



# **MAFMC Comprehensive Research Plan 2016-2020**

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# Mid-Atlantic Council Five-year Research Plan

- MSA requires each Council to submit multi-year research priorities to inform research planning and budgeting for NE Region

# **Mid-Atlantic Council Comprehensive Five-year Research Plan**

- Council in consultation the SSC first developed five year research plan in 2008
- Identified general and species/FMP specific research needs
- Since then Council embarked on Visioning Project

# Visioning Project Central Theme

- Lack of public confidence in the data and science that drive fishery management decisions.
- One of the major goals of the Council's Strategic Plan is *to ensure that Council management decisions are based on timely and accurate scientific data that are analyzed and modeled in a manner that improves management performance and build stakeholder confidence*
- Research plan modified to be responsive to Visioning Project recommendations

# **Visioning Project Central Themes**

- Stock Assessment Improvement
- Research to support measures to reduce/eliminate discards
- Social and economic data issues/MSEs
- Improving timeliness and accuracy of fishery data collection through electronic reporting
- Evaluation of Existing Quota Allocations

# Management Strategy Evaluation

- Evaluation of management strategies using simulation, is widely considered to be the most appropriate way to evaluate the trade-offs achieved by alternative management strategies and to assess the consequences of uncertainty for achieving management goals

# Management Strategy Evaluation

- A *comprehensive* management strategy evaluation of the current management system for Mid-Atlantic fisheries which incorporates social and economic considerations is warranted

# Management Strategy Evaluation

- High priority is given to the development and evaluation of management procedures that perform well in the absence of high quality stock assessment information and provide more stable streams of allowable catches over time
- MSEs warranted for both data rich and data poor stocks



# Council Review and Approval

- The Council reviewed the first draft at October 2015 meeting
- Only substantive comment was to add research needs for river herring and shad (as reflected in updated draft)

# **River herring and shad research needs**

Support data collection standardization efforts and improve methods to develop biological benchmarks used in assessment modeling & management (including catch caps) for RH/S stock

# River herring and shad research needs

Calculate and/or improve life stage-specific estimates of range-wide natural and human mortality rates, including fishing.

Collect information on the marine phases of RH/S specific to: migrations at sea (e.g., determination of river origin of individual catch in coastal/ocean independent surveys, tagging); determination of river origin of incidental catch in non-targeted ocean fisheries; and marine survival.

## **River herring and shad research needs**

Develop and/or evaluate innovative approaches for avoidance or monitoring river herring and/or shad (RH/S) catch in small mesh fisheries (e.g., environmental cues and bycatch avoidance, electronic monitoring and portside sampling)

# **Council Review and Approval**

- Need Council approval of research plan

# Questions?

