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MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 2023 Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 7 – Thursday, February 9, 2023

The Hotel Washington
(515 15th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20004, 202-661-2400)
or via Webex webinar

This meeting will be an in-person meeting with a virtual option. Council members, other meeting participants, and members of the public will have the option to participate in person at The Hotel Washington or virtually via Webex webinar. Webinar connection instructions and briefing materials will be available at: https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/february-2023.

Tuesday, February 7th

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	**Executive Committee Meeting (*Closed Session*)** – Ricks E Savage Award
2:00 p.m.	***Council Convenes***
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	**NOAA Fisheries Overview** (Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries) – Update from NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	**Monkfish (Framework Adjustment 13 & Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program)** (Dr. Rachel Feeney, New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)) – Final action on 2023-2025 specifications and other measures, with consideration of additional NEFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) input on ABCs – Monkfish RSA - revisit 2023-2024 RSA priorities
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	**Squid Squad Update** (Kim Hyde and Anna Mercer, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC)) – Update on ongoing work of the "Squid Squad," a collaborative effort to continue advancing knowledge on *Illex* Squid.
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	***Illex* Permit Action Follow-Up** – Review NOAA Fisheries response to Council letter – Consider initiating any related 2023 actions
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	**Lessons Learned – Piloting an Automatic Jigging Machine in Southern New England Squid Fisheries (Longfin)** (Dr. David Bethoney, Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation) – Presentation on preliminary results, challenges faced, and lessons learned from this project

Wednesday, February 8th

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Update**
(Randy Blankinship, Chief, Atlantic HMS Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries)
- Recent and ongoing management initiatives
- Outcomes of the November 2022 International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Bluefish and Spiny Dogfish Research Track Assessments**
(Russ Brown, Supervisory Research Fishery Biologist, NEFSC, NOAA Fisheries)
- Overview of recently completed Track Assessments

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team**
(Coleen Coogan, Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries)
- Update and potential impacts to Mid-Atlantic Fisheries

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Financial Disclosure and Recusal Presentation**
(John Almeida, General Counsel, NOAA Fisheries)
- NOAA Guidance to Councils on Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusal

-------- Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. --------

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Industry Presentation**
(Roger Mann, Virginia Institute of Marine Science Site Director for SCEMFIS)
- Presentation by SCEMFIS on survey examining the composition of surfclam and quahog in clam beds from Ocean City, MD to south of Hudson Canyon.

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment**
- Review FMAT action plan for 2023 (i.e., next steps) for amendment development
- Review additional solutions/measures suggested by the Advisory Panel

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **NEFSC Cost Survey for Commercial Fishing Businesses Presentation**
(Samantha Werner, Economist, NOAA Fisheries)
- Update on the 2023 Northeast Commercial Fishing Cost Survey

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Overview**
(Liz Moore, Atlantic Region MREP Program Manager, Gulf of Maine Research Institute)
- Overview of the goals and accomplishments of the MREP program

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP) Presentation**
- Overview and purpose of NTAP
- Update on recent activities

Thursday, February 9th

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Business Session**

Committee Reports – SSC

Executive Director's Report (Dr. Chris Moore)
- Review and reappoint SSC membership

Organization Reports – NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Office of General Counsel, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard

Liaison Reports – New England Council, South Atlantic Council

Other Business and General Public Comment

This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change, as necessary. Other items may be added, but the Council cannot take action on such items even if the item requires emergency action without additional public notice. Non-emergency matters not contained in this agenda may come before the Council and / or its Committees for discussion, but these matters may not be the subject of formal Council or Committee action during this meeting. Council and Committee actions will be restricted to the issues specifically listed in this agenda. Any issues requiring emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that arise after publication of the Federal Register Notice for this meeting may be acted upon provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The meeting may be closed to discuss employment or other internal administrative matters.