



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 27, 2023  
**To:** Council  
**From:** Hannah Hart, Staff  
**Subject:** Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel

The Council will receive a presentation about the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP) on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. This presentation will provide an overview of NTAP, as well as an update on recent activities, including discussions held during the January 19, 2023, NTAP meeting.

### Background

NTAP is a joint advisory panel of the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils (MAFMC and NEFMC). It is comprised of Council members, as well as fishing industry, academic, and government and non-government fisheries experts who provide advice and direction on the conduct of trawl research. It is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northeast Fishery Science Center (NEFSC). Additional information about NTAP is available at <https://www.mafmc.org/ntap>.

The NTAP has three primary areas of focus: (1) understanding the existing NOAA/NEFSC trawl survey gear performance and methodology, (2) evaluating the potential to complement or supplement this and other regional research surveys, and (3) improving understanding and acceptance of NOAA/NEFSC trawl survey data quality and results.

The NTAP recently held a hybrid meeting on January 19, 2023, in Narragansett, Rhode Island. At the meeting the panel received updates from the NEFSC, including updates on this year's trawl and bottom longline surveys. The panel also discussed several communication tools that are being developed to better communicate how survey data is being used in stock assessments. Preliminary results from the restrictor rope research were also presented at the meeting. This project was a cooperative effort between fishermen and researchers to evaluate the use of a restrictor rope on bottom trawl surveys and its impacts on catch. More information about the restrictor rope research can be found at this [link](#). During the meeting the panel also discussed offshore wind construction updates and split off into breakout groups to discuss future priorities of NTAP. **A summary of the January NTAP meeting will be posted, once available, as a supplemental document on the [February 2023 Council Meeting page](#).**