

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

October 15-18, 2012
Long Branch, NJ

SPINY DOGFISH



AMENDMENT 3

The Council adopted alternatives in Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP and approved the amendment for Secretarial action.

As adopted by both the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils, Amendment 3 will 1) include the dogfish fishery in the Research Set-Aside (RSA) program, 2) update Essential Fish Habitat definitions, 3) maintain existing management measures in the event of delayed rulemaking, and 4) reduce conflicts with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission management of dogfish in state waters by eliminating seasonal allocation of the coast wide commercial quota.

[Spiny Dogfish Amendment 3 Briefing Materials](#)

SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Council established management measures for the spiny dogfish fishery for the next three fishing years. Additionally, based on the assumed approval of Amendment 3, the Council recommended up to 3% of the commercial quota for RSA in 2014 and 2015. The amendment will not be in place in time to specify RSA for 2013. The New England Council will develop management measure recommendations at its November meeting.

The Mid-Atlantic Council recommended the following measures for spiny dogfish during the 2013-2015 fishing years:

Year	Domestic Allowable Biological Catch	Allowable Catch Limit	Annual Catch Target	Total Allowable Landings	Commercial Quota	Research Set-Aside	Trip Limit
	ABC	ACL	ACT	TAL		RSA	
(millions of pounds)							
2013	54.295	54.295	52.598	40.900	40.842	n/a	4,000 lb
2014	55.277	55.277	53.540	41.842	41.784	1.254	4,000 lb
2015	55.063	55.063	53.335	41.637	41.578	1.247	4,000 lb

Species and Issues Considered

Spiny Dogfish
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish
Visioning & Strategic Planning
Special Management Zones
Standardized bycatch reporting methodology

[View complete agenda](#)

2013 Meeting Schedule

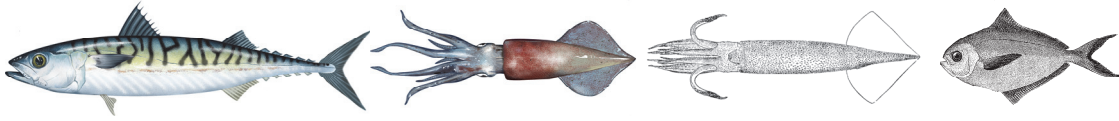
February 12-14, Hampton, VA
April 9-11, Raleigh, NC
June 11-13, Eatontown, NJ
August 13-15, Wilmington, DE
October 8-10, Montauk, NY
December 11-13, Annapolis, MD

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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[Spiny Dogfish Specification Briefing Materials](#)
[Spiny Dogfish Specification Press Release](#)

MACKEREL, SQUID, BUTTERFISH



FRAMEWORK ADJUSTMENTS 7 & 8

The Council discussed several modifications for the longfin squid fishery's butterfish mortality cap, and voted via Framework 7 to recommend changing it from a total catch cap to a discard cap. Higher levels of butterfish landings that are expected in 2013 could interfere with monitoring of a total catch cap. Since the cap will be reduced by the proportion of landings, and landings are monitored separately, overall control of butterfish mortality in the longfin squid fishery should remain the same. Several additional cap modifications for 2013 were discussed and will be voted on at the December 2012 Council meeting in Framework 8. Also, the Council will be holding a "Squid Summit" in January 2013 to evaluate ways to improve squid management, especially through real-time assessment and management.

[Framework Adjustment 7 & 8 Briefing Materials](#)

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES

OPTIONS FOR SMZ DESIGNATION OF DELAWARE ARTIFICIAL REEFS

The Council reviewed a proposed list of alternatives that related to the request by Delaware to have its five reef sites in the EEZ designated as Special Management Zones (SMZs) under provisions of Amendment 9 to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP. The range of alternatives discussed for consideration at public hearings ranged from no action to the designation of all five of Delaware's reef sites as SMZs for the entire year.

The Council decided to convene the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Industry Advisory Panel to receive their input relative to the alternatives to be included in the public hearing document. In addition, the Council requested that additional analyses and information be included in the public hearing draft including a description of the history and cost associated with the deployment of materials on Delaware reef sites in the EEZ. The Council will review a draft public hearing document at its December meeting and will schedule public hearings to address this issue in early 2013.

[SMZ Briefing Materials](#)

VISIONING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

VISIONING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKING GROUP

The Visioning and Strategic Planning Working Group met for the third in a series of meetings to develop a 10-year strategic plan for the Council. Participants in the working group include the Council's Visioning Committee members and stakeholders who are knowledgeable about commercial and recreational fisheries and environmental issues.

During the meeting, the working group finalized a draft mission statement and initiated development of goals, objectives, and strategies related to three topics: Economic and social data in the management process, Governance, and Regulatory Processes. Prior to each of the three discussions, Council staff provided a briefing on the relevant stakeholder input from the visioning project.

The working group agreed to allow a writing team to work on the strategic plan between meetings. The full working group is expected to meet two more times—once on November 12 and once on December 10-11—to complete a draft plan by the end of 2012 for public comment and full Council review. Following the approval of a full strategic plan, Council staff will develop a short-term tactical plan to guide the implementation of the strategic plan.

[Visioning and Strategic Planning Briefing Materials](#)

[Stakeholder Input Report \(July 2012\)](#)

OTHER BUSINESS

STANDARDIZED BYCATCH REPORTING METHODOLOGY

Doug Potts of the Northeast Regional Office provided a presentation of Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) alternatives for analysis and possible inclusion. The alternatives proposed would be included in the new SBRM Amendment under development to address deficiencies related to the prioritization process. The Council approved for analysis the list of SBRM alternatives as presented by the FMAT.

As background, the 2007 SBRM Omnibus Amendment was developed to address the requirement of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to establish a standardized bycatch reporting methodology. A legal challenge was filed by Oceana that eventually resulted in the Amendment being remanded to the agency in 2011. The Northeast Region Coordinating Council subsequently established a joint Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) to develop modifications to the prioritization process in the Omnibus Amendment as well as to make additional improvements in response to the 3-year review of the SBRM.

[View 2012 SBRM Alternatives for Analysis](#)

SCIENCE CENTER FOR MARINE FISHERIES

Dr. Roger Mann provided the Council with an overview of the proposed research agenda at the Science Center for Marine Fisheries. SCeMFIS is a proposed National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center that would conduct cooperative research under the direction and oversight of industry partners. Several Mid-Atlantic processors and industry associations in the Mid-Atlantic region have already committed to partnerships and associate partnerships with SCeMFIS, including Garden State Seafood Association, the National Fisheries Institute Clam Committee, Lund's Fisheries, Wallace & Associates, L.D. Amory and Company, and LaMonica Fine Foods.

[SCeMFIS Website](#)

SCIENCE REPORT: STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

Council staff gave an update on the development of a guidance document for implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Staff recommended that a working group be formed to develop background material to assist the Council in the formulation of policy and management approaches in an operational guide. Based on Council input, SSC discussions, and recommendations made by stakeholders during the Visioning process, staff recommended that the effort initially focus on 5 key issues as they each relate to the Council's fisheries management decisions: 1) Forage/low trophic level species; 2) Species interactions (competition, predation); 3) Social economic considerations; 4) Effects of systematic changes in oceanographic conditions; 5) Habitat conservation and management objectives.

[Science report Briefing Materials](#)

LISTENING SESSION: CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

The presentation at this meeting's listening session was provided by Sean Dixon and Cindy Zipf, representatives from the non-profit coalition Clean Ocean Action (COA). COA has been instrumental in shutting down dump sites in Mid-Atlantic waters, and they are now striving to permanently protect the waters of the New Jersey/New York Bight with the Clean Ocean Zone Bill. During the business session, the Council passed a motion to support the COA.

[Clean Ocean Zone Presentation](#)

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:
DECEMBER 11-13, 2012
BALTIMORE, MD**