MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL
Schedule of Events
January - April 2012

January

Jan 4	Habitat PDT, Boston, MA
Jan 9-13	Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, Providence, RI
Jan 10	Monkfish Committee Meeting, Warwick, RI
Jan 10-12	ACCSP Operations Committee, Arlington, VA
Jan 13-15	East Coast Commercial Fishermen's Aquaculture & Trade Expo, Ocean City, MD
Jan 17	Visioning Meeting, New Bedford, MA
Jan 17	Visioning Meeting, South Dennis, MA
Jan 20	Visioning Meeting with NGOs, Washington, DC
Jan 23-24	NOAA Fisheries Leadership Council Meeting, Silver Spring, MD
Jan 24-26	Council Coordinating Committee Meeting, Silver Spring, MD
Jan 21	Informational Outreach Meeting with Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Assoc.
Jan 25	Summer Flounder, Scup, black Sea Bass Technical Committee, Baltimore, MD
Jan 25	Visioning Meeting, Little Egg Harbor, NJ (Recreational)
Jan 27	Rhode Island Fluke Symposium, Warwick, RI
Jan 30	UNH Durham River Herring Stakeholder Workshop
Jan 31-Feb 2	New England Fishery Management Council Meeting, Portsmouth, NH

February

Feb 2	Volunteer Angler Data Workshop, Baltimore, MD
Feb 6	Visioning Meeting, Hatteras, NC
Feb 6-8	Atlantic Scientific Review Group for Marine Mammals, Sarasota, FL
Feb 7	Visioning Meeting, Manteo, NC
Feb 7	Visioning Meeting, Swan Quarter, NC
Feb 7	Tilefish Advisory Panel and SSC Meeting, Long Branch, NJ
Feb 7-9	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting, Alexandria, VA
Feb 8	Visioning Meeting, Raleigh, NC
Feb 14-16	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Virginia Beach, VA
Feb 21	Informational Outreach Meeting with DE Nature Conservancy
Feb 21	Visioning Meeting, Atlantic City, NJ

March

Mar 1-3	Maine Fishermen's Forum, Rockport, ME
Mar 1-2	Workshop on Marine Habitat, New Brunswick, NJ
Mar 5-9	South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Savannah, GA
Mar 11-13	Boston International Seafood Show, Boston, MA
Mar 21-22	SSC Meeting

April

Apr 10-12	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Duck, NC
Apr 24-26	New England Fishery Management Council Meeting, Mystic, CT
Apr 30-May 3	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting, Alexandria, VA

MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL
2012 Planned Council Meeting Topics

April 10-12, 2012 -- Duck, NC

- Adopt Tilefish Specifications for 2013
- Framework action to modify the vessel hold certification requirements for mackerel vessels (meeting 2)
- Review and approve advisors using revised process
- Approve alternatives for Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP
- Action to clarify Council risk policy provision through an Omnibus Framework (meeting 2)
- Consider revised Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Working Group draft documents

June 12-14, 2012 -- New York, NY

- Adopt Mackerel and Butterfish Specifications for 2013 (squids likely on a 3-yr cycle)
- Adopt Amendment 14 to the Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish FMP
- Adopt Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Specifications for 2013-2014
- Approve DEIS, select preferred alternatives for Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP
- Present Visioning results and discuss next steps
- Provide RSA Award recommendations for 2013
- Scup Allocation Project Presentation

August 14-16, 2012 -- Philadelphia, PA

- Swearing in of New and Reappointed Council members
- Election of Officers
- Adopt Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Specifications for 2013
- Adopt Bluefish Specifications for 2013
- Consider public hearing comments, approve final measures for Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP
- Review draft alternatives for Amendment 17 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP (black sea bass recreational management)
- Approve RSA Priorities List for 2013 (and beyond if warranted)

October 16-18, 2012 -- Long Branch, NJ

- Approve Dogfish Specifications for 2013 (and beyond)
- Approve Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP for secretarial submission

December 11-13, 2012 --Baltimore, MD

- Adopt Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Recreational Specifications for 2013
- Approve SSCs multi-year research priority recommendations
- Council reviews Draft Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Advisory Document and recommends additions/changes

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Specifications

(As of February 2, 2012)

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 · 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 12/14/11	10/02/11	Interim Rule: 12/30/11					
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	06/09/10	07/19/10	11/17/10	02/14/11	06/15/11	08/09/11	10/26/11					
Dogfish	10/13/10	01/28/11	03/17/11	06/07/11	10/12/11	01/27/12						
Bluefish	08/18/10	11/29/10	01/14/11	03/31/11	08/17/11	12/02/11						
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.

Status of Open Amendment/Framework Actions
(as of February 2, 2012)

FMP	AMD\FW	Issues Addressed
Squid / Mackerel / Butterfish	Amendment 14 Framework 5	*Alosine* incidental catch Hold Certification Requirements (if Council decides to take action at Feb 2012 meeting)
Summer Flounder/ Scup/Black Sea Bass	Amendment 17	Spatial/regional management of black sea bass recreational fishery
Dogfish	Amendment 3	Authorize RSA program Consider alternatives to seasonal quotas Limited Access Quota Rollover EFH Definitions
Surfclam/ Ocean Quahog	Amendment 15	Cost Recovery EFH Data Collection Overfishing threshold may not be conservative enough for ocean quahogs Excessive shares and ownership disclosure Provide RA the authority to require PSP testing protocol

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

JAN 31 2012

Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Suite 201
800 N. State Street
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Chris:

On February 6, 2012, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will publish two final rules to list five Distinct Population Segments (DPS) of Atlantic sturgeon along the U.S. East Coast, which have an effective date of April 6, 2012. The Gulf of Maine DPS was listed as threatened and the remaining DPSs (New York Bight, Chesapeake Bay, Carolina, and South Atlantic) were listed as endangered.

In the final rules, incidental catch in fisheries has been identified as one of the primary threats to Atlantic sturgeon. This determination is based primarily on an analysis undertaken in 2007 by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), which indicated that incidental catch occurs predominantly in sink gillnet (e.g., monkfish, dogfish, groundfish) and in otter trawl (e.g., groundfish, squid) fisheries. Their analysis, and a previous analysis by Stein *et al.* (2004), indicate that Atlantic sturgeon caught in sink gillnet gear have a higher mortality rate than those caught in otter trawls.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, it is necessary to conduct consultations on actions that are federally authorized, funded, or carried out to determine if they have the potential to adversely affect listed species. Reinitiation of consultation is required where discretionary Federal agency involvement or control over the action has been retained or is authorized by law and: (a) If new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered in the consultation; (b) if the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to listed species that was not considered in the consultation; or (c) if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action. As you are aware, NMFS has completed consultations on Federal fisheries that have the potential to adversely affect ESA listed species. However, now that Atlantic sturgeon have been listed, it is necessary to reinitiate consultations to consider the effects of fisheries (particularly those that involve sink gillnet and bottom otter trawl gear) on Atlantic sturgeon and, if necessary and appropriate, provide for incidental take coverage and identify measures to avoid or minimize bycatch and/or bycatch mortality. This consultation requirement is likely to impact several fishery management plans, including the following: Monkfish; spiny dogfish; squid, mackerel, butterfish; summer flounder, scup, black sea bass; and bluefish.

In preparation for the potential listing, the NEFSC undertook new analyses to estimate the extent of incidental catch (based on data from 2006 to 2010) of Atlantic sturgeon in federally managed fisheries and assign take by fishery management plan. As noted in the final rules, there is extensive mixing of all five DPSs, and it is not possible to visually distinguish individuals from the various DPSs. Thus, in order to be able to attribute take to the appropriate DPS, we have prepared documentation regarding the appropriate percentages to be attributed to each DPS in order to aid section 7 staff in completing the consultations. Section 7 staff have also prepared other information needed to complete the section 7 consultations on fisheries such as the status of the species sections and the updated descriptions of the fisheries. This also includes consideration of measures to avoid or minimize bycatch or bycatch mortality.

NMFS has 135 days to complete formal ESA section 7 consultations. We intend to complete consultations on affected fisheries as close to the effective date of the Atlantic sturgeon listing (i.e., April 6, 2012) as possible. It will be important to coordinate with the Council and Council staff to discuss the feasibility and practicability of various measures to reduce incidental take of Atlantic sturgeon. NMFS has been funding several studies to reduce Atlantic sturgeon incidental take in commercial monkfish fisheries, and a gear modification that has been tested in the Mid-Atlantic has shown very promising results. We would like to discuss this gear modification and other potential measures for monkfish with you, as well as other appropriate measures for other fisheries as necessary.

It is not feasible to implement most incidental take reduction measures in a short timeframe. However, it is a necessary and required component of section 7 consultation to have identified effective measures to reduce incidental take to a level that does not appreciably reduce the survival and recovery of Atlantic sturgeon. Therefore, we would like to arrange a meeting with you and your staff to begin discussions as soon as feasible. We have identified several preliminary options for reducing incidental take which we would like to explore with you. It may be possible to choose from several of these measures to achieve the necessary reduction in Atlantic sturgeon take. It is important to note that implementation of any protective measures deemed necessary may be able to be phased in to allow time for incorporation into rulemaking schedules and/or for the industry to be better positioned to be comply with the new regulations.

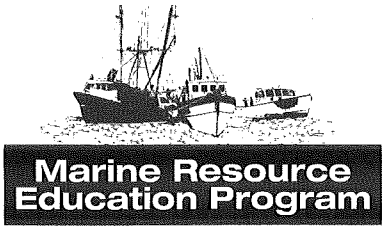
We look forward to coordinating with you on this effort to reduce Atlantic sturgeon incidental take in fisheries. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact George Darcy at (978) 281-9331 or Kimberly Damon-Randall at (978) 282-8485.

Sincerely,

Harold C Mears

for Daniel S. Morris
Acting Regional Administrator

Cc: George Darcy, SFD
Susan Murphy, SFD
Michael Pentony, SFD



Gulf of Maine
Research Institute
Science. Education. Community.

January 26, 2012

Mr. Chris Moore
800 North State Street,
Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Chris,

Thank you again for your interest in the MREP program, and for your willingness to provide your advice and keen insights, as we look to start-up a similar program tailored to the Mid-Atlantic fisheries region.

Enclosed, you will find 2 documents, the first provides you with detailed meeting notes, and the second is a memo outlining a set of options for next steps. We'd like to hear your feedback to these options presented so that we can make an informed decision about next steps.

Please send an email to adayton@gmri.org, or call 207-228-1645 with your recommendation on how to proceed. Please do so as soon as possible so that we can keep the momentum on program development. Once I hear back from everyone, I will go ahead and confirm the direction and proceed with further planning.

Also, we are currently accepting applications for the MREP 200: Insights into the stock assessment program to be held on March 29-30 in Woods Hole, MA. Please let me know if you have an interest in attending this session. It would be a great opportunity for you to see the programs in action.

Best Regards,

-Alexa M. Dayton
Training & Outreach Program Manager
Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Marine Resource Education Program
Mid-Atlantic Startup Committee
Recommendations for next steps in 2012
1/26/12

This memo is intended to build upon the discussions begun at our meeting in Baltimore on December 8, 2011.

Our originally desired implementation of a Mid-Atlantic educational offering in Winter 2012 (prior to April 15th) appears to be aggressive, and after further consideration, may not be the most prudent course of action. The timeline would be very aggressive, and might undermine the effort to create a program that is truly responsive to local stakeholder needs and processes. We would rather foster engagement and believe that more attention to this development stage would have long-term program benefits.

We present three options for Start-up committee consideration:

- Original plan (not recommended)

  Implement an MREP program with curriculum adapted from the New England program. Provide a 3-day science program, followed by a 3-day management program prior to April 15th, 2012. Evaluate the program thoroughly and incorporate changes for a future program in 2013 (pending further funding.)

- Alternate idea 1

  Engage a selected group of 20 individuals, including all the members of the Start-up Committee, in a "streamlined" 3-day program this Winter which combines only the core elements from the curriculum being used in New England (i.e., Population Dynamics, Understanding Stock Assessments, Understanding the Management Process). Throughout this shortened 3-day experience. This group will periodically stop and examine which program elements might need to be further refined for Mid-Atlantic fishermen. This tailored program would then form the basis of an expanded MREP-MA to be rolled out later in 2012.

- Alternate idea 2

  Re-convene the MREP-MA Start-up Committee in late April/early May 2012, and expand the invitation to include more industry representation from the area and Visioning Committee representatives. We would do a thorough review of the outputs from the Visioning process, use this to guide our Mid-Atlantic program goals and development efforts, and look to implement a Mid-Atlantic tailored educational program in the Nov/Dec 2012 timeframe.

We look forward to discussing these options with you individually, and will reach out to each member of the start-up committee to get your input. Please send an email with your thoughts to Alexa@gmri.org or call me at 207-228-1645.

January 11, 2012

Marine Resource Education Program

Mid-Atlantic Startup Committee Meeting

Dec. 8, 2011

Attendees: Chris Moore, Mary Clark, Steve Linhard, Dan Farnham, Mary Beth Tooley, John Williamson, Adam Nowalsky, Jeff Kaelin, Greg DiDomenico, Alexa Dayton

Regrets: Peter Hughes, Brandon White, Dick Brame

Meeting Notes follow as transcription of flip charts:

HIGH LEVEL PROGRAM GOALS

- Increase engagement in council process
- Improve recreational sector representation at council meetings
- Improve rec sector understanding of Magnuson Act
- Provide a mechanism to identify and train new advisory panel members
- Influence dock talk
- Breadth vs. depth in reach *try to do both! (10 bulldogs intense > leads to 50 others)
- Create future scientists? No... how deep?
- Explain science behind management decisions that have personal impacts (rec) bag limits, size, season
- Provide early warning on emergent topics
- Provide basic info needed to engage in management process
- Explain Vocabulary/terms/processes
- Help answer: What's going on and how do I find out?
- Explain Data Sources that lead to bag/size limits
- Explain the interaction between landings data, surveys, VTRs, stock assessment

ISSUES & SENSITIVITIES

- Mid Atlantic very different culturally from New England, different set of issues
- Stocks largely rebuilt
- Allocations upcoming
- EBM rollout coming, controversial
- Socio-economic factor > Preserving coastal communities
- Tools to evaluate impacts, socio-economic metrics
- Allocations by stakeholder group
- Sector – commercial vs. recreational
- Species in FMPs
    - 4 of 13 apply to rec.
    - 3 in 1 FMP
    - Summer flounder, scup, sea bass not getting enough attention
- Dialog 2-way on specifics (needed) > i.e. summer flounder
- Co-management w/ASMFC
    - Tighter interaction/close alignment, five species
- Trip limits continue to exist, State permits
- NJ oceanographic divide Barnegat inlet

    - State to Fed transition zone
- Cultural divide as close as 75 miles
    - North vs. South Jersey
- Time/commitment for stakeholder to attend MREP, concern
- Keep groups small, more portable
- Relevance of topics to all stakeholders?? Does the recreational sector need all of this info?
- Conservation equivalency vs. one size fits all, (State vs Fed again), joint decision-making
- How to manage rebuilt fisheries; evolving differences in recreational/commercial
- Bag limit, size – how to manage recreational fisheries > process
- Need opportunities for recreational and commercial sectors to meet/network
- Need opportunities for processors and harvesters to interact

SCIENCE TOPICS & ELEMENTS

Review of Existing MREP 100 Science Program Elements, prioritization for Mid Atlantic implementation:

Important	Moderate	Less Important
• Stock assessment and modeling • Sampling, stats, surveys • Pop'n biology (is this really critical for rec?) • Habitat modeling (avoidance and efficiency) Temporal, spatial changes • Acronyms	• Gear (fun, approachable)	• Oceanography • Cooperative Research Program

Other considerations:

- Bycatch focus?
- Review teaching methods to account for those who are not classroom types (kinesthetic learners)? Is classroom style putting people to sleep?
- Need to know? Consider 'streamlining' content
- Three days very demanding, is this worthwhile for all stakeholders?
- Invite MARACOOS
- RSA considerations, NEMAP/VMS – inshore sampling surveys
- Oceanography
    - Rutgers modeling of physical ocean
- National standard – No National standard
- Council > Commission > States
- five species within multiple jurisdictions
- RSA process
- Explain the interactions – Jurisdictions - Include State permit holders
- Eco-system Based Management
    - Really emphasize this?
    - Impact on scientific uncertainty, more of it?
    - Public pressure
    - Impact on fishermen

- Summer flounder
- For hire in Chesapeake
- Conservation equivalency vs. one size fits all, (State vs Fed again), joint decision-making
- How are the data collected?
  MRIP
  MRFS
  VTRS (how is this used, why is it so important to report accurately?)
  Commercial VTRS vs. party charter VTRS
  Sum of parts exceeds the whole!
- What about CMSP?
  Has emerged. How deep to go into this topic? Focus, strategic

- Should Economics be included? (Rita Curtis presentation)
  Informed at the mic when referencing this data
  Socio-economic impacts of council decisions vs. economic benefits

- Oceanography – estuarine influences tributaries, Gulf Stream, canyons, holes, physical structure

- Oceanography through climate change lens, distributions, ranges and changes, arctic melt

- Habitat changes and resulting spatial distributions

- Eco-system Based Management
- Spiny dogfish
- Plans are coming
- "Jurisdictional" issues e.g. scallops
- Single FMPs > what do we gain with EBM?
- Working now in Mid-Atlantic
- EBM vs. CMSP
- Potential rolling up pieces of plans in 3 council areas may exceed total TAC > allocation issue
- Fisheries eco-system plan ties to individual FMPs (west coast ex)

MANAGEMENT TOPICS & ELEMENTS

Review of Existing MREP Program Elements, prioritization for Mid Atlantic application:

Important	Moderate
• Negotiation skills • Jurisdictions overview (new) • Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management process • Fed Fisheries Management *NS8 communities • Overview of ASMFC • What happens when the MAFMC & ASMFC diverge? • Attending a council meeting • Communications skills training, preparing written comments • Weave this together with negotiations and attending council meeting "getting involved"	• Role of science in management • USGC • Sustainable fisheries • Role of Congress

Considerations:

- Management flow chart high level to anchor/orient attendees
- 3-day combined science and management course as intro for larger group > then go deeper?
- Council format – "Town Hall"
  - Needs to be considered/aligned within program
- When to comment as public
- Write-in possibilities, spell out
- What are appropriate comments?
  - Crafting the statement
- Engaging vs. dry
- Role play / practical case study
- The impact of many voices vs. single voice
- What about "catch-shares"?
- Interweave ASMFC into other pieces
- "Property rights" Andy Rosenberg
  - Managing a common property
- Management toolbox (i.e. allocations)
  - ITQs vs. LAPDs
    - Input vs output controls
    - Open access vs. quotas
  - Link desired outcomes to tool selection
  - Answer the questions –
    - Who will get what?
    - How will I be impacted?
    - How will my community be impacted?

PROGRAM PRESENTERS / SPEAKERS BUREAU

- Mid Atlantic Council staff
- NEFSC
- NERO
- ASMFC
- "great meeting incorporated" - Robert Rules training
- Sea Grant VA – communications prof
- NEMAP/VMS
- Andy Rosenberg?
- MARACOOS
- Rutgers
- Rita Curtis
- Someone to discuss VTRs as a data source (Susan Wigley?)
- Port agents & USCG?
- Someone to speak to RSA process from Mid-Atlantic
- Nichols Institute? Too far south?

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH/TIMING

- Timing /Good Timing
  Recreational – Oct-good
  Commercial – Jan-March

- Recreational may be more interested in management, simple explanation of the process(es), shorter program, focus on personal impacts

- <u>Information Delivery methods</u>
  - Commercial: face to face
  - Recreational: discussion boards, word of mouth, online
  - The hardest to reach may not come to us
    - Bring it to them
    - keep it approachable
    - face-to-face still key
  - Commercial > nuts and bolts livelihood
  - Recreational> for hire – nuts and bolts understanding
    - Sport: What is bottom line impact to them? – Day values
  - Understanding specification setting process

- <u>Program Approach:</u>
  - Science module for all groups, is the same level of depth really necessary for recreational group?
  - Management module for specific groups?
    - Do people want to give time to hear about non-relevant topics? YES
  - Focus lens > Fish Management Council process
    - Where to end? Acknowledge continuations, contacts for additional offerings (council member, commission, i.e. Jack Travelstead)

<u>Key Stakeholder Groups to invite:</u>

- crew members, captains
- vessel owners
- fishermen of species in mid FMPs
- 50/50 commercial recreational
- 'other' group (media may be more important especially those who rec fish also)
  *Confidentiality is key
- NGOs to the extent they want to learn (i.e. Pew, MFCN, NRNC,TNC, EDF)
- Chefs?
- Processors?
- NJ Culinary Institute, restaurant association, seafood cook-off winners
- Wild edibles buyer/owner
- Personal use recreational non-Fed permit holders or stacked/multi-permits
- Saltwater fishermen advertisement

<u>Key ports and regions</u> (culturally unique ports, sensitivities exist between these:)

- Point Judith, Newport, New Bedford
- Stonington CT
- Manteo NC
- Chincoteage NC
- Virginia Beach
- Ocean City MD
- Lewis/Indian River DE,
- Cape May,
- Barnegat,
- Point Pleasant,
- Montauk NY,
- Belmar NY,
- Freeport NY,
- Atlantic City NJ,
- Belford NJ,
- Atlantic Heights NJ (*not Point Pleasant*); CAUTION in mixing

Key influencers

- CIA trainer
- National Restaurant Association of America
    - Educators DC
- Emerson Hasbrouck Sr.
- Sea Grant state level –NJ, VA, DE (all really)
- Marine trades
    - Onshore support
    - *Tackle shops*
    - Boat hauling/repair
    - Marinas e.g. Boat USA
    - West Marine

Key Influencers/Tools

- Visioning project findings available to inform this section not coupled, but leverage knowledge, avoid confusion, no piggy-backing
- Percentage of overlap in advisory teams?
    - Original guidance team invited
    - Early adopters > lead to norm adopters, key influences
- MREP Education program as an actionable step to bring back to mid atlantic visioning group
- Council Advisory Group(s)
    - New entrants, updated strong possibilities

NEXT STEPS

1. Draft notes, get feedback from
    a. Existing Startup committee, solicit follow-up thoughts individually
    b. Rec visioning group
    c. (50) commercial group
    d. seek to expand team to include original invitees and possibly others. Need more voices to weigh in on program development.

2. Consider implementing in near-translation, 80% transfer with 15-20% new
    a. Attempt to do so by March 2012/April 15, or wait until fall (but not ideal)
    b. Evaluate first program delivery thoroughly
    c. Put some of the already engaged folks through, they become potential program advisors

3. Governance?
    a. All present wish to continue to participate in program development & provide initial implementation guidance
    b. Mid-Atlantic Council staff not prepared to take on logistics, GMRI to continue to serve this role
    c. Create longer-term Steering Committee to guide program evolution

4. GMRI to explore locations for program delivery, offsite retreat style facility in centralized, easy to get to area.

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Richard B. Robins, Jr.
Chairman

Lee G. Anderson
Vice Chairman

800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, Delaware 19901-3910
Tel: 302-674-2331
Toll Free: 877-446-2362
FAX: 302-674-5399
www.mafmc.org

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 1, 2012

TO: Chris Moore

FROM: Mary Clark MC

SUBJECT: Visioning Project Update

In early January, we decided to extend the data gathering phase of the Visioning Project until February 29, 2012. This extension was made to ensure that the opportunity for participation had been communicated to all interested stakeholders. To date, 890 responses to the main Visioning survey have been submitted.

The Council staff and Chairman have attended 12 meetings with participants in the commercial fishing industry and 4 meetings with recreational fishing groups throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. During the final month of the project Council staff will attend 4 more group meetings with the commercial industry and 1 meeting with a recreational group. A full list of meeting locations can be found at the bottom of this memo. Reactions to the meetings have been very positive, and there have been numerous requests for the Council and staff to return for similar meetings in the future.

In an effort to capture the diverse perspectives of the recreational fishing community, the Council hosted a focus group with 27 members of the recreational fishing community in Baltimore, MD on December 2-3. The meeting, which was facilitated by the Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum, had several purposes, one of which was to gather data for the Visioning Project. A full report of the focus group is available on the Council's website and will be included in the Visioning data package.

The Chairman and I attended the East Coast Commercial Fishermen's & Aquaculture Trade Expo in Ocean City, MD on January 13-15. In addition to staffing a booth for the duration of the event, we both gave brief presentations on the Visioning Project which were followed by an open discussion with members of the audience.

On January 20 a Visioning meeting was convened in Washington, DC with 14 representatives from 11 different environmental non-governmental organizations. In a productive three-hour discussion, participants shared their concerns, ideas, and priorities for future management. They also proposed ways the Council can improve its communication and relationships with NGOs. In response to requests from several organizations, we have agreed to accept position letters on behalf of organizations to be

included in the data package. Details about this option for participation are available on the Visioning website.

Council staff have continued to make personal contact via phone or email with individuals in their networks. In this final month of data gathering, Council staff will continue outreach to commercial and recreational fishing groups, environmental organizations, academic institutions, the general public, and print and online media outlets.

The survey will remain open until **February 29, 2012**. I encourage Council members to take this last opportunity to communicate about this opportunity to their networks of contacts so that we can ensure complete and accurate coverage of Mid-Atlantic stakeholders in this process.

The results of the surveys, small group meetings, and position letters will be compiled and presented at the April Council meeting.

Small Group Meeting Locations

Commercial
Barnegat light, NJ
Belford, NJ
Cape May, NJ
Chatham, MA
Chincoteague, VA
Hampton, VA
Montauk, NY
New Bedford, MA
Ocean City, MD
Point Judith, RI
Stonington, CT
Virginia Beach, VA
Wanchese, NC (planned)
Englehard, NC (planned)
Hatteras, NC (planned)
Atlantic City, NJ (planned)

Recreational
Little Egg Harbor, NJ
Ocean City, MD
Riverhead, NJ
Virginia Beach, VA
Baltimore, MD (Workshop)
Raleigh (planned)

ENGO
Washington, DC

COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

January 25-26, 2012
Crowne Plaza Hotel
8777 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-563-3722
Fax: 301-589-4791

Agenda

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Time	Discussion Item	Presenter(s)
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome/Introductions	Manuel Duenas Sam Rauch
9:30 – 10:30	Council Reports on Status of Implementing Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions and Other Current Activities of Interest • Status of rebuilding plans • New management programs under development • Problems/concerns/other issues	Chairmen/EDs
10:30 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 12:00	Council Reports Continued	Chairmen/EDs
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch on your own	
1:30 – 3:00	Budget • FY2012: status, Council funding • FY2013: update • Longer term discussion	Lindsay Fullenkamp
3:00 – 3:15	Break	
3:15 – 3:45	Update on National Ocean Council/Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning	Michael Weiss Jeff Luster
3:45 – 4:30	Marine Recreational Information Program Update (MRIP)	Gordon Colvin
4:30 – 5:30	Report on Allocation of Fishery Resources	George Lapointe
5:30	Adjorn for the day	

Thursday, January 26, 2012

Time	Discussion Item	Presenter(s)
9:00 - 9:30	Statement of Operational Practices and Procedures (SOPPs)	William Chappell
9:30 – 10:00	Report on 2011National SSC Workshop	MAFMC/NMFS
10:00 – 10:15	Break	
10:15 – 11:00	Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP) Question and Answer Session	Lee Benaka
11:00 – 12:15	Habitat Blueprint	Brian Pawlak
12:15 – 1:45	Lunch On Your Own	
1:45 – 2:45	Managing Our Nations Fisheries (MONF) III Conference • Logistics (Date, Location) • Steering Committee • Agenda/Theme • Lead In Workshops	Don McIsaac/NMFS
2:45 – 3:00	Break	
3:00 – 4:00	Outreach/ Communications • NOAA Fisheries 2012 Communication Strategy	Laurel Bryant/ Connie Barclay
	• RFMC activities ➢ Communication Committee collective efforts ➢ Individual Council efforts	Don McIsaac/Kitty Simonds
4:00 – 4:45	Other Business, updates, and next annual CCC Meeting	Manuel Duenas
4:45	Adjourn Meeting	

Moore, Christopher

From: Moore, Christopher
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 1:58 PM
To: COUNCIL - Voting; CouncilNonVoting; Staff-MAF
Subject: FW: National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

fyi

From: Praskovich, Alisa L. [mailto:APraskovich@ostp.eop.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 2:00 PM
Subject: National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Good Afternoon,

While a new year for some means eating healthier-including the abundant seafood from our Nation's waters - or exercising more on our beaches or in the surf, at the National Ocean Council, a new year brings new opportunities to work together to ensure better stewardship of the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes.

A healthy ocean and coasts are the foundation of a significant portion of the Nation's economy and are essential to public health and national security. Launching a new year of collaboration and action, today, the National Ocean Council released for public comment, the draft *National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan,* an action plan to address the most pressing challenges facing ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

Marking an important step in implementing the Nation's first comprehensive ocean policy, the draft *Implementation Plan* details more than 50 actions the Federal Government will take to improve the health of the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. The actions reflect ideas and input received by the National Ocean Council from many of you through extensive public and stakeholder engagement during two previous public comment periods, numerous listening sessions, and face to face meetings around the country.

The draft *Implementation Plan* will ensure the Federal Government targets its resources to more effectively deliver results for Americans, including more predictability for users, more efficient and coordinated decision-making, and better access to the most updated data and technology. The draft *Implementation Plan* focuses on promoting efficiency and collaboration, managing resources with an integrated approach, making available and using the best science and information, and supporting regional efforts and public-private partnerships. For each action, the *Implementation Plan* outlines key milestones, identifies responsible agencies, and indicates the expected timeframe for completion. Actions include:

- Improving the efficiency of ocean and coastal permitting processes;
- Improving water quality by reducing the impacts of trash, marine debris, and sources of excess nutrients, sediments, pollutants, and pathogens;
- Identifying and making available grant and partnership opportunities to support regional priorities;
- Providing locally tailored forecasts and vulnerability assessments of climate-change impacts on coastal communities; and
- Improving environmental response management in the Arctic;

We want to hear from you! To read the draft *Implementation Plan*, see the full range of proposed actions, and submit comments, please visit www.whitehouse.gov/oceans. The draft *Implementation Plan* will be available for public comments through February 27, 2012.

Help us make 2012 a year of clean beaches, abundant seafood and wildlife, expanded economic and recreational opportunities, preservation of our navigational rights and freedoms, and action to improve the health of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Michael Weiss, Acting Director
National Ocean Council Office

Moore, Christopher

From: John Williamson <john@seakeeper.org>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 8:50 AM
To: 'John Williamson'
Subject: Fishery Management Council member on Regional Planning Body

Good morning,

For those people following development of Regional Planning Bodies under the National Ocean Policy here is some welcome news for fisheries (bold-type added):

"As part of the Administration's efforts to implement a National Ocean Policy, the National Ocean Council recognizes the unique quasi-regulatory roles and expertise of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) regarding fisheries management, and is committed to the RFMCs' participation in Regional Planning Bodies in a substantial and meaningful way.

"That is why ***the National Ocean Council today informed the RFMCs' leadership that Regional Planning Body membership will be extended to the eight RFMCs.*** *Each RFMC will be asked to identify a Regional Planning Body representative who is either a Federal, State, tribal, or local government official serving as a voting member of a RFMC. RFMCs may also provide support as necessary to their Regional Planning Body member, including attendance by any RFMC member or staff at Regional Planning Body meetings. In addition, to ensure consideration of information developed by the RFMCs, each Regional Planning Body will establish a standing technical committee comprising the geographically-associated RFMC's scientific and technical experts.*

"Next steps: The National Ocean Council is in the final stages of developing guidance for State and tribal representatives to the Regional Planning Bodies. After this guidance is complete, the Council will coordinate with State, Tribal, and RFMC leaders on the establishment of the Regional Planning Bodies, and make this guidance publicly available.

"Background: Under the National Ocean Policy's coastal and marine spatial planning framework, the United States is subdivided into nine regional planning areas. Each region will have a corresponding Regional Planning Body consisting of Federal, State, and tribal representatives to develop regional goals, objectives, and ultimately regional coastal marine spatial plans. The framework for coastal and marine spatial planning as adopted by Executive Order 13547 requires Regional Planning Bodies to "provide a formal mechanism for consultation with RFMCs across their respective regions on fishery related issues given their unique statutory responsibilities under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and quasi-regulatory role in fisheries management." Accordingly, the National Ocean Council was asked to determine the best way to engage the Regional Fishery Management Councils in marine spatial planning, including potential membership on the Regional Planning Bodies."

On close reading you will see this is not a huge change in RPB membership composition. Likelihood is that one or more Federal or State fishery agency personnel who serve routinely on RFMCs will be tapped to serve on corresponding RBPs. What this does do, however, is establish a clear chain of responsibility for linkage to RFMC decision-making.

As you are probably aware, the National Ocean Council draft Implementation Plan is open for public comment until February 27. It can be found at:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans

The document is 118 pages long and somewhat general. Nevertheless, there are parts of it which are highly relevant to fisheries and deserve scrutiny.

Best regards,

John Williamson
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"To be creative requires divergent thinking (generating many unique ideas) and then convergent thinking (combining those ideas into the best result)."

Moore, Christopher

From:	Samuel Rauch <samuel.rauch@noaa.gov>
Sent:	Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:39 AM
To:	Robins, Rick; Anderson, Lee; Moore, Christopher
Cc:	wendi_weber@fws.gov; MacDonald, Joel; Morris, Daniel; Darcy, George; Kim Rivera; Stacey Nathanson; Lee Benaka
Subject:	Draft MOU for the Conservation of Migratory Bird Populations - Comments Due 4/13/12
Attachments:	EO 13186 MOU Council Review Draft (1.27.12).docx; EO 13186 Mig Bird.pdf

Messrs. Robins, Anderson and Moore:

Executive Order 13186 (EO) (attached) calls on Federal agencies that take actions that have, or are likely to have, a measureable negative effect on migratory bird populations to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that shall promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. While the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) initiated development of an MOU in 2001, NMFS was not able to complete a draft MOU at this time given limited NMFS staff resources and the implementation of seabird-related activities that had a higher priority than the finalization of the MOU.

In 2010, NMFS and FWS revitalized efforts to develop a MOU to conserve migratory bird populations as prescribed by E.O. 13186. After several months of drafting, NMFS and FWS have developed a draft that is ready for review by the Regional Fishery Management Councils. Programmatic and regional staff in both agencies have already had the opportunity to review and provide comments on this MOU. The draft that we have attached incorporates comments from staff and principals of both agencies. Please review this draft MOU and share it with your council members and staff for their review as well. Please submit your comments to Kim Rivera, NMFS National Seabird Coordinator, Kim.Rivera@noaa.gov, by no later than **April 13, 2012.**

The MOU includes provisions as specified in Section 3 (c-e) of the EO and follows a basic structure similar to other MOUs completed with other Federal agencies as per the EO. This draft MOU encompasses all relevant seabird-related NMFS activities and identifies specific areas of collaboration and cooperation with FWS: (A) seabird bycatch reduction, (B) information sharing and coordination, (C) international policy and diplomacy, and (D) habitat conservation.

Of particular importance to the Councils, is Section VI.A. of the MOU, which focuses on Seabird Bycatch Reduction. This section highlights the seabird-related provisions of the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program, as authorized by Section 316 of the MSA, and emphasizes the need for NMFS and FWS to work with the Councils to incorporate seabird bycatch reduction measures in FMPs, as appropriate. This MOU will also facilitate better data sharing and collaboration between NMFS and FWS in assessing and addressing seabird bycatch.

It is important to note that this MOU does not waive legal requirements under existing statutes and regulations. In addition, this MOU does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, separately enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

We appreciate your input on this MOU and welcome any comments you have on this document. If you have any questions, please call Kim Rivera at (907)586-7424.

Sincerely,

Samuel D. Rauch III

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

Attachments