# MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL
## 2012 Planned Council Meeting Topics

**April 10-12, 2012 -- Duck, NC**

- Adopt Tilefish Specifications for 2013
- Adopt Framework 5 to the Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish FMP 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
- Adopt Framework 6 to the Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish FMP to revise a provision of Council risk policy related to the Omnibus Amendment (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
- 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
- Scoping meeting for Highly Migratory Species Amendment 7 FMP
- SBRM Alternatives
- ~~Review scup allocation project results~~

**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 and approve final measures for Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP~~
- Review Public Hearing Draft 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)
- Review scup allocation project results

**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
- Review Public Hearing comments and/or Adopt/Approve Amendment 17 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP (black sea bass recreational management)

**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 COUNCIL
## 2012 Schedule of Events

**May**

| | |
|---|---|
| May 1-2 | ICCAT Advisory Committee Species Working Group, Silver Spring, MD |
| May 3 | Garden State Seafood Workshop, Tuckerton, NJ |
| May 7 | SMB AP Fishery Performance Report, Baltimore, MD |
| May 8-11 | Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum, Beaufort, NC |
| May 15 | SMB Amendment 14 Public Hearing, Riverhead, NY |
| May 16 | SMB Amendment 14 Public hearing, Newport News, VA |
| May 17 | SMB Amendment 14 Public Hearing, Cape May, N J |
| May 21 | SMB Amendment 14 Public Hearing, Gloucester, MA |
| May 21-22 | NRCC Meeting, Providence, RI |
| May 22 | SMB Amendment 14 Public Hearing, Warwick, RI |
| May 23-24 | SSC Meeting - ABC recommendations for SMB and SC/OQ, Baltimore, MD |
| May 30 | Summer Flounder MSE Feedback Workshop, Baltimore, MD |

**June**

| | |
|---|---|
| Jun 5-8 | Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW), Washington, DC |
| Jun 6 | Herring Committee Meeting, Plymouth, MA |
| Jun 11-12 | Fisheries GIT, Annapolis, MD |
| Jun 11-15 | South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Orlando, FL |
| Jun 12-14 | MPA Federal Advisory Committee, Silver Spring, MD |
| Jun 11-14 | Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, New York, NY |
| Jun 19-21 | New England Fishery Management Council Meeting, Portland, ME |
| Jun 27 | SF/SCUP/BSB/Bluefish AP Fishery Performance Reports, Linthicum, MD |

**July**

| | |
|---|---|
| Jul 11-13 | Developing a New International Architecture for Maritime Policy, NY, NY |
| Jul 25-26 | SSC Meeting - ABC recommendations for SF/SCUP/BSB/Bluefish, Baltimore, MD |
| Jul 27 | SF/SCUP/BSB/Bluefish Monitoring Committee Meetings, Baltimore, MD |

**August**

| | |
|---|---|
| Aug 7-9 | Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting, Alexandria, VA |
| Aug 14-16 | Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Philadelphia, PA |
| Aug 19-23 | American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, St. Paul, Minnesota |
| Aug 29-30 | Modeling Protogynous Hermaphrodites Workshop, Raleigh, NC |

# 2013 Council Meeting Schedule

| | |
|---|---|
| February 12-14, 2013: | Embassy Suites Hampton Roads<br>1700 Coliseum Drive<br>Hampton, VA 23666<br>757-827-8200 |
| April 9-11, 2013: | Embassy Suites Raleigh Crabtree<br>4700 Creedmoor Rd.<br>Raleigh, NC 27612<br>919-881-0000 |
| June 11-13, 2013: | Double Tree by Hilton Tinton Falls-Eatontown<br>700 Hope Rd.<br>Eatontown, NJ 07724<br>732-544-9300 |
| August 13-15, 2013: | Double Tree by Hilton Wilmington<br>4727 Concord Pike<br>Wilmington, DE 19803<br>302-351-5503 |
| October 8-10, 2013: | Montauk Yacht Club<br>32 Star Island Road<br>PO Box 5048<br>Montauk, NY 11954<br>888-698-8668 |
| December 10-12, 2013: | The Westin Annapolis<br>100 Westgate Circle<br>Annapolis, MD 21401<br>410-972-4300 |

# Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Specifications

**(As of May 31, 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<br>· Commercial<br>· Recreational | 08/18/10<br>12/15/10 | 10/01/10[b]<br>02/17/11 | 11/17/10<br>04/21/11 | 12/28/10<br>06/30/11 | 08/17/11<br>12/14/11 | 10/02/11<br>03/18/12 | Interim Rule:<br>12/30/11<br>04/30/12 | 04/23/12<br>05/23/12 | | | | |
| Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish | 06/09/10 | 07/19/10 | 11/17/10 | 02/14/11 | 06/15/11 | 08/09/11 | 10/26/11 | 03/21/12 | | | | |
| Dogfish | 10/13/10 | 01/28/11 | 03/17/11 | 06/07/11 | 10/12/11 | 01/27/12 | 03/19/12 | 05/22/12 | | | | |
| Bluefish | 08/18/10 | 11/29/10 | 01/14/11 | 03/31/11 | 08/17/11 | 12/02/11 | 02/15/12 | 04/27/12 | | | | |
| 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.

# Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
## Status of FMPs, Amendments and Frameworks
**(As of May 30, 2012)**

| FMP/Amendment | Date Approved by Council | Lapse | Date submitted to NMFS/NERO | Lapse | FR Notice of Plan Availability | Lapse | Proposed Rule Publication Date | Lapse | Plan Approval/Disapproval Letter | Lapse | Final Rule Publication Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Framework 5 | **04/12/12** | **5** | **04/17/12** | | | | | | | | |
| Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Framework 6 | **04/12/12** | **5** | **04/17/12** | | | | | | | | |
| Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Amendment 14 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Amendment 15 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dogfish Amendment 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |

"Lapse" is the amount of time in days from Council approval to column-heading action.

***Status of Open Amendment/Framework Actions***
***(as of May 31, 2012)***

| FMP | AMD\FW | Issues Addressed |
|---|---|---|
| Squid / Mackerel / Butterfish | Amendment 14 | *Alosine* incidental catch |
| Summer Flounder/ Scup/Black Sea Bass | Amendment 17 | Spatial/regional management of black sea bass recreational fishery |
| Dogfish | Amendment 3 | Authorize RSA program<br>Consider alternatives to seasonal quotas<br>Limited Access<br>Quota Rollover<br>EFH Definitions |
| Surfclam/ Ocean Quahog | Amendment 15 | Cost Recovery<br>EFH updates<br>Ocean Quahog overfishing definition |
| | Amendment 16 | Excessive shares and ownership disclosure |

**Draft Action Plan (as of 5/15/12)**
**To Develop an Amendment to Address**
**Spatial and Regional Management of the**
**Black Sea Bass Recreational Fishery**

**Council:** Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

**Additional expertise sought:**

| Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Agency** | **Role** | **Person** |
| MAFMC | FMAT Chair | Jessica Coakley, Jose Montanez |
| ASMFC | Fisheries Management | Toni Kerns |
| NMFS NERO | General Counsel | Joel MacDonald |
| NMFS NERO | Sustainable Fisheries | Moira Kelly |
| NMFS NERO | NEPA | Katie Richardson |
| NMFS NERO | Habitat | Consulted as needed |
| NMFS NERO | Protected Resources | |
| NMFS NERO | Fisheries Statistics (FSO) | |
| NMFS S&T NEFSC | Stock Assessment/Technical | Gary Shepherd |
| NMFS S&T NEFSC | Socioeconomics | Consulted as needed |

**Title of Action:** Amendment 17 to the Summer flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP.

**Purpose and Need:** The purpose of this amendment is to develop measures for regional and spatial management of the black sea bass recreational fishery. Currently, the recreational fishery can only be managed under coastwide measures (i.e., minimum fish size, per-angler possession limits, and fishing seasons) for Federal waters. More discreet management approaches are necessary to better address the observed regional differences in catch rates, variability in the effectiveness of regulations among regions, and their impact on the recreational fishery to better ensure that consistent measures can be made available across both state and Federal waters, and ensure that the objectives of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP and the requirements of the MSA continue to be met. The need for this amendment relates to a desire by the Council and ASMFC to expand the suite of management tools available for management of the black sea bass recreational fishery.

**Fisheries that apply:** Black sea bass recreational fishery only.

**Types of Measures Expected to be Considered:** At this time, the FMAT will be developing a wide range of management options for the Council to consider. These could include, but are not limited to:

- Recreational management regions, including regional harvest limits and consistent management measures (i.e., minimum sizes, possession limits, and open seasons) within region.

- State-by-state management, including state-specific harvest limit allocations and state-specific management measures.

- Alternatives which require program review and/or sunset clause for revisiting of management programs.

- Alternative approaches to application of minimum size and possession limits to enable for more balanced harvest of sexes. [FMAT recommends postponement of this issue to future action given timing available to complete Amendment in 2013]

- Spatial and/or temporal management with spawning closures. [FMAT recommends postponement of this issue to future action given timing available to complete Amendment in 2013]

**Type of NEPA Analysis Expected**: Council will develop an EA; if, during the development of the EA or at such time that the analysis indicates a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) statement cannot be supported, the Council will initiate the development of an EIS.

| Acronym | NEPA Analysis | Requirements |
|---|---|---|
| **EA** | Environmental Assessment | NEPA applies, no scoping required, public hearings required |
| **EIS** | Environmental Impact Statement | NEPA applies, scoping required, public hearings required |

## Applicable laws/issues:

| | |
|---|---|
| Magnuson-Stevens Act | Yes |
| Administrative Procedures Act | Yes |
| Regulatory Flexibility Act | Yes |
| Paperwork Reduction Act | Possibly; depends on data collection needs |
| Coastal Zone Management Act | Yes |
| Endangered Species Act | Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken |
| Marine Mammal Protection Act | Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken |
| E.O. 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) | Yes |
| E.O. 12630 (Takings) | Possibly; legal review will confirm |
| E.O. 13132 (Federalism) | Possibly; legal review will confirm |
| Essential Fish Habitat | Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken |
| Information Quality Act | Yes |

**Timing Issues:** The target implementation date for these measures is the recreational fishery in 2013. The addition of other issues may elevate analyses to an EIS and/or slow the amendment development process.

**Timeline for development/review/implementation:**

| Action | Timeline, based on current Council meeting schedule |
|---|---|
| MAFMC Meeting (Council review and adopt public hearing draft); ASMFC Board consider complementary amendment initiation | August 2012 |
| Public hearings and summarization of comments (need at least 21 days of FR notice and 30 days comment period with hearings) | September 2012 |
| MAFMC Meeting (Approve/adopt amendment) | October 2012 |
| Staff submits to NMFS for secretarial approval | October/November 2012 |
| Final rule effective | May/June 2013 |

# Action Plan (as of 12/05/11)
# Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP

*Special Note: The following presumes that Amendment 3 will occur* ***without the limited access issue*** *which would be addressed in a subsequent action. An alternative timeline is available that would include limited access among the other management issues in Amendment 3 and would likely delay implementation by one year.*

**Council(s):** Mid-Atlantic (lead), New England

**Spiny Dogfish Committee Membership:** Red Munden (Chair), Frank Blount (Vice-Chair), Erling Berg, Pete Himchak, Mike Luisi, Pres Pate, Jack Travelstead, David Pierce (staffed by Jim Armstrong)

**Council Leadership:** Rick Robins and Lee Anderson (MAFMC), Rip Cunningham (NEFMC)

**Others:** Vince O'Shea (ASMFC), Patricia Kurkul (NMFS-NERO)

**Additional expertise sought:**

| Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Agency** | **Role** | **Person** |
| MAFMC | FMAT Chair | Jim Armstrong |
| ASMFC | Spiny Dogfish Staff Lead | Chris Vonderweidt |
| NMFS NERO | General Counsel | Joel MacDonald |
| NMFS NERO | Sustainable Fisheries – NERO liason | Tobey Curtis |
| NMFS NERO | Habitat | David Stevenson |
| NMFS NERO | Protected Resources | Kevin Madley |
| NMFS NERO | NEPA | Brian Hooper |
| NMFS NERO | Fisheries Statistics (FSO) | Lorraine Spenle |
| NMFS NEFSC | Stock Assessment/Technical | Kathy Sosebee |
| NMFS NEFSC | Socioeconomics | Scott Steinback |

**Title of Action:** Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan

**Problem Statement/Objective of Action:** The Council is developing a document that will address several issues that concern the spiny dogfish fishery.

**Types of Measures Expected to be Considered:** At this time, the Council is considering 1) establishing a research set-aside allowance for annual specifications, 2) alternative allocation schemes for the commercial quota, 3) EFH update, 4) provision that would maintain the existing quota pending specification

**Type of NEPA Analysis Expected**: Because of the inclusion of limited access, an **EA** would be prepared.

**Applicable laws/issues:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Magnuson-Stevens Act | Yes |
| Administrative Procedures Act | Yes |
| Regulatory Flexibility Act | Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken |
| Paperwork Reduction Act | Possibly; depends on data collection needs |
| Coastal Zone Management Act | Possibly; depends upon effects of the action on the resources of coastal states in the management unit |
| Endangered Species Act | Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken |
| Marine Mammal Protection Act | Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken |
| E.O. 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) | Possibly; depends upon whether there are implementing regulations |
| E.O. 12630 (Takings) | Possibly; legal review will confirm |
| E.O. 13132 (Federalism) | Possibly; legal review will confirm |
| Essential Fish Habitat | Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken |
| Information Quality Act | Yes |

**Other issues:** Since a substantial component of the spiny dogfish fishery occurs in state waters and is managed by the ASMFC, Amendment 3 to the Federal plan will have to consider developments in that component of the fishery.

**Timing:** The target implementation date for these measures is May 1, 2013. The timeline is given below.

**Timeline for development/review/implementation:**

| | MILESTONES | DATES |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Staff begins work on background material for amendment document (description of habitat, etc.) | Already completed |
| 2. | Joint Committee/AP Meeting to identify issues | |
| 3. | Committee reports to Council and **Council initiates development of Amendment 1** | |
| 4. | NERO prepares NEPA determination memo (EA vs. EIS) | |
| 5. | NOI is published assuming NERO determines EIS is needed | |
| 6. | Scoping | |
| 7. | Development of alternatives | |
| 8. | **Council approves alternatives for analysis in DEIS** | |
| 9. | Staff/FMAT analysis of alternatives for Council consideration | MAY-JUN 2012 |
| 10. | Public hearings | JUL 2012 |
| 11. | **Council receives public hearing comments, approves final measures** | AUG 2012 |
| 12. | **NE Council approves final document** | SEP 2012 |
| 13. | **MA Council approves final document** | OCT 2012 |
| 14. | Council submits Amendment 3 to NMFS, begin formal review | NOV 2012 |
| 15. | Implementation | MAY 1, 2013 |

**Outcome Statements and Recommendations**

**Council Coordination Committee**
**May 1-3, 2012**

Mauna Lani Bay Hotel
68-1400 Mauna Lani Drive
Kohala Coast, Island of Hawaii (Big Island)
www.fisherycouncils.org/CCC/CCC.htm
www.wpcouncil.org

**ESA Jeopardy Determination in Fisheries Management**

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) agrees that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) measures affecting fisheries (including listing, critical habitat designation, Section 7 consultation and development of biological opinions) should be accomplished through a process that includes a much higher level of transparency and public involvement than is typical at present. The CCC believes an enhanced National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC) partnership should be established to ensure consistent involvement by the Councils in ESA determinations and consultations well before rules and biological opinions are published.

1. The CCC recommends that a RFMC/NMFS/Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) Working Group be established to make recommendations to the CCC on a policy and best practices designed to effectively and consistently integrate the Councils in the ESA consultation process in order to achieve a high level of transparency and improve stakeholder confidence in the ESA consultation process related to U.S. marine fisheries.

   The Working Group should identify options that would integrate the Councils and their attendant committees and advisory bodies, as appropriate, into the ESA consultation process consistently and to the maximum extent practicable under relevant federal laws. The Working Group should also identify mechanisms to consistently include Council consultation in negotiated settlements resulting from litigation under the ESA.

2. The CCC recommends sending a letter to NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco containing the following:

- The CCC agrees with the NOAA Scientific Integrity Policy that calls for achieving a greater level of public confidence and trust in the science used in federal decision making and, especially, ESA implementation.
- The recent Biological Opinion on Lower Columbia River Tule Fall Chinook Salmon, authorizing an abundance-based approach to determine incidental take allowances as recommended subsequent to a public process at the Pacific Council, has been widely viewed as a great public policy success and represents a model to be used to achieve the

objectives of the new Science Policy. The process followed in this case substantially improved understanding of the risk assessment science, the trust that a complete analysis had occurred, and the perception of fair treatment of healthy fishery policy issues, which were all key in the broad support of the biological opinion. Such a transparent process, however, is currently an exception more than a norm across all Councils, as seen in the case of recent consultation processes for the Hawaii longline fishery and Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery.

- With respect to jeopardy determinations, the ultimate goal should be to use an abundance-based metric. NMFS should continue to strive for greater clarity in biological opinions, by developing models to evaluate fishery impact against absolute population abundance, providing better explanations of the level of scientific certainty in the jeopardy determinations, and improving protected species stock assessments.
- CCC recommendation for establishing a RFMC/NMFS/MAFAC Working Group

**Outcome Statements and Recommendations**

**Council Coordination Committee**
**May 1-3, 2012**

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## Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) recommends that a letter be sent to the National Ocean Council (NOC) acknowledging the NOC's determination that the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMC) shall be members of the Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs). The letter shall also recognize the NOC's determination that RFMCs have unique and important roles in management of the nation's fisheries and that the RFMCs will provide valuable expertise and knowledge about the wide array of marine resources that are vital to coastal communities and local economies. In addition to the above, the letter shall include the following points:

1. That the limitation of RFMC representatives to the RPB be restricted to only Federal, State, Tribal, or local government members of the RFMCs may result in conflicts between Council positions and the positions of these other jurisdictions, which could put RFMC representatives in potentially difficult and ineffective positions. For example, a state Director of Fisheries representing a Council could find him/herself in opposition to the view of their Governor. Therefore, the CCC requests NOC reevaluate this restriction in the light of the RFMCs' standing as executive agencies of the Department of Commerce, which could resolve the apparent FACA concerns.

2. That further implementation of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) shall not reduce the funding for core NMFS programs and functions, nor in any way diminish the regulatory authorities of the RFMCs over fisheries in each region.

3. That the CCC supports that members of Science and Statistical Committees (SSC) of the RFMCs may be included in the standing technical committees of the RPBs, but the CCC does not support SSCs being the sole scientific advisory committee of the RPBs due to funding constraints, existing SSC workloads, and meeting schedules.

**Outcome Statements and Recommendations**

**Council Coordination Committee**
**May 1-3, 2012**

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## Stock Assessment

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) believes that the current state of stock assessments in its respective regions is inadequate to cope with the Councils' management needs. In consideration of the diverse information needs between the different Council regions, the CCC recommends a letter be sent to Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting a description of the decision process on whether advanced technology is warranted to attain information needed for stock assessments. The letter should include a recommendation that NMFS consider the basic data collection programs. The CCC requests NMFS that the funds intended for the Science Centers' Stock Assessment Programs be appropriately allocated for the Centers to carry out regular stock assessments so that the Councils adequately meet their management mandates.

## National SSC Working Group

Recognizing the importance and benefits in the creation of the National Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Working Group (WG):

1. The CCC recommends the creation of a National SSC whose membership would be comprised of the eight SSC Chairs (or their designees) and a senior NMFS staff as an ex-officio member. Technical support for this committee would be provided by personnel from the NMFS Office of Science and Technology and Council staff.
2. The CCC recommends the development of Standard Operating Practices and Procedures which would govern the operations of the National SSC and terms of reference to direct its activities.
3. The National SSC would be tasked with the development of a prospectus for proposed Working Groups and topics for future National SSC Workshops in consultation with the CCC. These proposals would be reviewed and approved by the CCC as part of the specification of Terms of Reference (TOR) and could be sponsored by one of the Councils or brought to NMFS for consideration for sponsorship.
4. The membership of national WGs approved by the CCC would be populated based on nominations from each Council's SSC (maximum of one SSC member per Council) and one member from NMFS. The Chair of the WG would be appointed by the National SSC (selected from the WG roster). The WG would submit a final report to the CCC that

would include recommendations to address the TOR. The final report may be subject to external peer review, the level of which would be determined on a case—by—case basis based on agreement between the CCC and NMFS. Following peer review of the WG report, the report would be published as a NMFS Technical Memorandum, or other appropriate mechanism, such that it meets the requirements for formal national technical guidance to the Councils.

New England
Fishery Management Council

MID-ATLANTIC

CFMC

Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council

## Outcome Statements and Recommendations

### Council Coordination Committee
### May 1-3, 2012

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### Five--Year Research Priorities

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) requests National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) clarify and provide the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMC) with information regarding the process in which the Five--Year Research Priorities developed by the Councils are considered by their respective NMFS Science Center when developing its research priorities and budgets. The respective Science Center should report back to the RFMC on what research had been addressed. The CCC also requests that the Councils be collaboratively involved in the development of the Science Plan of their respective Science Center to ensure that the priorities of the respective Council are adequately incorporated in the plan.

**Outcome Statements and Recommendations**

**Council Coordination Committee**
**May 1-3, 2012**

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## International Fisheries Management

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) acknowledges that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is working on its second report to Congress in regards to certification (positive or negative) of nations with respect to equivalent measures to the United States in relation to preventing illegal, undocumented and unreported (IUU) fishing, bycatch of protected living marine resources, or shark catches on the high seas.

In its first report to Congress on this issue, NMFS did not negatively certify any nation, which does not align with generally accepted understanding that many nations importing seafood into the US market are not on the same playing field as US fisheries with respect to data collection and monitoring, safety—at--sea requirements, protected species mitigation, and other management measures.

Therefore, the CCC recommends that NMFS enhance its activities to identify nations that do not implement equivalent measures, which may result in the leveling of playing fields between US and foreign fisheries.

The CCC further recommends that NMFS work with the US fishing industry to develop underutilized fisheries, and notes that such a program is identified in Section 2(a)(7) and Section (2)(b)(6) of the MSA. Promoting US fisheries development for underutilized fisheries may benefit target and non-target stocks and protected species through transferred effects as well as promote employment in coastal communities and enhance local food security.

**Outcome Statements and Recommendations**

**Council Coordination Committee**
**May 1-3, 2012**

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## Budget

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) recommends the 2013 budget remain the same as in 2012 at $28.4 million. The CCC further recommends that the budget be consolidated in a single line item. The Councils will be developing a position paper to outline the reasoning behind the CCC recommendation. The rationale includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. The proposed reduction in the Councils' budget is not justified with the completion of the amendments incorporating Annual Catch Limits;
2. The proposed 2013 budget proposes to bring additional stock assessment, monitoring, and ecosystem assessment information to the regional Councils for decision making;
3. At a time when the National Marine Fisheries Service total budget is proposed to be stable, the Councils total budget should also be stable.

**Outcome Statements and Recommendations**

**Council Coordination Committee**
**May 1-3, 2012**

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## Communications

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) recommends that the Councils communications committee hold face-to-face meeting annually to discuss shared best practices and ways to improve regional and national communication. Items that could be developed at the next meeting include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Improve effectiveness of the RFMC website (fisherycouncils.org) as resources allow, e.g., adding videos, content management and social media.

2. In a significant and timely manner, improve regional and national communications coordination between the Councils and NOAA, to ensure accuracy of information as well as recognition of the Councils in the management process.

The CCC also recommends the Councils support the following efforts:

1. Coordinate a solid communication plan/strategy for the NC3 conference, including media news releases after the conference, the lead being the Pacific Council. Plan for a joint Council booth in addition to regional Councils booths and a National Marine Fisheries Service booth at the conference; Develop a twitter hashtag for the conference.

2. Facilitate the use of social media tools (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) at the individual RFMC level.

3. Ensure the Council websites are linked to the RFMC website (fisherycouncils.org) and encourage NOAA Fisheries to do the same.

4. Cultivate relationships to promote Council communications regionally and nationally with other government and non-governmental organization offices.

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CFMC

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**Outcome Statements and Recommendations**

**Council Coordination Committee**
**May 1-3, 2012**

Mauna Lani Bay Hotel
68-1400 Mauna Lani Drive
Kohala Coast, Island of Hawaii (Big Island)
www.fisherycouncils.org/CCC/CCC.htm
www.wpcouncil.org

**Managing Our Nation's Fisheries Conference III (NC3)**

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) agrees on the top three theme areas and nine focus topics for NC3 to occur first week of May 2013. The three theme areas for NC3 will include Improving Fishery Management Essentials, Advancing Ecosystem-Based Decision Making, and Providing for Fishing Community Sustainability. Implementation processes will proceed as soon as possible. The themes, topics and conference structure will be posted on the NC3 website in the near future.

## Outcome Statements and Recommendations

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### May 1-3, 2012

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### Electronic Monitoring

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) acknowledges that several Council/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regions have conducted studies and programs related to video monitoring and electronic reporting. The CCC also recognizes that NMFS is developing white papers in 2012 to address the following topics:

1. Analysis of Existing Electronic Monitoring Technologies/Programs
2. Enforcement Issues/Impediments
3. Legal/Confidentiality Concerns
4. Research & Development Requirements
5. Re-alignment of Management and Monitoring
6. Funding Options

The CCC establishes a CCC subcommittee soon after the 2012 annual meeting to consider cross-cutting issues between regions in relation to the implementation of video monitoring and other forms of electronic monitoring, and make recommendations to the CCC at the interim meeting in January 2013.

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## Council Coordination Committee
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### Consultation with GAO on Moving National Marine Fisheries Service into the US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) recommends sending a request to the GAO to consult with the CCC in the development of its study on moving National Marine Fisheries Service into the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Outcome Statements and Recommendations

**Council Coordination Committee**
**May 1-3, 2012**

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### National Standard 1 Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making

The Council Coordinating Committee recommends that the Council Executive Directors coordinate a response letter from the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils on the recent National Standard 1 advanced notice of proposed rulemaking.

# 2012 SPRING NRCC MEETING AGENDA

**Day 1--Monday, May 21**

*Approximate time: 13:00-13:10*

1. Welcome, introductions, modifications and additions to agenda, announcements (Morris, Karp, Ruccio)

*13:10-13:45*

2. Fall meeting carryover item: Update on Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to modify vessel baseline requirements (i.e., 10/10/20 upgrade rules)
    a. Overview of comments received on ANPR (Doug Potts, NERO)
    b. Discuss next steps for action (Morris, Darcy, NRCC)

*13:45-15:15*

3. Atlantic Sturgeon-Related Discussion:
    a. Update on biological opinion analyses, completion timeline (Morris, Damon-Randall)
    b. NEFMC and ASMFC motions for review of listing and biological opinions (NRCC discussion)
    c. Relationship between Federal/Council ESA listing response through Section 7 process (Morris, Damon-Randall)
    d. State response through Section 10 process (Damon-Randall; Beal)
    e. General plenary discussion on sturgeon issues, Council and Commission processes to address take mitigation, etc. (NRCC)

*15:15-15:30 - Break*

*15:30-16:00*

4. NEFSC Social Sciences Branch-developed recreational fisheries bioeconomic model (Karp and NEFSC staff):
    a. Develop plan for NEFMC and/or MAFMC SSC peer-review of model
    b. Discuss potential timing issues for 2013 recreational management measures development

*16:00-16:30*

5. General Planning Discussion Items:
    a. Coordination of MAFMC and ASMFC meeting weeks—objective: Modify schedules to avoid back-to-back meeting weeks (Moore, Beal)
    b. Black sea bass Amendment 17 development and implementation timing (Moore, Beal)
    c. Budget impact effects on priority setting (NRCC)
    d. Science Center Strategic Planning (NEFSC)

*16:30-17:00*

6. Update on Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Approaches:
    a. Update on MAFMC activities/development (Moore, Robins)
    b. Update on NEFMC activities/development (Howard, Cunningham)
    c. General discussion and planning (NRCC)

*17:00-17:30*

7. Stock Assessment Related Topics:
    a. Scallop Survey Issues (Karp, Howard):
        i. Discuss NEFMC motion pertaining to the adequacy of habcam use in annual scallop surveys
        ii. Discuss scope and process for peer review process

*17:30*

Conclude Day 1

Evening Event --- 18:30 Dinner at Bravo Brasserie, 123 Empire Street Providence

**Day 2--Tuesday, May 22**

*08:30-10:30*

Stock Assessment Related Topics Continued:

b. Review, discuss, and revise, as needed, assessment schedule for next 12-18 months, including SARCs 55-57 (December 2012-December 2013); Mid-Atlantic Operational Assessments; NEFSC special topics; TRAC participation (Karp and NEFSC staff).
   Specific topics:
   i. Implications of removing white hake from SARC 55; discuss rescheduling or alternatives to benchmark assessment approach
   ii. Timing, TORs, and potential process for incorporating cod stock structure analysis
   iii. MRIP calibration update (Boreman); discuss integrating MRIP information into stock assessments (NRCC)

c. Operational Assessment Process (Karp and NEFSC staff)
   i. lessons learned from pilot groundfish process
   ii. schedule for upcoming operational assessments
   iii. schedule for upcoming research track

d. Additional assessment-related discussions, as needed (NRCC)

*10:30-10:45 - Break*

*10:45-11:15*

8. 2012 Proposed Sea-Day Discussion (Karp, Rago)

*11:15-11:45*

9. Catch Monitoring Discussion:
   a. Councils and Commission overview of monitoring needs emphasizing potential shortfalls and anticipated future challenges (Howard/Cunningham, Moore/Robins, Beal)
   b. General discussion: Can more be done with less with respect to monitoring? (NRCC)

*11:45-12:15*

10. NEFMC Fishery Performance Evaluation in Response to Touchstone Report (Howard/Cunningham)

*12:15-12:20*

11. Deep Sea Coral Protection Coordination Discussion (minimal discussion):
   a. Overview of recent MAFMC and NEFSC coral protection discussions and actions (Moore/Robins, Howard/Cunningham)
   b. General coordination and planning discussion (NRCC)

*12:20-12:30*

12. Unfinished business, additional topics, review action items, adjourn meeting (Morris, Karp)