



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council 2020-2024 Strategic Planning Process

Background

In August 2013, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council adopted its first-ever strategic plan to guide its activities from 2014 through 2018. The plan includes a series of goals and objectives that were informed by an extensive stakeholder outreach process, including an online survey, position letters and roundtable meetings to gather public input. The 2014-2018 Strategic Plan is organized around four goal areas: Communication, Science, Management and Governance. Each area includes several objectives and associated strategies to advance progress toward a particular goal.

In October 2018, the Council began the process to develop a strategic plan for the years 2020 through 2024. The new strategic plan will be informed by progress on the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan, stakeholder feedback, and management partner outreach.

Stakeholder Feedback Process

Stakeholder input was instrumental in building the existing strategic plan framework that will serve as the foundation for the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. Obtaining stakeholder feedback regarding how the Council has performed, as well as identifying new challenges and opportunities for the next five years, is a critical piece of the process. The Council is using the following tools to help gather this input:

- **Online stakeholder survey**: The Council conducted an online stakeholder survey from January 23, 2019 through March 8, 2019. The survey asked stakeholders to rate how well the Council has performed relative to the current plan, and to suggest priorities, opportunities and challenges for the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.
- **Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical (SSC) Meetings**: Preliminary results of the online survey will be presented to all of the Council's advisory panels via webinar, as well as to the SSC. The intent is to give advisors and the SSC the opportunity to review and provide additional feedback regarding performance under the current (2014-2018) and future priorities.
- **Port meetings/public input sessions**: The Council will also hold three in-person public meetings (Narragansett, RI; Toms River, NJ; Hampton, VA) and one general public webinar for stakeholders to provide feedback on the previous five years and recommendations for future priorities. Similar to the advisory panel webinars, participants will initially receive a presentation on the survey results. The meeting schedule can be found at: <http://www.mafmc.org/newsfeed/2019/strategic-plan-public-meetings-spring-2019>.

Public input from the survey, webinars and in-person meetings will be compiled into a report and presented to the Council during its June 2019 meeting for review.

Timeline

- **Stakeholder feedback**: Webinars and in-person public input sessions will occur between April 12 and May 21, 2019 (see Council calendar at www.mafmc.org for dates).
- **June 2019 Council Meeting**: Presentation of survey results and stakeholder feedback for Council review.
- **August 2019 Council Meeting**: Presentation of draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan to Council for review and approval for public input.
- **August–September 2019**: Stakeholder input on draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.
- **October 2019 Council Meeting**: Presentation of stakeholder feedback and approval of final 2020-2024 Strategic Plan (with modifications as directed by the Council).