

2011 - MAFMC ANNUAL WORK PLAN / SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

(As of September 29, 2011)

January

1	New Year's Day
6	2010 RSA Program Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Published
10	Sector Separation Workshop, Tampa, FL
11-12	Council Coordinating Committee Interim Meeting, Washington, DC
11-13	Catch Shares Workshop, Washington, DC
13-14	NOAA Fisheries Leadership Council Meeting, Washington, DC
17	Martin Luther King Day
19	ASMFC SF, Scup, BSB Technical Meeting, Baltimore, MD
25-27	NEFMC Council Meeting - Portsmouth, NH
31	Monkfish Public Hearing, Riverhead, NY
31-Feb 2	SeaWeb Seafood Summit, Vancouver, CA

February

TBD	Initial Scup Fishery Allocation Project Advisory Team Meeting, Boston, MA
1	Monkfish Public Hearing, Manahawkin, NJ
2	Monkfish Public Hearing, Ocean City, MD
2-3	ACL Working Group, Warwick, RI (Moved to Feb 24-25)
8-10	MAFMC Council Meeting - New Bern, NC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve final actions on Monkfish Framework Adjustment 7 • Scoping hearing on Monkfish - catch shares • Receive SAW and 51st SARC Reports on <i>Loligo</i> and Hakes
15-17	ACL Science Workshop, Silver Spring, MD
16	Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Coordinating Meeting, Alexandria, VA
17-21	AAAS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
21	President's Day (observed)
24-25	ACL Working Group, Warwick, RI

March

3-5	Maine Fishermen's Forum, Rockport, ME
4	Excessive Share Webinar (SC/OQ Amendment 15)
7	2012 RSA Proposals Due
7-8	MSE Steering Committee, Solomons, MD
7-11	SAFMC Council Meeting, St. Simons Island, GA
8	Social and Economic Sub-Committee and SMB Advisory Panel Meeting, Baltimore, MD
9	Monkfish Advisory Panel Meeting, Warwick, RI
15	Ecosystem Sub-Committee, Philadelphia, PA
14-17	Barotrauma Workshop, Atlanta, GA
15-16	Recreational Fisheries Data Timeliness Workshop, St. Petersburg, FL
20-22	Boston Seafood Show, Boston Convention Center
21-24	ASMFC Winter Meeting, Alexandria, VA
23	NOAA MRIP Observer Team Meeting, Silver Spring, MD
24	Delaware Task Force Meeting regarding BOEMRE, Lewes, DE
27-31	National Shellfisheries Association Meeting, Baltimore, MD
28-Apr 1	Review of Modeling Approaches in Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management, Woods Hole, MA
29	Monkfish Oversight Committee, Portsmouth, NH
30	Visioning Committee Meeting with Touchstone, Washington, DC

April

TBD	Excessive Shares Webinar
TBD	RSA Committee receives and begins review of 2012 Proposals
6-7	NRCC Meeting, Providence, RI
12-14	MAFMC Council Meeting - Annapolis, MD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve alternatives for analysis in Spiny Dogfish Amendment 3
TBD	Scup Fishery Allocation Project Advisory Team Meeting, Boston, MA
TBD	Deep Sea Coral Steering Committee
20-21	NERO/MAFMC Staff Coordinating Meeting, Gloucester, MA
24	Easter
26-28	NEFMC Council Meeting - Mystic, CT

May

3-5	Council Coordination Committee Meeting, Charleston, SC
4-6	International Symposium on Circle Hooks, Miami, FL
8	Mother's Day
11-13	North American Association of Fisheries Economists Forum 2011, Honolulu, HI
25	Offshore Renewable Energy & Potential Ocean Space Use Conflicts Workshop, Galloway, NJ
25-26	SSC Meeting - ABC Recommendations for SMB and SC/OQ, Baltimore, MD
26	MSE Steering Committee, Baltimore, MD
27	SMB Monitoring Committee (2012 specifications) Webinar
30	Memorial Day

June

7	Initial Scup Fishery Allocation Project Advisory Team Meeting, Boston, MA
7	Understanding Butterfish Habitat Workshop, Cape May, NJ
7-9	Capitol Hill Ocean Week, Washington, DC
8	NOAA Fish Fry, Washington, DC
13-17	SAFMC Council Meeting, Key West, FL
14-16	MAFMC Council Meeting - Port Jefferson, NY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Specifications for 2012• Adopt Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Specifications for 2012-2013• Provide RSA award recommendations for 2012• Update on Scup Fishery Allocation Analyses• Approve Draft EIS, select preferred alternatives for Spiny Dogfish Amendment 3
19	Father's Day
21-23	Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning National Workshop, Washington, DC
21-23	CIE Review of Excessive Share Document (SC/OQ Amendment 15), Woods Hole, MA
21-23	NEFMC Council Meeting - Portland, ME
22-23	Commercial Marine Expo, Norfolk, VA
26-28	Ron Baird Sea Grant Symposium: Developing RI Seafood Knowledge Economy, Providence, RI
29-30	Herring Amendment 5 and SMB Amendment 14, Gloucester, MA
30	National Ocean Council Listening Session, W. Long Branch, NJ

July

4	Independence Day (observed)
12-13	Fixed Gear Workshop, Narragansett, RI
12-14	Atlantic Wind Energy Workshop, Herndon, VA
13-14	Sea Grant Research Program, Baltimore, MD
13-15	International convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades, Las Vegas, NV
20-22	SSB External Program Review, Woods Hole, MA
20-21	Squid Trawl Workshop, Narragansett, RI
21-23	Coastal and Marine Planning National Workshop, Washington, DC
26	PMAFS Summer flounder Recreational MSE Meeting, Baltimore, MD
27-28	SSC Meeting - ABC Recommendations for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish, Baltimore, MD
29	Monitoring Committee Meetings for Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish, Baltimore, MD

August

1-4	ASMFC Summer Meeting - Alexandria, VA
3	Visioning Advisor Panel Meeting, Baltimore, MD
6	Great American Seafood Cook-off, New Orleans, LA
9-10	Coral Reef Conservation Program, Sandy Hook, NJ
15	NEFMC Habitat Plan Development Team Meeting, Boston, MA
16-18	MAFMC Council Meeting - Wilmington, DE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swearing in of New and Reappointed Council members • Election of Officers • Adopt Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Specifications for 2012 • Adopt Bluefish Specifications for 2012 • Approve RSA Priorities List for 2012 (and beyond if warranted) • Approve MSB Am14 DEIS (with preferred alternatives if appropriate) (Moved to October) • Review BSB alternatives considered in AMD 17 to the SF, SC, BSB (Moved to October)
17	VA BOEMRE Task Force Meeting, Norfolk, VA
31	ASMFC Committee on Economics and Social Sciences, Baltimore, MD

September

4-8	American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
5	Labor Day
12-16	SAFMC Council Meeting, Charleston, SC
19-22	Black Sea Bass Assessment Data Meeting, Woods Hole, MA
19-23	NAFO Meeting (TBD)
19-24	Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum, Palo Alto, CA
20	50 Years of Research at Sandy Hook Program, Sandy Hook, NJ
21-22	SSC and Monitoring Committee Meetings - Spiny Dogfish Specifications, Baltimore, MD
24-25	Working Waterfront Festival, New Bedford, MA
26	MARACOOS Workshop, Providence, RI
27-29	NEFMC Council Meeting, Danvers, MA
29	ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Technical Meeting, Providence, RI
30-Oct 2	NC Seafood Festival, Morehead City, NC

October

1-6	World Seafood Conference, Washington, DC
1	Harbor Day at the Docks, West Ocean City, MD
2	Coast Day, Lewes, DE
4-6	National SSC Workshop, Williamsburg, VA
9	New Jersey Coast Day, Cape May, NJ
10	Columbus Day
11-13	MAFMC Council Meeting - Galloway, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Dogfish Specifications for 2012 (and beyond) • Approve SSC's multi-year research priority recommendations • Review CIE Report on Excessive Shares • Approve MSB Am14 DEIS (with preferred alternatives if appropriate) • Review black sea bass alternatives considered in AMD 17 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP
17-18	Deep Sea Coral Workshop, Woods Hole, MA
TBD	Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Amendment 14 Public Hearings NOT SCHEDULED YET

November

TBD	Subgroup meeting to assess data collection needs regarding SC/OQ Amendment 15
7-10	ASMFC 70 th Annual Meeting - Boston, MA
11	Veterans Day
15-17	NEFMC Council Meeting - Newport, RI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Dogfish Specifications for 2012 (and beyond)
17	Monitoring Committee and Industry Advisors Meetings for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Recreational Specifications
24	Thanksgiving
29-Dec1	New Council Member Training, Silver Spring, MD
29-Dec 1	SAW/SARC, Woods Hole, MA

December

1	New Council Member Training (cont'd), Silver Spring, MD
4-8	State of the Gulf Summit, Houston, TX
5-9	SAFMC Council Meeting, Raleigh, NC
13-15	MAFMC Council Meeting - Williamsburg, VA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Recreational Specifications for 2012 • Review black sea bass alternatives considered in AMD 17 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP • Approve final measures for Spiny Dogfish AMD 3 • Review recommendations from Advisory Panel Governance Review Working Group • Review CIE Report on Excessive Shares • Approve SSC's multi-year research priority recommendations
25	Christmas Day

Likely FMP Amendments/Frameworks for 2011:

- * Amendment 15 to Surfclam/Ocean Quahog FMP
- * Amendment 3 to Spiny Dogfish FMP
- * Amendment 14 to Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish FMP
- * Amendment 17 to Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP

FMPs with Outstanding SFA Disapprovals Requiring Corrective Action:

- * Amendment 1 to Bluefish FMP - EFH gear impacts, port descriptions, *de minimus* status

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Specifications

(As of September 29, 2011)

Fishery Management Plans	2011				2012				2013			
	Council Approved	Specs Package Submitted	NMFS Proposed Rule	NMFS Final Rule	Council Approved	Specs Package Submitted	NMFS Proposed Rule	NMFS Final Rule	Council Approved	Specs Package Submitted	NMFS Proposed Rule	NMFS Final Rule
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial • Recreational 	08/18/10 12/15/10	10/01/10 ^b 02/17/11	11/17/10 04/21/11	12/28/10 06/30/11	08/17/11							
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	06/09/10	07/19/10	11/17/10	02/14/11	06/15/11	08/09/11						
Dogfish	10/13/10	01/28/11	03/17/11	06/07/11								
Bluefish	08/18/10	11/29/10	01/14/11	03/31/11	08/17/11							
Surfclam, Ocean Quahog	12/27/10 ^a											

^a Final rule applies for surfclam and ocean quahog fishing years 2011, 2012, and 2013.

^b Supplement to the package with recommended scup TAC increase to NMFS 01/26/11.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Status of FMPs, Amendments and Frameworks
(As of September 29, 2011)

FMP/Amendment	Date Approved by Council	Lapse	Date submitted to NMFS/NERO	Lapse	FR Notice of Plan Availability	Lapse	Proposed Rule Publication Date	Lapse	Plan Approval/Disapproval Letter	Lapse	Final Rule Publication Date
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Amendment 10	10/16/08	14	10/30/08	257	07/14/09	50	09/03/09	34	10/07/09	155	03/11/10
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Amendment 11	10/13/10	82	01/03/11	184	07/06/2011	26	08/01/11				
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Amendment 14											
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Amendment 15											
Dogfish Amendment 3											
Omnibus Amendment (ACL/AM)	08/17/10	62	10/18/10	217	5/23/11	25	06/17/2011	28	08/15/11	45	09/29/11

"Lapse" is the amount of time in days from Council approval to column-heading action.

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Richard B. Robins, Jr.
Chairman

Lee G. Anderson
Vice Chairman

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Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

2011 Council Priorities and Projects

Mackerel, Squids, and Butterfish - Amendment 11 (final action taken 10/13/10)

Mackerel, Squids, and Butterfish - Amendment 14 (Alosine bycatch, etc.) high priority

Surfclam and Ocean Quahogs - Amendment 15 (Excessive shares, cost recovery, etc.), in progress, technical review of excessive shares ongoing

Spiny Dogfish - Amendment 3 (Committee will meet in December following ASMFC annual meeting)

Monkfish - Amendment 6 (informational meetings will begin fall of 2010)

Review of RSA program (ongoing)

AP performance Report (in development, in consultation with SSC)

Visioning Project (in progress, next step is scope of work, estimated two-year time horizon)

Ecosystem Based FMP project (Ecosystem subcommittee of SSC to receive TORs)

MARCO (Council will request representation on the appropriate working groups and management board)

Communications (Outreach and Education) (C. Moore will update Council with range of options at the December meeting--pending)

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass - Amendment 17 (on hold) (scup allocation issue pending further discussion with ASMFC and Council)

Bluefish - Amendment 4 (EFH update, etc.) (EFH update will be pulled and added to spec in 2011)

Evaluation of Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules for Mid-Atlantic Stocks

Final Report to
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

August 31st, 2011

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Technical Report Series No. TS-622-11 of the University of Maryland Center for
Environmental Science

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the revised National Standard 1, the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for a stock must limit the probability of overfishing. A suite of control rules exists to calculate the ABC under different circumstances, but few have been evaluated with respect to the probability of overfishing. We evaluated a number of control rules used in both data-rich (where assessments are possible) and data-poor situations and measured the performance relative to a suite of objectives. We focused primarily on the probability of overfishing associated with a control rule, but also calculated a number of additional performance measures relevant to both the fishery and managers (e.g., average catch, variation in catch, change in biomass).

Control rules were evaluated using both simulation models and by applying them to an existing stock (summer flounder). For summer flounder, there was a considerable range in the ABC from data-rich and -poor control rules, with data-poor control rules typically resulting in very high catches with associated high probabilities of overfishing.

We used simulations to evaluate several control rules proposed for data-poor situations. Simulations were conducted for three life histories (“slow,” “medium,” and “fast”) and three exploitation histories (under, fully-, and over-exploited) to identify control rules that avoided overfishing without being too risk-averse. Many of the data-poor control rules required information on species life history and relative abundance, so we explored a “best-case” scenario where perfect knowledge was used in the control rule, and a “worst-case” scenario where highly inflated estimates of stock status were used. Our analyses showed that no single control rule performed well across all scenarios, with those performing well in the best-case scenario performing poorly in the worst-case scenarios, and vice-versa. Only the most conservative data-poor control rules limited the probability of overfishing across most life history and exploitation scenarios explored, but these rules were typically very conservative under the best-case scenarios.

For data-rich situations where an age-structured stock assessment is possible, we used simulations to explore the Mid-Atlantic ABC control rule (the threshold P^* rule) for a range of assumed uncertainty in the distribution for the overfishing limit (OFL). The simulation was done for a species with a “medium” life history that had once been overfished but was rebuilt by the time the control rule was applied. All levels of uncertainty in the OFL (determined by the assumed coefficient of variation, or CV, in a lognormal distribution) resulted in a probability of overfishing below the legally mandated 0.5 threshold over the 20 year simulation period. Assuming greater uncertainty in the OFL was the more conservative approach and resulted in a lower probability of overfishing. However, being more conservative did not result in lower average catches over the 20 year period compared to the runs that assumed lower uncertainty in the OFL. Furthermore, our analysis identified the potential for temporal cycles in the probability of overfishing, with periods of lower and higher overfishing probabilities. Only the P^* rule assuming high uncertainty the OFL resulted in a probability of overfishing < 0.5 during some years.

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2011

TO: Chris Moore

FROM: Mary Clark *MC*

SUBJECT: Visioning Project Update

The Visioning Project officially launched on September 20, 2011. On this date the online visioning surveys opened to the public, and the staff's communications consultant began contacting the media to raise awareness of the project.

Articles about the Council's visioning effort have been published in the Cape May County Herald, the Dover Post, Asbury Park Press, mycentraljersey.com, and njsaltwaterfisherman.com. Several other articles are slated to be published over the next several weeks, and we expect to see media coverage increase as constituents become more interested in the visioning process.

In the coming weeks and months the staff will be utilizing several methods of communication to reach out to constituents. In October the staff will launch a "personal outreach campaign," whereby each member of the technical staff will make phone calls to their network of contacts to encourage them to participate in the survey. A letter about the project will be sent to all commercial permit holders. The staff will also contact organizations (ENGOS, commercial fishing associations, recreational fishing clubs, etc.) and request that they distribute information to their members via email or newsletter.

The staff is also reaching out to stakeholders at various marine or fishery-themed events and festivals throughout the region. Jason Didden, Rick Robins, and I staffed a booth at the Working Waterfront Festival in New Bedford, Massachusetts on September 24-25. Staff is making an effort to create awareness of the project among those involved in the Council's managed fisheries in New England as well as in Mid-Atlantic States. Council staff will attend Harbor Day in Ocean City, Maryland, Delaware Coast Day in Lewes, and New Jersey Coast Day in Cape May. These events are an opportunity for the staff to talk with constituents about the project and encourage them to participate. They also serve to generally improve the Council's visibility among its constituents.

Over the next 4 months (October-January) the staff will hold small group meetings with different interest groups in major ports in the Mid-Atlantic. These meetings will be facilitated by Touchstone Consulting Group and will target commercial, recreational, and NGO/academic/scientific interest groups. In-person

meetings will allow for more candid and in-depth discussions. Additionally, the Council will host a workshop for recreational stakeholders associated with the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries. One of the goals of this workshop is to get input into the visioning process from the recreational community.

As of September 29, the staff has received 124 completed responses to the main visioning survey. The species-specific surveys have had varied response rates, which is to be expected at this early stage in the process. The staff will make more targeted efforts to increase the response rates of the individual species surveys as needed.

In less than two weeks since the survey opened, the Council's website (specifically the Visioning webpage) has had a surge of web traffic. There has been very positive interest among those individuals and organizations that have been contacted thus far, and I expect that there will be high levels of participation over the next 4 months.