successfully managing our nation's fisheries and marine ecosystems. Through implementation of the MSA, the United States is the global leader in the successful conservation and management of fishery resources and associated ecosystems. The RFMCs are charged not only with preventing overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks but also with achieving optimum yield – the amount of fish which will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation. The RFMCs are also required to protect essential fish habitat, minimize bycatch, and comply with protections for species listed under the Endangered Species Act and other Federal laws.

¹ See comment letters sent to President Obama (6/26/16), President Trump (3/1/17), Secretary Zinke and Secretary Ross (5/16/17), Secretary Ross (5/29/20), and Acting Secretary De la Vega (2/26/21), all available at <http://www.fisherycouncils.org/cc-c-correspondence>

Through our work as stewards of U.S. fishery resources, the RFMCs have become leaders in marine conservation. Each RFMC has developed, or is developing, some form of a fishery ecosystem plan or a fishery-based management plan. In the Mid-Atlantic, we use what is called an “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management.” Within the Mid-Atlantic Council’s 71,000 square mile management area, about 58%, or 41,428 square miles, is covered by the Frank R. Lautenberg Deep Sea Coral Protection Area. In this area, all bottom-tending fishing gear is prohibited to protect sensitive deep sea habitats. The management measures and specific boundaries for the protection area were approved by the Council in 2015 following an extensive, science-based process in collaboration with the fishing industry. Similarly, the New England Fishery Management Council has approved restrictions on bottom-tending gear within 87% of the monument area through its Deep Sea Coral Amendment. In each region you will find examples of how the RFMCs have carefully crafted spatial management measures and fishing restrictions to protect sensitive habitats and achieve other conservation goals.

The RFMCs are required to make all fisheries management decisions through a transparent, public process. The open forum provided by the Council system allows everyone to have a say in the stewardship of our marine resources and how fisheries are managed. We are concerned that the top-down approach used to designate and implement fishing restrictions within the Northeast Marine Monument did not provide adequate opportunities for public input. While a number of public events and meetings were held, fishermen and other affected stakeholders were not given a formal opportunity to comment on the proposed boundaries or management measures.

Implementation of fishing restrictions under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 subverts the effective and time-tested fisheries management process established by the MSA. The RFMCs have the knowledge, experience, and technical expertise needed to meet conservation objectives while ensuring productive and sustainable fisheries. We recommend that fisheries management responsibility for the Northeast Marine Monument area should be retained by the New England Fishery Management Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue. We look forward to working with this Administration to ensure the continued sustainability and conservation of our nation’s marine resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "Moore".

Dr. Christopher M. Moore
Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

CC: The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Acting Secretary of Commerce
Mr. Paul Doremus, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries NOAA/NMFS
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Members
Mr. Tom Nies, New England Fishery Management Council, Executive Director



Caribbean
Miguel Rolon

Executive Director
Marcos Hanke



Gulf of Mexico

Dr. Carrie Simmons
Executive Director
Dr. Thomas Frazer
Chair



MID-ATLANTIC

Mid Atlantic

Dr. Christopher Moore
Executive Director
Mike Luisi
Chair



New England

Thomas Nies
Executive Director
Dr. John Quinn
Chair



North Pacific

David Witherell
Executive Director
Simon Kinneen
Chair



Pacific

Chuck Tracy
Executive Director
Marc Gorelnik
Chair



South Atlantic

John Carmichael
Executive Director
Melvin Bell
Chair



Western Pacific

Kitty Simonds
Executive Director
Taotasi Archie Soliai
Chair

March 12, 2021

The Honorable Deborah Haaland
Presumptive Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Haaland and Ms. Raimondo:

The Council Coordination Committee (CCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide our perspective on Section 216(a) of Executive Order (EO) 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. The CCC consists of the senior leaders of all eight Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs; Councils), and, as such, represents the RFMCs.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is the foundation that guides the use of U.S. marine and anadromous fishery resources. The MSA gives the U.S. the strongest statutory framework in the world for the management of sustainable fisheries and associated ecosystems and the U.S. is recognized as a world leader in marine conservation and sustainable fishery management. The MSA charges the nation's eight RFMCs with the responsibility of achieving its goals and objectives, which are closely aligned with those of the Executive Order.

Section 216(a) of the EO directs you to submit a report to the National Climate Task Force by April 20 recommending steps to work with State, Tribal, and Territorial governments, fishermen, and other key stakeholders to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. We believe the RFMCs have already made significant progress in achieving this goal and can be a valuable resource for advancing this and other goals of the EO for the following reasons:

- The RFMCs have been managing and conserving marine resources, including fish stocks and benthic habitats, as directed by the MSA, for over 40 years. As a result, the U.S. is widely recognized as a leader in sustainable fishing practices.
- RFMCs use a public, collaborative process to engage State and Federal agencies, Tribal representatives, fishermen, and other key stakeholders in the conservation and management of living marine resources using the best scientific information available.
- RFMCs are at the forefront of coping with climate change, adapting management to conserve resources while continuing to provide significant economic benefits and domestic food security to the nation.

- Ecosystem considerations are routinely used to inform management decisions, acknowledging the complex interactions between habitat, fishery resources, and human communities.

Section 216(a)(ii) requires the report to the Task Force to propose guidelines for determining whether lands and waters qualify for conservation, and to establish mechanisms to measure progress toward the 30 percent goal. As explicitly stated by the title of our authorizing legislation, the function of the RFMCs is to conserve fishery resources. Specifically, the MSA requires each Council:

- To have conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of fisheries.
- To describe and identify Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), minimize fishing impacts to EFH, and identify actions to encourage conservation and enhancement of EFH.

To achieve these conservation and management objectives, the Councils use a wide range of management tools, including ecosystem-based fishery management, management strategy evaluation, and climate change scenario planning, in addition to more traditional spatial management approaches. For example:

- More than 1,000 individual spatial habitat and fisheries conservation measures have been implemented, protecting more than 72 percent of the nation's ocean waters from fishing impacts, which helps to ensure preservation of ecosystem functions.
- All Councils use annual catch limits to prevent overfishing and achieve optimum yield from managed fisheries to achieve the greatest overall benefit to the nation.
- Every Council has or is developing a fishery ecosystem plan(s) to monitor ecosystem functions, incorporate ecosystem science into fishery management decisions, and identify research priorities to advance ecosystem management.

These provisions and examples of implementation of the MSA are entirely consistent with the following dictionary definition of conservation: controlled use and systematic protection of natural resources (Webster). Council management meets this definition¹ by managing for optimum yield and protecting habitats from fishing impacts. Therefore, the entire Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under authority of the MSA should be classified as a conservation area for marine fishery resources, and at least 72 percent of that area should be classified as protected.

In summary, we submit that the MSA and its implementation through the RFMC process, as a measure of progress, already conserves and protects more than 30 percent of marine fishery resources and habitats. The MSA not only works well but is the gold standard worldwide for sustainable fishery conservation programs. Based on the success of the MSA, U.S. participation in Regional Fishing Management Organizations is helping other nations

¹ Other definitions relevant to conservation of marine resources include those in the [MSA Section 3\(5\)](#), the [IUCN category VI](#), and [UNCLOS Article 119](#).

recognize and make progress toward science-based conservation objectives consistent with the EO.

Further, should any additional needs for conservation of marine fishery resources be identified as part of the process of implementing this EO, they should be authorized only through the robust, open public process established by the MSA, which has been successfully used for over forty years to conserve and protect habitat, conserve fishery resources, and protect marine mammals and other listed species through sustainable, science-based management.

Thank you again for considering our comments; we hope they will be helpful in developing your report to the Task Force. Please feel free to contact Mr. Chuck Tracy, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Executive Director, and 2021 CCC coordinator, or any of the undersigned, for questions or clarifications. We welcome further engagement on this or other issues related to implementing the Executive Order.

Sincerely,



Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council



Mike Luisi, Chair
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Taotasi Archie Soliai, Chair
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council



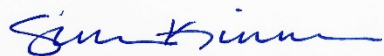
Marcos Hanke, Chair
Caribbean Fishery Management Council



Dr. John Quinn, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council



Melvin Bell, Chair
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Simon Kinneen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council



Dr. Thomas Frazer, Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

cc: Mr. Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Ms. Brenda Mallory, Presumptive Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality
Mr. Scott De la Vega, Acting Secretary of the Interior
Dr. Paul Doremus, Acting NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

Enclosure

Enclosure:

The following sections provide additional details regarding RFMC responsibilities and achievements relevant to Section 216(a) and other topics addressed in the Executive Order.

RFMCs have been effectively conserving marine resources for over 40 years.

The MSA includes 10 National Standards to guide management of our nation's marine fishery resources that require the RFMCs, in addition to preventing overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks, to minimize bycatch and provide for the sustained participation of fishing communities. The National Standard guidelines require Councils to manage for optimum yield, which is a precautionary approach to ensure harvest does not exceed maximum sustainable yield.

More specifically, the RFMCs develop and implement fishery management and ecosystem plans for marine waters of the U.S. EEZ that:

- Establish conservation objectives and associated management measures for managed fish stocks
- Identify and protect habitat for managed fish species, coral reef, and deep sea coral ecosystems
- Describe and monitor marine ecosystem functions, and apply them in management
- Support coastal economies and communities, including disadvantaged, minority cultures and communities
- Conserve, manage, and protect forage fish for the benefit of marine mammals, birds, and ecosystem functions
- Establish conservation objectives and associated management measures that minimize bycatch of non-target species, including fish, marine mammals, and marine species listed under the Endangered Species Act
- Support U.S. engagement in Regional (international) Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs)
- Provide a sustainable supply of seafood and fishing opportunity for U.S. citizens and contribute to domestic food security.

Most stocks are managed on annual or biennial regulatory cycles supported by ongoing scientific surveys to support stock assessments. Councils are also required to periodically review and update their fishery management and ecosystem plans, habitat protection plans, stock assessment and fishery evaluation reports, and their research and data needs reports. Each Council has a Scientific and Statistical Committee to independently review scientific information and methodologies to ensure conservation and management measures are based on the best scientific information available.

Fishery management plans and implementing actions address not only the MSA requirements, but also other statutes and EOs², and multi-lateral RFMOs³. All actions taken by the Councils are reviewed by, and if approved, implemented by the Department of Commerce to ensure compliance with other applicable law. These actions are also required under the MSA to have mandatory public review comment periods noticed in the *Federal Register*.

Ecosystem considerations are routinely used to inform management decisions.

The Councils understand that conserving marine ecosystems is essential to achieving our mandate under the MSA. In working towards this goal, the Councils have become pioneers at implementing ecosystem-based management, tailored to the needs of the unique ecosystems that each Council manages. within the EEZ.

Ecosystem-based management also involves managing the human element of the ecosystem, not just the ‘natural’ elements. The Councils manage commercial and recreational fishermen, and even though we do not manage for subsistence users, we recognize their importance and that their usage has been an element of these ecosystems for millennia. This process also fulfills another objective of the EO: to spur economic growth by sustainable practices, as evidenced by nearly a million jobs and \$56 billion in value-added economic impact supported by the commercial, recreational, tribal and subsistence fisheries.

RFMCs are at the forefront of coping with climate change.

Our incorporation of ecosystem-based management places the Councils at the forefront of society’s response to climate change. Fishermen are well aware that warming ocean temperatures are changing the distribution of fish and affecting their productivity - they see it every day in their catches. The RFMCs are actively adapting to the rapidly changing conditions caused by global warming. This response is essential if the benefits of sustainable fisheries are to be realized by future generations. Because of our experience, we are uniquely positioned to evaluate what is needed to achieve the goals of the EO.

RFMCs use a public, collaborative process in the conservation of living marine resources.

The RFMCs accomplish these functions through a process that is open to the public, inclusive of all stakeholders, fair, and with balanced representation. Council members include representatives from state fishery management agencies, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, treaty Indian Tribes, territories, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of State, and Department of Commerce-appointed stakeholders representing commercial and recreational fishing interests, environmental organizations, and academics. All Council meetings are noticed in the *Federal Register*, open to the public, and provide extensive opportunity for public comment.

² Including the Administrative Procedure Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Information Quality Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Paperwork Reduction Act, Regulatory Flexibility Act and Executive Orders 12630, 12866, 12898, 13089, 13132, 13158, 13175, 13272.

³ Including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, North Pacific Fisheries Commission, Pacific Salmon Commission, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, and others.



NEWS RELEASE



Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Christopher Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 22, 2021

MAFMC PRESS CONTACT: Mary Sabo, 302-518-1143
ASMFC PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger, 703-842-0740

MAFMC and ASMFC to Hold Public Hearings for Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are seeking public comment on management options under consideration in the Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment. This amendment contains alternatives to:

- Revise the fishery management plan (FMP) goals and objectives;
- Modify the bluefish allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors;
- Modify the commercial allocations to the states;
- Initiate a rebuilding plan;
- Revise the quota transfer processes;
- Revise how the FMP accounts for management uncertainty; and
- Revise the *de minimis* provisions in the Commission’s FMP.

Comments may be provided at any of 5 virtual public hearings to be held between **March 24** and **April 8, 2021** or via written comment until **April 23, 2021**.

We encourage you to visit the Council’s [Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment](#) web page or the Commission’s [Public Input](#) web page, where you can read the Public Hearing Document, the Draft Amendment, and watch the public hearing presentation (to be posted by March 12, 2021). The Council’s Public Hearing Document is an abbreviated version of the amendment which summarizes proposed management options and impacts. The Commission’s Draft Amendment is a more comprehensive management document that will resemble the Commission’s final amendment once approved. Both documents contain identical options for public input, but each have been developed according to each management body’s differing requirements. Commenters need only to submit comment on one of the documents. We have also developed a [Quick Reference Guide](#) which provides an overview of the alternatives under consideration in the amendment.

Virtual Hearing Schedule

Interested members of the public are encouraged to provide oral comments at any of the following public hearings. While we encourage you to attend the hearing that is targeted toward your state or regional grouping, anyone is welcome to participate in any hearing.

Date	State or Regional Grouping	Contact(s)
Wednesday, March 24 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida	Chris Batsavage (NC), 252-241-2995 Mel Bell (SC), 843-953-9007 Doug Haymans (GA), 912-264-7218 Hannah Hart (FL), 321-861-5058

Given bluefish’s presence in, and movement between, state waters (0-3 miles from shore) and federal waters (3-200 miles from shore), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council manage this species cooperatively.

Thursday, March 25 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Delaware, Maryland, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and Virginia	John Clark (DE), 302-739-9914 Michael Luisi (MD), 443-758-6547 Martin Gary (PRFC), 804-456-6935 Ellen Bolen (VA), 757-247-2269
Tuesday, March 30 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Connecticut and New York	Justin Davis (CT), 860-447-4322 Maureen Davidson (NY), 631-444-0483
Thursday, April 1 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island	Megan Ware (ME), 207-446-0932 Cheri Patterson (NH), 603-868-1095 Nichola Meserve (MA), 617-626-1531 Nicole Lengyel (RI), 401-423-1940
Thursday, April 8 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	New Jersey	Joseph Cimino (NJ), 609-748-2020

[Webinar Connection Instructions](#)

To register for a public hearing please click here: [Public Hearing Registration](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, which can be accessed using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. When connecting to audio, we strongly encourage participants to use computer voice over internet (VoIP) so you can ask questions and provide input. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial 1-866-901-6455 and enter access code 140-544-592. Those joining by phone only will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. For technical assistance setting up and logging into GoToWebinar, contact Dustin Colson Leaning at 703-842-0714.

If you are connected only by phone in listen only mode, you will not show up as a webinar attendee. In the event that there are no webinar attendees, the public hearing will be cancelled unless state staff request that the hearing content is presented.

Written Comments

Written comments may be submitted through **April 23, 2021** by any of the following methods:

1. **ONLINE:** <https://www.mafmc.org/comments/bluefish-allocation-rebuilding-amendment>
2. **EMAIL:** mseeley@mafmc.org
3. **MAIL:** Dr. Christopher Moore, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901
4. **FAX:** 302-674-5399

Please include "Bluefish Amendment" in the subject line if using email or fax, or on the outside of the envelope if submitting written comments.

Tips for Providing Public Comment

We value your input. To be most effective, we request that your comment include specific details as to why you support or oppose a particular alternative. Specifically, please address the following:

- Which proposed alternative(s) do you support, and which do you oppose?
- Why do you support or oppose the alternative(s)?
- Is there any additional information you think should be considered?

Contacts

If you have any questions, please contact:

Matthew Seeley, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, mseeley@mafmc.org, 302-526-5262

Dustin Colson Leaning, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, dleaning@asmfc.org, 703-842-0714



MID-ATLANTIC

FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2021

PRESS CONTACT: Mary Sabo
(302) 518-1143

Mid-Atlantic Council Seeks Applicants for Advisory Panels

Applications Due by April 23, 2021

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is accepting applications from qualified individuals to serve on nine advisory panels. Advisory panels provide information and recommendations to the Council during the development of fishery management plans, amendments, specifications, and management measures. One of the chief responsibilities of advisory panels is the development of annual Fishery Performance Reports. These reports provide the Council and SSC with information about the factors that influenced fishing effort and catch within each fishery during the previous year.

Advisory panels are composed of individuals with diverse experience and interest in Mid-Atlantic fisheries. Members include commercial fishermen, recreational anglers, for-hire operators, commercial dealers, scientists, environmentalists, and other members of the interested public. Most advisory panels meet 1-2 times per year. Members are compensated for travel and per diem expenses for all meetings. Individuals who are appointed to advisory panels serve for three-year terms. **All current advisory panel members must reapply in order to be considered for reappointment.**

The Council is accepting applications for the following advisory panels:

- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass
- Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish
- Surfclam and Ocean Quahog
- Tilefish
- Bluefish
- Ecosystem and Ocean Planning
- River Herring and Shad
- Spiny Dogfish (Jointly managed with New England Council)
- Communication and Outreach (see the following page for details about this new AP)

How to Apply

Anyone interested in serving on an advisory panel may apply online or download an application at www.mafmc.org/advisory-panel-application. Applications can also be obtained by calling the Council office at (877) 446-2362 or emailing msabo@mafmc.org.

Completed applications must be received by **Friday, April 23, 2021**.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mary Sabo at (302) 518-1143, msabo@mafmc.org.

Communication and Outreach Advisory Panel

The Council is soliciting applicants for a new Communication and Outreach (C/O) Advisory Panel. Formation of this AP was identified as a priority in the Council's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and 2021 Implementation Plan. The C/O AP's primary purpose will be to provide advice and recommendations on effective strategies for achieving the Council's communication objectives. Specific tasks may include:

- Helping to identify effective communication tools and approaches for reaching Council stakeholders;
- Providing feedback on the content and delivery of Council communication and outreach products;
- Identifying opportunities to increase public understanding and awareness of the Council and its managed fisheries;
- Informing the Council about topics of stakeholder interest or high priority communication needs; and
- Reviewing and providing feedback on draft communication products (e.g. web pages or fact sheets), as needed.

Similar to the Council's other APs, membership on the C/O AP should reflect the diverse interests of the Mid-Atlantic Council's stakeholders. Members may include commercial and recreational fishermen, for-hire operators, representatives from non-governmental organizations, scientists/academics, members of the general public, fishery managers, and communication/outreach professionals.

From: Alesia Affiliate <alesia.read@noaa.gov> on behalf of "paul.n.doremus@noaa.gov" <paul.n.doremus@noaa.gov>

Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 1:19 PM

To: "paul.n.doremus@noaa.gov" <paul.n.doremus@noaa.gov>

Subject: NOAA Fisheries Action to Continue to Waive Observer Coverage

Good Afternoon and Morning:

Today, NOAA Fisheries issued an interim final rule to continue to provide the authority to waive observer coverage, some training, and other program requirements, on a case-by-case basis. The rule is a continuation of NOAA Fisheries' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The authority to waive coverage has resulted in a successful balance between public health and the safety of fishermen, observers, and others, while maintaining fishery operations and the monitoring necessary for sustainable management.

Under this emergency action, NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrators, Office Directors, and Science Center Directors maintain the ability to waive observer requirements under two criteria:

1. Placing an observer conflicts with travel restrictions or other requirements addressing COVID-19 related concerns issued by local, state, or national governments, or the private companies that deploy observers pursuant to NOAA Fisheries regulations; or
2. No qualified observer(s) is available for placement due to health, safety, or training issues related to COVID-19.

NOAA Fisheries will consider a trip waiver if the observer providers cannot meet the risk mitigation protocols imposed by a state on commercial fishing crew or by the vessel or vessel company on its crew. Based on our regulatory and contract oversight authority, NOAA Fisheries intends to ensure that observer providers and their observers and monitors are following the same risk mitigation protocols that fishermen are following.

When observer requirements are waived, we continue to monitor fishing effort, catch data and other relevant information to ensure that there are no significant adverse environmental consequences and consider alternative fishery management measures should such consequences arise.

For more information, [please visit our website](#).

Thank you,
Paul

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Paul Doremus
Acting Assistant Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
doremus@noaa.gov
301.427.8000
www.nmfs.noaa.gov



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

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 24, 2021
To: Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: Matthew Seeley, Staff
Subject: Revisions to the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel Charter

At the January 14, 2021 Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP) meeting, the panel reviewed the current charter and developed a list of NTAP research priorities to vote on given there are FY21 funds available to support NTAP research. The panel discussed and identified a variety of research projects that could be supported. Ultimately, the preferred research direction was deemed not possible due to logistical concerns. NTAP members then re-voted to express support for specific projects in order to reprioritize the potential research efforts. Now, the NTAP is initiating the process to pursue research on the effects of restrictor cables on catch using the NEAMAP platform. During the course of this discussion (and via email), NTAP members suggested the panel revisit the charter to confirm the shared understanding of the goals and topics the NTAP wants to address.

The NTAP met again on March 19, 2021 via webinar to discuss revisions to the NTAP charter. Revisions were initially suggested to improve transparency between industry, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and Councils. The NTAP discussed the panel purpose, current goals, priorities, and organizational structure to improve communications and effort at future meetings. Through this discussion, NTAP members suggested adding action items to the charter as a way to make measurable forward progress on prioritized research initiatives.

The NTAP initially planned to present these revisions at the April Council meetings, however the revisions to the charter are still in development. Therefore, any adjustments to the charter will be presented at a subsequent meeting for Council approval.



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: March 29, 2021
To: Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: Julia Beaty, staff
Subject: Offshore Wind Energy Updates

The Council requested updates on offshore wind energy development at every Council meeting. A list of updates is provided in the attached email which was sent to subscribers to the Council's public wind email list on March 29, 2021. Shortly after this email was sent, major updates on wind energy development were released by the White House and the Department of Interior, as described in the email sent to the Council on March 29, which is also included in this tab.

A more detailed update on offshore wind energy development is planned for the Council's June meeting. This update will likely include presentations from individual offshore wind project developers.

In addition to putting out periodic email updates, Council staff continue to work with New England Council and National Marine Fisheries Service staff to maintain webpages with information on offshore wind energy development and fisheries.

Although the timelines are uncertain, it is likely that there will be a higher volume of public comment periods for offshore wind energy projects throughout 2021 and 2022 than in previous years. Council staff typically work with New England Council staff to provide detailed comment letters to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and occasionally other federal agencies such as the U.S. Coast Guard on offshore wind energy issues. Recent comment letters are listed [here](#).

Many offshore wind project developers are undertaking geophysical survey work during the spring and summer of 2021. Developers provide regularly updated notices to mariners with details on the timing and location of survey work in an attempt to minimize conflicts with fishermen and other ocean users. Council staff post these updates to the Council's [Offshore Wind Notices to Fishermen webpage](#) as they are received. Contact information for the fisheries liaisons for each offshore wind project is available in each notice to mariners and is also available [here](#).

You are receiving this email because you signed up for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's offshore wind interested parties email list or you expressed interest in this topic through communications with Council staff or at a public meeting. If you do not wish to receive future emails on this topic, you may unsubscribe using the "Manage Your Subscription" link at the bottom of this email. If you were forwarded this email and wish to subscribe to future updates, please visit <https://www.mafmc.org/email-list> and subscribe to Offshore Wind Updates.

The links and information shared in these updates are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only. They do not constitute an endorsement by the Council.

Greetings,

Please see below for offshore wind updates for **March 29, 2021**.

Featured:

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Vineyard Wind 1 Project, which is available [here](#). The next stage in the federal permitting process will be the Record of Decision which will include BOEM's determination regarding approval of the project, including mitigation and monitoring considerations. Vineyard Wind can begin construction if approval is granted through the Record of Decision.

Wind Developer Outreach to Fishermen:

Offshore survey work: Many offshore wind project developers are undertaking geophysical survey work during the spring and summer of 2021. Developers provide regularly updated notices to mariners with details on the timing and location of survey work in an attempt to minimize conflicts with fishermen and other ocean users. These notices are available [here](#).

EnBW North America, an offshore wind energy developer which does not currently hold a lease in this region, but has expressed an interest in future leases in the New York Bight, is soliciting information from fishermen to help them better engage with the fishing community. A survey for fishermen is available [here](#). More information for fishermen is available [here](#).

Vineyard Wind is seeking input from vessel owners regarding opportunities to hire local vessels to work on offshore wind projects in the future. Interested vessel owners can take a survey which is available [here](#).

Fisheries liaisons for some offshore wind projects are beginning to resume limited face-to-face meetings with fishermen. All fisheries liaisons are available to talk with fishermen via phone or email. Contact information for all fisheries liaisons is listed [here](#).

Ørsted will host virtual outreach meetings with fishermen every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm until they are able to resume face-to-face outreach. More information is available [here](#). Ørsted owns or is a partner in leases for [multiple offshore wind projects](#) in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern New England.

Vineyard Wind continues to periodically offer free COVID-19 tests for fishermen at the Port of New Bedford. Information on dates and times can be found on the [Vineyard Wind website](#).

Upcoming Webinars:

The New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) will host a webinar on April 7, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm EDT titled Offshore Wind Technologies 101. More information is available [here](#).

The Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean (MACO) will convene the third annual Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum in virtual format on May 3-6, 2021. The forum will include a session on offshore wind energy development. More information is available [here](#).

Stay Informed:

Updated notices to mariners regarding offshore wind projects off Massachusetts through North Carolina have been posted [here](#).

For information on specific offshore wind projects, please see the individual developer webpages linked at: <http://www.mafmc.org/northeast-offshore-wind>.

If you wish to suggest an item for inclusion in the next update, please email jbeaty@mafmc.org.

Select wind updates from the New England Fishery Management Council are included in their periodic news roundups. To sign up for New England Fishery Management Council updates, please email Janice Plante at jplante@nefmc.org.

Thank you for your interest in this topic.

Julia Beaty

Fishery Management Specialist
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901-3901
302-526-5250

jbeaty@mafmc.org

From: Brian Hooker <Brian.Hooker@boem.gov>

Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 at 1:21 PM

To: "Bachman, Michelle" <mbachman@nefmc.org>, "Beaty, Julia" <jbeaty@mafmc.org>, Roger Pugliese <roger.pugliese@safmc.net>, Toni Kerns <tkerns@asmfc.org>

Cc: Christopher Moore <cmoore@mafmc.org>, "tnies@nefmc.org" <tnies@nefmc.org>, Robert Beal <rbeal@asmfc.org>

Subject: White House and Department of the Interior Offshore Wind Announcements - March 29

Greetings fisheries managers, I wanted to reach out and share with you today's announcements from the White House and the Department of the Interior about a series of coordinated steps taken by the Biden Administration to support offshore wind development:

- Commitment by Interior, Energy and Commerce to establish a target to deploy 30 gigawatts (30,000 megawatts) of offshore wind by 2030, creating nearly 80,000 jobs.
- Final Wind Energy Areas in the New York Bight and solicitation of comments on considerations to be included in an Environmental Assessment and consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act: <https://www.boem.gov/boem-advances-offshore-wind-major-us-east-coast-energy-market>.
- Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) submitted by Ocean Wind LLC to construct and operate an 1,100 megawatt wind energy facility offshore New Jersey: <https://www.boem.gov/boem-announces-environmental-review-proposed-wind-energy-facility-offshore>.

Additional information about these announcements can be found here:

- <https://www.doi.gov/news/interior-joins-government-wide-effort-advance-offshore-wind>; and
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/29/fact-sheet-biden-administration-jumpstarts-offshore-wind-energy-projects-to-create-jobs/>

As always, please let me know if you have any questions. We'd be happy to give an update at your next appropriate meeting.

-Brian

Brian R. Hooker
Lead Biologist
[Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#)
Office of Renewable Energy Programs
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