



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

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

Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org

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

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

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**Date:** September 22, 2023  
**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 October 2023 Council Meeting:

1. 2023 Planned Meeting Topics
2. MAFMC to NMFS: Comments on Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking for Potential Revisions to the National Standard 4, 8, and 9 Guidelines (9/15/23)
3. MAFMC to NMFS: Comments on Draft Technical Guidance for National Standard 1 Reference Points and Status Determinations (9/22/23)
4. Overview of Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Councils (July 2023)
5. Greater Atlantic Region Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plan
6. Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Flyers
7. Draft October 11-13, 2023 CCC Meeting Agenda
8. Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel – September 6-7, 2023 Meeting Agenda
9. Public Comment on Atlantic Herring Quota Measures

# 2023 Planned Council Meeting Topics

Updated: 9/21/23

Changes made since the previous Council meeting are shown in track changes.

## October 3-5, 2023 Council Meeting – New York City, NY

- *Illex* Hold FW Meeting #2: final action
- Executive Committee: review progress on 2023 Implementation Plan and discuss draft 2024 deliverables
- Policy/Process for Reviewing Exempted Fishing Permit Applications for Unmanaged Forage Amendment Ecosystem Component Species: approve
- Private Recreational Tilefish Permitting and Reporting: review performance
- EAFM Risk Assessment Review: approve
- Habitat Activities (including aquaculture): update
- Offshore Wind: update
- ~~NTAP Restrictor Rope Research: review results~~
- [Northeast Fishery Science Center Federal Surveys: Survey Performance, Issues, and Planning for the Future](#)
- Spiny Dogfish Assessment and Peer Review Overview
- Atlantic Mackerel Assessment Peer Review Overview
- NEFSC Cooperative Research Update
- NEFSC Presentation on Maternal Effects (i.e., the potential importance of larger females for resilient fisheries)
- Monkfish and Dogfish Joint Framework to Reduce the Bycatch of Atlantic Sturgeon: review and approve range of alternatives

## December 11-14, 2023 Council Meeting – Philadelphia, PA

- 2024-2025 Recreational Management Measures for Summer Flounder and Scup: approve (joint with ASMFC SFSBSB Board)
- 2024 Recreational Management Measures for Black Sea Bass: approve (joint with ASMFC SFSBSB Board)
- Summer Flounder Commercial Minimum Mesh Size Regulations and Exemptions: review and discuss next steps (joint with ASMFC SFSBSB Board)
- Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda: review and discuss next steps (with ASMFC Policy Board)
- 2024 Implementation Plan: approve
- Golden Tilefish IFQ Program Review: review final report
- ~~2024-2026 Spiny Dogfish Specifications: approve~~
- [Review 2024-2025 Atlantic mackerel specifications](#)
- Biennial Review of 2020-2024 Research Priorities Document: review and approve



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September 15, 2023

Wendy Morrison, Ph.D.  
Fisheries Policy Analyst  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 13436  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Morrison,

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking (ANPR) for potential future revisions to the guidelines for National Standard (NS) 4, 8, and 9. I would also like to thank Dr. Tara Scott for taking the time to present and provide an overview of the ANPR and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) comment areas of interest to the Council at our June 6-8, 2023 meeting. The comments offered in this letter reflect the discussion and input from the Council during their June and August 2023 meetings.

### *Overarching comments*

In general, although some clarity to existing definition(s) or minor guidance adjustments to NS4, 8, and 9 could be helpful, the Council believes the existing guidelines provide sufficient direction and enough flexibility to address current and future management challenges, including those associated with climate change, and, as such, should remain largely unchanged.

If rulemaking is pursued, NMFS should identify the deficiencies in the fishery management process that revised guidelines would seek to address. Specifically, any revisions to the guidelines should identify how revised national standards, as well as equity and environmental justice (EEJ) considerations, address the many issues facing our commercial and recreational fishing industries and that maintain flexibility and fishing opportunities. In addition, NMFS should provide examples on how potential revised guidelines might affect current fishery management plan (FMP) and future modifications to such plans. The Council also urges NMFS to provide a clearly specified definition of “underserved communities” as it relates to fisheries, with examples by region, in order to understand how NMFS and the Councils might evaluate future management actions to ensure these groups, communities, and individual entities have fair and equitable access to fisheries resources.

### *Comments specific to National Standard 4*

Over the last few decades, a significant focus of fisheries management has been to reduce overcapitalization in many fisheries in order to help promote stock rebuilding. The Council believes

that any potential revisions to NS4 guidance should carefully consider the implications of new entrants into a fishery, particularly for limited access IFQ/ITQ fisheries.

Also, although it may be beneficial to reference NMFS's Allocation Policy in the NS4 guidance, the Council does not believe modifications to the guidance are needed to reinforce the policy. Each Council has an approved fishery allocation review policy that requires periodic allocation reviews that sufficiently consider the potential impacts of climate/environmental change and affected communities to determine if allocation changes are necessary.

Relative to climate change related considerations, the ANPR notes changing environmental conditions affecting stock distributions and abundances "have the potential to change the applicability of historical information and current regulations." The Council notes that it's likely true that these factors will change in their degree of applicability or relevance, but it should not be implied that these factors may become totally irrelevant, since historical information (e.g., landings) and the regulatory framework that was/is in place have had a major influence in shaping the evolution of fisheries and communities. In addition, for allocations with a spatial component, it may be helpful for the guidelines to more clearly differentiate between various "location" elements. For example, historic and current locations of catch, locations of landings, and locations of effort are all important considerations with potentially different outcomes for allocation decisions.

The Council requests additional clarity on the perceived shortcomings of past allocation decisions as they relate to climate-driven effects. Past allocation decisions have been deemed as fair and equitable, and the ANPR fails to describe how these allocations may now be unfair. In addition, the current NS4 guidelines already allow for allocation decisions that analyze and account for shifting stocks. The Council has been considering, and already implemented, allocation decisions that consider climate driven distribution changes. Although changes in stock distribution should be considered during fishery access and allocation decisions, they should not be the only factor.

In addition, the Council believes the existing guidelines are already aligned with EEJ goals. We are concerned that it would be difficult to demonstrate compliance with more prescriptive guidelines given the lack of social and economic data in many regions. The ANPR also does not indicate how EEJ considerations would promote conservation or specify how underserved communities may have been excluded in the current process for making allocation decisions. Similarly, more information and clarity on what is meant by "marginalized individuals who may have been inequitably excluded" would help identify potential analyses and approaches that could be considered in the future. Instead of changing the NS4 guidelines to address underserved and under-represented communities, NMFS should consider addressing these needs by supporting increased outreach and engagement in the management process by those individuals in those communities.

#### *Comments specific to National Standard 8*

Similar to the previous comments, the Council believes the current NS8 guidelines provide sufficient guidance and flexibility to evaluate, consider, and address the effects of climate change on communities dependent on affected fisheries resources. If NMFS does proceed with updates to the NS8 guidelines, the Council supports making some updates and improvements to the definition of "fishing community" but cautions against changes that make the guidance unclear which could lead to both decreased flexibility and adaptability to account for and address future challenges and changes

within our fishing communities. The Council does not support shifting the focus from “dependence” to “engagement” in any revisions to the guidelines for the definition of “fishing community”. The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) definition of fishing community includes both “dependence” and “engagement” and the guidelines should continue to consider and balance both as important components in understanding the potential implications of a management action on the affected communities. If the guidelines do shift to a focus on “engagement”, the Council suggests that any revised language needs to clearly define what engagement means and how it will be measured to ensure the appropriate analysis and considerations are evaluated.

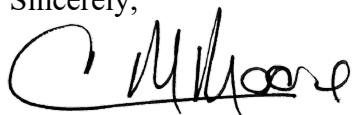
The ANPR is considering removing language that states that NS8 “does not constitute a basis for allocating resources to a specific fishing community nor for providing preferential treatment based on residence in a fishing community.” It’s unclear as to what the potential implications might be if this language is removed, and the Council suggests that any potential future rulemaking should provide additional information on the rationale for this potential change. The Council also notes there is probably significant overlap between groups that would be considered under “sustained participation” and those communities with high social and climate vulnerability. Given this overlap, it’s not clear if the ANPR is proposing that revised guidelines encourage special considerations for highly vulnerable communities.

*Comments specific to National Standard 9 and Other Relevant Management Challenges*

The Council does support changes to NS9 guidelines that would provide the Councils and industry increased flexibility to minimize regulatory discards. For example, increased flexibility and alternative approaches to deal with choke species, incorporation of ecosystem-based management approaches that might reduce bycatch at a multispecies level, and creative opportunities for industry (within conservation constraints) to potentially switch between species or retain species that may not have been their initial target should all be considered. In addition, the Council believes that without creating financial incentives, it’s unclear how revised NS9 guidelines would provide anything meaningful to incentivize the use of bycatch. Participants in a fishery can currently find markets for bycatch, but those markets will generally determine those opportunities and business decisions. Any revisions intended to reduce waste by increasing the use of bycatch should be carefully crafted to avoid incentivizing the catch of bycatch species. Where bycatch cannot be eliminated or reduced substantially, the Council supports additional NS9 guidance and prioritization on identifying opportunities and mechanisms to reduce economic and regulatory waste. Finally, the Council urges NMFS to remove any reference to the phrase “unobserved bycatch mortality” within the NS9 guidelines. Unobserved mortality due to interactions with fishing gear is not bycatch and is not part of the definition of bycatch under MSA, which specifies fish need to be caught in order to be considered bycatch.

Thank you again for the opportunity for the Council to provide comments on the ANPR. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.

Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

cc: W. Townsend, M. Luisi, S. Rauch, K. Denit



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September 22, 2023

Richard Methot, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist for Stock Assessments  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Science and Technology  
Via email: [richard.methot@noaa.gov](mailto:richard.methot@noaa.gov)

Dear Dr. Methot,

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft *Technical Guidance for Estimating Status Determination Reference Points and their Proxies in Accordance with the National Standard 1 Guidelines*. I would also like to thank you for providing an overview of the of the new research and updated guidance outlined in the tech memo to the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) at their July 24-26, 2023 meeting. The comments offered in this letter reflect the discussion and input from the SSC during their September meeting.

The SSC commended the report's authors for developing a comprehensive document that captures the significant progress and improvement that has been made since the guidance document was originally developed in 1998, particularly for data-limited stocks. The report provides a very useful synthesis of approaches for defining reference points and the results of ongoing national and international research and it will be valuable to the SSC as it develops future acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations.

The SSC strongly supported the continued exploration and development of dynamic reference points that are responsive to changing environmental conditions as highlighted in the report. Such approaches must distinguish effects due to low stock size from longer-term changes in productivity. Moving average methods may be helpful in defining appropriate stanzas of productivity. The SSC also recommended additional detail and discussion on how to reconcile the different approaches to defining reference points for those stocks that are also managed by boarding countries (e.g., Atlantic Mackerel in Canada). This will likely require the development of more spatial analyses of fish populations and their fisheries.

The SSC commented on the importance of forecasting future conditions relevant to ABC specifications, particularly assumptions about future recruitment. The report suggests using trailing moving averages that will better define the forecast starting point; however, the SSC notes this approach will likely be inadequate if conditions continue to change in the future and are not reversible. An overarching concern is the identification of mechanisms underlying such changes. The SSC agreed with the report's practical solution to take a "weight of evidence" approach, involving comparisons of multiple single species assessments.

The tech memo acknowledges the importance of multispecies models, but does not have specific recommendations to guide their application. The SSC noted that management strategy evaluation (MSE) might be useful for interpreting trade-offs in analyses of multispecies approaches. MSE's can also provide guidance and potential consideration of important economic factors to help inform NS1 guidelines.

The SSC also noted that observations of life history attributes (e.g., maximum age, or age at maturity) can be biased by the intensity of fishing mortality and density dependent processes. Such considerations highlight the utility of long time series of data, comparative analyses with other stocks, sufficiently complex models, and process-oriented field studies. These same approaches are relevant to the assessment of closed areas (e.g., scallops) and potentially areas excluded by offshore energy development and additional guidance should be explored.

Thank you again for the opportunity for the Council and SSC to provide comments on the draft NS1 tech memo. Please contact me or Brandon Muffley of my staff if you have any questions.

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 long, sweeping underline.

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

cc: W. Townsend, M. Luisi, P. Rago



## **Overview of Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Councils**

**Objective:** This document describes the process for distributing Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds to the Councils for climate-ready fisheries.

**Summary:** NMFS will determine a set of priorities, incorporating input from the Councils. Within those priority areas, NMFS will provide funding to each Council to support self identified top climate-related management projects. Funding will be executed to the Councils via IRA-specific grants through traditional granting mechanisms with a proposal process coordinated by Office of Sustainable Fisheries and Office of Management and Budget. The Regional Offices and other subject matter experts will have a role in reviewing and evaluating project proposals.

Actions funded under IRA will contribute to the following overarching goals:

- Implementation of fishery management measures necessary to improve climate resiliency and responsiveness to climate impacts; and
- Development and advancement of climate-related fisheries management planning and implementation efforts in support of underserved communities.

**Total amount of funds:** \$20M is being allocated to Councils over the next three years. In FY24, NMFS is planning for 2 disbursements of funds. In Quarter 1, \$2M will be distributed according to the Council allocation formula. Later in FY24 and in outyears, funds will be distributed based on a project proposal process. Headquarters will run a proposal process to solicit project ideas and will fund proposals based on specified criteria.

### **Process overview and anticipated timeline:**

- FY23 Q4: The Office of Sustainable Fisheries and Office of Management and Budget will request grant applications from each Council for the IRA funds distributed via the Council allocation formula. Applications will include the typical information required for your Council operational grants (e.g., Project narrative, budget narrative, Standard Forms (SF), etc.). Initial funds will be provided in FY24 Q1.
- Later FY24 and out years: The Office of Sustainable Fisheries will solicit project ideas via pre-proposals and will invite full proposals to those that meet specified funding criteria. Full proposals will include a budget narrative, timeline, and an explanation of how the work meets funding priorities with clear outcomes (below). Pre-proposals and full proposals will be reviewed by a team of NMFS experts from across the Regional Offices and headquarters. Full proposal review will include 3 technical experts. Full proposals that are selected will need to be

submitted to the relevant Federal Program Officer located in the Office of Management and Budget.

A request for proposals will be shared before the October 2023 CCC meeting, in order to discuss and answer questions at that meeting. Proposal reviews and funding decisions for FY24 are expected to occur near the end of the calendar year (December - January).

**Priorities:** Priorities will focus on implementation of management actions to advance climate-ready fisheries. Priority proposal topics may include:

- Operationalizing fish climate vulnerability assessments or other scientific products (e.g., ecosystem status reports, Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, etc.);
- Operationalizing recommendations from climate scenario planning efforts;
- Implementing management changes that address climate vulnerability or improve climate resiliency of fisheries, including those that are important to underserved communities;
- Implementing measures that increase responsiveness of allocations or other management measures to climate impacts;
- Developing and advancing climate-related fisheries management planning and implementation efforts in support of underserved communities.

Outcomes must contribute to:

- Dynamic fishery management measures that are more timely in response to climate impacts;
- Increased fishing community resiliency to fishery changes caused by anticipated climate impacts.

Proposals **must** be focused on fishery management and governance topics. Proposals that address data and science needs will not be considered under this funding source. Councils should coordinate on scope of proposals with their NMFS Regional Office counterpart.

High priority consideration will be given to:

- Actions that leverage existing tools
- Actions that will be completed within 3 years
- Cross-council projects and initiatives (where relevant)

**Requirements for funding:** The following requirements will be considered in evaluating proposals:

- Each proposal must be a minimum of \$300K per proposal.
  - Rather than funding single activities (e.g., a workshop), it is preferable to bundle related activities under one comprehensive proposal.
- Actions must be completely implemented or in the final phases of approval by 2027.
- Actions using IRA funds must be able to be sustained with no additional post-IRA funds.

**Eligible uses:** IRA funds can be used to hire new staff/contractors. IRA funds cannot be used to pay for current staff time unless their time is shifted to work on an IRA-funded project and is fully accounted for. Multi-year proposals can be submitted, so long as the proposal outlines how and when the outcomes will be achieved.

*Council Staff Note: Several of these are in support of, or in collaboration with, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.*

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<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/recreational-fishing/greater-atlantic-region-saltwater-recreational>

# Greater Atlantic Region Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plan

The plan is built around the policy goals and guiding principles identified in [NOAA's Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy](#).

Saltwater fisheries are an important component of our regional identity—from downeast Maine and Cape Cod to the Chesapeake Bay and Cape Hatteras. Millions of recreational fishing trips take place throughout the [Greater Atlantic region](#). Anglers spend more than \$2.3 billion annually on these recreational fishing trips across our region (\$544.4 million across New England and \$1.76 billion across the mid-Atlantic in 2020). For-hire vessels, private vessels, and shore-based anglers harvest more than 150 million pounds of fish each year, including summer flounder, pollock, haddock, black sea bass, and bluefish.

The [Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office](#) and the [Northeast Fisheries Science Center](#) are responsible for the science-based stewardship of our nation's marine life in the northwest Atlantic Ocean. Together with our management partners, we are responsible for maintaining healthy marine and coastal ecosystems, sustainable and productive fishery resources, and commercial and recreational access to those fishery resources for the long-term use and overall benefit of the nation.

We are responsible for setting annual specifications and management measures in federal waters to ensure we are preventing overfishing on recreationally important stocks—Atlantic bluefish, Atlantic mackerel, black sea bass, chub mackerel, groundfish (like cod, haddock, pollock, and flounders), scup, summer flounder, and golden and blueline tilefish. In addition, we are continually working with our management partners on innovative management approaches to better meet the needs of the recreational and for-hire communities. We recognize the important role that recreational anglers and for-hire operations play in the long-term sustainability of our fisheries. We work closely with the recreational community on fisheries management, protected resources management, and habitat restoration and, in particular, in the consideration of other ocean uses like offshore wind and aquaculture.

In the Greater Atlantic Region, our vision for the future includes thriving fish stocks, healthy fish habitats, vibrant coastal communities, and world-class fisheries. Achieving this goal requires a foundation of trust between NOAA and recreational anglers; therefore, collaboration with the recreational fisheries community is essential. This implementation plan is the next step toward making recreational fisheries a key focus of regional activities. While the plan will be a basic roadmap for action in the region, it is a living document that can accommodate new challenges and opportunities as they arise. We intend for this plan, and the activities described here, to embrace a wide range of partners and stakeholders to allow for successful recreational and for-hire fisheries.

## **Support, Maintain, and Recover Sustainable Saltwater Recreational and Non-Commercial Fisheries Resources, Including Protected Species, and Healthy Marine and Estuarine Habitats**

### **Support Habitat Restoration Projects for Healthy Fish Habitats**

Work closely with the Habitat Restoration Center, recreational fishermen, and other partners to support restoration of important habitat for recreationally significant fish (e.g., eel grass restoration, etc.). The action supports guiding principles 1 and 6. Metrics of success include the number of recreational fishing groups/associations partnerships and the number of projects completed.

### **Expand Collaboration with NOAA's Marine Debris Program**

Work closely with the Marine Debris Program to partner with recreational fishing associations on issues related to minimizing and mitigating marine debris from recreational fishing. The action supports guiding principles 1 and 6. Metrics of success include the number of recreational fishing group/association partnerships and the number of projects completed.

### **Collaborate with the Recreational Fishing and Boating Communities to Improve Whale and Vessel Safety**

Advise the Whale and Vessel Safety Taskforce to help identify and develop technology and monitoring tools that can mitigate the risk of vessel strikes to marine mammals, with special attention to North Atlantic right whales. This action supports guiding principles 1, 4, and 6. Metrics of success include participation in taskforce discussions and identification of mitigation strategies.

## **Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Saltwater Recreational and Non-Commercial Fishing for the Social, Cultural, and Economic Benefit of the Nation**

### **Strengthen Angler Engagement**

Collaboratively develop a regional outreach and communication plan that aims to educate and gather angler input and participation in programs and activities. This work supports guiding principles 2, 5, and 6. Metrics of success include development of an engagement plan and the number of communications and engagements with recreational community and leaders.

### **Validation of Northeast For-Hire Vessel Trip Report Effort Estimates**

Evaluate the accuracy of VTR effort estimates and develop quality assurance/quality control procedures, as appropriate. The project supports guiding principles 4 and 5. Metrics of success include comparison of self-reported estimates of angler effort from the for-hire vessel trip reports to direct observations of angler effort recorded by Marine Recreational Information Program interviewers and development/implementation of quality assurance/quality control procedures, as appropriate.

### **Expand Collaboration with NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries**

Work closely with the Stellwagen Bank and Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuaries on outreach and education efforts related to sustainable access of recreational fisheries within the Sanctuary system. The effort supports guiding principles 2 and 3. Metrics of success include the number of engagement events and the number of fishing group/association partnerships.

## **Enable Enduring Participation In, and Enjoyment Of, Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Through Science-Based Conservation and Management**

### **Better Understand Recreational Use of Marine and Coastal Resources**

- Study ability to enhance and augment available data on angler participation, effort, and preferences derived from recreational fishing apps (e.g. FishBrain, FishRules, FishVerify, etc.). The action supports guiding principles 1 and 4. Metrics of success include development of a study to determine efficacy of recreational fishing apps, to include angler participation, effort, and preferences.
- Work closely with recreational fisheries groups to explore innovative solutions to gather recreational data that is otherwise deficient in stock assessments and/or supplements the broader national recreational data collection system. The action supports guiding principles 1 and 4. Metrics of success include exploration of viable reporting programs that obtain discard and effort data and exploration of long-term angler engagements.

### **Expand the Recreational Bioeconomic Length-Structured Angler Simulation Model Toolkit**

Construct a fully functional recreational fishing management decision support tool based on the BLAST modeling framework developed for cod and haddock in the Gulf of Maine, and summer flounder, black sea bass, and scup in the mid-Atlantic. The project supports guiding principles 4 and 5. Metrics of success include development of a Decision Support Tool Working Group to guide construction of the Working Group and integrate it into the management decision-making process.

### **Explore Use of High-Resolution Satellite Imagery to Quantify Recreational Fishing Vessels At Sea**

Analyze a subset of very high resolution satellite imagery and determine if and how these data can be compared to Marine Recreational Information Program effort estimates. The project supports guiding principles 4 and 6. Metrics of success include evaluation of high-resolution images to account for recreational anglers at sea, implement a study of participation metrics, and the release of the final results.

### **Mid-Atlantic Recreational Reform Initiative**

Continue to support the development and application of new and additional management tools for recreational fisheries in the mid-Atlantic. The project supports guiding principles 3 and 4. Metrics of success include continued support of work to advance recreational reform and supporting the Department of Justice in defending against litigation.

## **Advance Climate-Ready Policies and Programs to Respond to Climate-Driven Changes and Impacts on Fishery Resources and the Ecosystem**

### **Ensure Recreational Fisheries Metrics are Considered in the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Next Steps**

Ensure recreational fisheries and recreational fishing data continue to be considered in the potential actions resulting from the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning process. The project supports guiding principles 3 and 4. Metrics of success may include number of climate-related projects including recreationally important stocks and number of projects that incorporate recreational fishing data.

### **Examine the Impact of Climate Change on Recreationally Important Stocks**

Develop a process to consider shifts in distribution and vulnerability related to climate change on recreationally important stocks allowing for improved understanding and consideration of the impact of climate change on the recreational community. This activity supports guiding principles 1, 4, 5, and 6. Metrics of success include number of conversations with recreational fishing groups on climate-related changes and the number of fishery management actions with climate considerations described in the decision-making process.

### **Pursue Development of a Recreational For-Hire Study Fleet**

Provide opportunity for recreational and for-hire fishery participants to provide meaningful, usable data for use in better understanding recreational fisheries, the impacts of climate changes on those stocks, and other data through a scientifically rigorous for-hire study fleet pilot program. The project supports guiding principles 1 and 4. Metrics of success include development of a Northeast groundfish pilot study, approval/execution of a for-hire study fleet model, and publication of the results.

## **Pursue and Support Equitable Treatment and Meaningful Involvement of Underserved and Underrepresented Communities in Recreational and Non-Commercial Fisheries and Stewardship**

### **Marine Resource Education Program**

Engage and educate constituents while seeking and supporting diverse candidates for the Northeast Marine Resource Education Program to enhance and diversify public participation in the federal fisheries science and management process. The project supports guiding principles 2, 3, and 6. Metrics of success include assessing the demographic composition of the program over time.

### **Translation of Educational and Outreach Materials**

Provide non-English versions of educational materials in print and online formats. The project supports guiding principles 2 and 6. Metrics of success include the release of translated materials for non-English-speaking recreational fishing communities.

### **Expand Outreach and Youth Fishing Programs in Areas with Underrepresented Communities**

Support and/or participate in outreach and educational programs specifically focused in areas with underserved and underrepresented communities and work to operationalize NOAA Fisheries' new national Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy. This work supports guiding principles 2 and 6. Metrics of success include the number of events supported by NOAA Fisheries and the number of participants or groups engaged in these programs.

*“ An excellent program that should be considered by anyone whose livelihood comes from the ocean... truly one of a kind. ”*

*“ Anyone that engages in fisheries management should consider this program. ”*

*“ Very beneficial for fishermen hoping to shape the fisheries they are involved in. ”*



**Marine Resource Education Program**

**By fishermen, for fishermen**, the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) offers a neutral look into local fishery science and management. MREP's Greater Atlantic workshop is tailored to the region. It brings commercial, charter, and recreational fishermen from North Carolina to Maine together with regional scientists and managers to learn the processes, share insights, and network in a neutral and professional setting. This workshop series will equip you with tools to engage in shaping regulatory action and participate in collaborative science. If interested, apply to the 2023-24 MREP Greater Atlantic workshop.

Space is limited, and preference will be given to applications received by **November 13, 2023**. Accepted participants will be notified by phone and email by early January 2024. Attending the workshop is free for anyone who fishes or works in associated fishing industries. MREP reimburses travel costs and pays for hotel lodging and meals for accepted participants.

**For more information about MREP, please contact:**

- Hank Soule, Groundfish Sector Manager  
(603) 781-9718 or shsector@gmail.com
- Rick Bellavance, Charter Captain  
(401) 741-5648 or rickbellavance@gmail.com

General questions about the program should be directed to **Liz Moore**, MREP Greater Atlantic Program Manager, (207) 228-1680 or [emoore@gmri.org](mailto:emoore@gmri.org). For FAQ, please visit us at [mrep.gmri.org](http://mrep.gmri.org).

## 2023-24 Workshop

**MREP Fisheries Science & Management Workshop**  
February 12 – 16, 2024  
Sea Crest Beach Hotel  
Falmouth, MA

Apply today! Scan the QR code or visit:  
[mrep.gmri.org/apply](http://mrep.gmri.org/apply)



**Gulf of Maine  
Research Institute**



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### For more information about MREP, please contact:

- Hank Soule, Groundfish Sector Manager  
(603) 781-9718 or [shsector@gmail.com](mailto:shsector@gmail.com)
- Rick Bellavance, Charter Captain  
(401) 741-5648 or [rickbellavance@gmail.com](mailto:rickbellavance@gmail.com)

General questions about the program should be directed to **Liz Moore**, MREP Greater Atlantic Program Manager, (207) 228-1680 or [emoore@gmri.org](mailto:emoore@gmri.org). For FAQ, please visit us at [mrep.gmri.org](http://mrep.gmri.org).

## 2023-24 Workshop

**MREP Fisheries Science & Management Workshop**  
February 12 – 16, 2024  
Sea Crest Beach Hotel  
Falmouth, MA

Apply today! Scan the QR code or visit:  
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**Gulf of Maine  
Research Institute**

## Council Coordination Committee Meeting

**October 11 - 13, 2023**

Hilton Arlington National Landing  
2399 Richmond Hwy  
Arlington, VA 22202

Meeting website:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/2023-october-council-coordination-committee-meeting>

### Agenda

<b>Wednesday, October 11, 2023</b>   1:00 - 5:00 pm EST <a href="#">Click to join the meeting</a> <b>Join by phone:</b> +1-415-527-5035 US Toll. Access code: 276 276 27767	
1:00 - 1:20 pm	Opening of Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Introduction (Kevin Anson, Gulf Council Chair)</li> <li>• Approval of Agenda</li> </ul>
1:20 - 2:00 pm	NOAA Fisheries Updates & Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Remarks (Janet Coit)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wind energy</li> <li>○ National Seafood Strategy</li> <li>○ National Equity and Environmental Justice plans</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Policy Updates (Kelly Denit)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Standards 4, 8, and 9 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2:00 - 2:45 pm	Budget and 2024 Outlook (Brian Pawlak)
2:45 - 3:30 pm	NOAA Fisheries Science Update (Cisco Werner)
3:30 - 3:45 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
3:45 - 4:45 pm	Legislative Outlook (David Whaley) <i>Report from Congressional Staff and Members Staff (TBD)</i>
4:45 - 5:00 pm	Public Comment
5:00 pm	<i>ADJOURN DAY 1</i>

<b>Thursday, October 12, 2023</b>   9:00 am - 5:00 pm EST <a href="#">Click to join the meeting</a> <b>Join by phone:</b> +1-415-527-5035 US Toll. Access code: 276 164 26187	
9:00 - 10:15 am	NOAA Fisheries Policy regarding Governance (MSA 304(f)) (Kelly Denit)
10:15 - 11:30 am	IRA Climate-Ready Fisheries Council Funding Priorities and Process (Kelly Denit)
11:30 - 11:45 am	<i>BREAK</i>
11:45 - 12:00 pm	CCC Subcommittee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Workgroup (Ryan Rindone)</li> </ul>
12:00 - 1:30 pm	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>
1:30 - 3:00 pm	CCC Subcommittee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat Workgroup (Lisa Hollensead)</li> <li>• Area-Based Management (Michelle Bachman)</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> Scientific Coordination Subcommittee Meeting (Rachel Feeney)</li> <li>• Communications Workgroup (Emily Muehlstein)</li> <li>• Council Members Ongoing Development (CMOD) (David Witherell and Bill Tweit)</li> <li>• EEJ Workgroup (Miguel Rolon)</li> </ul>
3:00 - 4:15 pm	Process for Establishing Fishing Regulations in Sanctuaries (John Armor)
4:15 - 4:30 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
4:30 - 5:15 pm	Overview of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, (P.L.118-5) and CEQs Proposed NEPA Regulations (Katie Renshaw, Sam Rauch)
5:15 - 5:30 pm	Public Comment
5:30 pm	<i>ADJOURN DAY 2</i>

<b>Friday, October 13, 2023</b>   9:00 am - 12:30 pm EST <a href="#">Click to join the meeting:</a> <b>Join by phone:</b> +1-415-527-5035 US Toll. Access code: 276 052 22510	
9:00 - 10:15 am	Endangered Species Act - Magnuson-Stevens Act (ESA - MSA) Integration policy update (Sam Rauch) and CCC ESA-MSA Workgroup (Kitty Simonds)
10:15 - 10:30 am	<i>BREAK</i>

10:30 - 10:45 am	Public Comment
10:45 - 11:00 am	Wrap Up and Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCC Outcomes and Recommendations (Gulf Council)</li><li>• 2024 CCC Meetings (Caribbean Council)</li></ul>
11:00 - 11:30 am	2023 Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award: "Seabird Conservation through Fishery-Based Data: The NOAA Oikonos Seabird Bycatch Project." (presented by USFWS)
11:30 am	<i>ADJOURN DAY 3</i>



# September 2023 HMS Advisory Panel Meeting

September 6, 2023

Time	Subject	Presenter
9:00	Welcome/Introductions	Bennett Brooks; Kelly Denit; Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries
9:15	Overview <a href="#">Presentation</a>	HMS Staff
10:15	Break	
10:30	A15 Update <a href="#">Presentation</a>	HMS Staff
12:15	Lunch	
1:45	Bluefin Tuna Year in Review <a href="#">Presentation</a>	HMS Staff
3:15	Break	
3:30	Leadership Update	Sam Rauch; Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs
4:00	MRIP Pilot Study Results and Next Steps <a href="#">Presentation</a>	John Foster; NMFS Office of Science and Technology
4:45	Public Comment	
5:00	Daily Wrap-up	Bennett Brooks
5:15	Adjourn	

September 7, 2023

<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
8:30	Meeting Set-up	
9:00	Welcome/Recap	Bennett Brooks
9:15	Protected Resources Updates <a href="#">Presentation 1</a> <a href="#">Presentation 2</a>	Erin Fougères and Eric Patterson; NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources
10:00	Enforcement Update <a href="#">Presentation 1</a> <a href="#">Presentation 2</a>	Katie Moore U.S. Coast Guard; NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement Staff
10:45	Break	
11:00	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Update <a href="#">Presentation</a>	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Staff
12:00	Lunch	
1:30	HMS Economic Situation Update <a href="#">Presentation</a>	HMS Staff
2:30	Public Comment	
2:45	Daily Wrap-up	
3:00	Adjourn	

FW: FYI Herring Letter to Council  
September 20, 2023

Chris,

Peter Mullen requested that his interest in having the New England Council revisit their area-based Atlantic Herring quota measures (see below) be included as informational correspondence for the Mid's briefing book.

Jason Didden  
[jdidden@mafmc.org](mailto:jdidden@mafmc.org)  
[www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)  
(302) 526-5254 (direct)  
(302) 397-1131 (cell)



I think that transferring Quota from Area 2 to Area 1A and Area 3, should be considered, if that Quota is not caught by the end of March 2024. This is the same stock of fish but it is not migrating into Area 2 because of climate change etc.

This would help both fishermen and businesses very much.

Peter Mullen  
F/V Osprey