



2020 Planned Council Meeting Topics

Updated 3/23/20

April 2020 Council Meeting: April 7-8, 2020 (Webinar)

- Climate Change Scenario Planning: Introduction to Scenario Planning and Plan for Potential East Coast/Mid-Atlantic Scenario Planning Exercise
- Blueline Tilefish 2021 Specifications Review
- Golden Tilefish 2021-2022 Specifications
- 2020 Mid-Atlantic State of the Ecosystem Report and Risk Assessment Update
- ~~EAFM Updates: Risk Assessment and Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation~~ (summer flounder MSE updates moved to October; risk assessment update combined with State of the Ecosystem Report)
- Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment: Review Scoping Plan and Document

May 2020 Council Meeting: May X*, 2020 (Webinar)

**Please note that the in-person joint Council/Board meeting has been cancelled. Council and Commission staff are working to develop an agenda for a joint webinar on May 5, 6, or 7. Date, time, and agenda details will be posted at <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/may-2020-joint-mafmc-asmfc-meeting> as soon as possible.*

- ~~Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment: Review scoping comments and approve range of alternatives (moved to June)~~
- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment: Review Scoping Comments and Discuss Potential Management Alternatives
- ~~Summer Flounder Commercial/Recreational Allocation Study: Update (moved to June)~~
- Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment: Review Supplemental Scoping Comments and Discuss Potential Management Alternatives
- ~~Recreational Reform Initiative: Update (moved to June)~~

June 2020 Council Meeting: June 16-18, 2020 (Virginia Beach, VA)

- Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment: Review scoping comments and approve range of alternatives
- Summer Flounder Commercial/Recreational Allocation Study: Update
- Recreational Reform Initiative: Update
- Unmanaged Landings Update
- Update on Habitat Activities
- *Illex* Working Group: Review Findings
- 2021-2023 *Illex* Squid Specifications
- *Illex* Permitting & MSB FMP Goals Amendment: Final Action
- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment: Refine Draft Range of Alternatives (Summer Flounder, Scup, And Black Sea Bass Committee Meeting of the Whole with Subset of Commission's Board)

- Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment: Refine Draft Range of Alternatives (Bluefish Committee Meeting [of the Whole](#) with ~~Subset of Commission's~~ Board)
- [Updates on Offshore Wind Projects](#)

August 2020 Council Meeting: August 10-13, 2020 (Philadelphia, PA)

- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass 2021 Specifications: Review
- Commercial Scup Discards and Gear Restricted Areas: Review
- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment: Approve Range of Alternatives
- ~~Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment: Final Action (moved to December)~~
- Bluefish 2021 Specifications: Review
- Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment: Approve Range of Alternatives
- Recreational Reform Initiative: Update
- Black Sea Bass February Recreational Fishery: Review
- Atlantic Surfclam And Ocean Quahog 2021-2026 Specifications
- Mackerel and Butterfish 2021-2022 Specifications
- River Herring and Shad Cap (RH/S) (Mackerel) for 2021-2022
- Longfin Squid (Including Butterfish Cap) 2021-2023 Specifications

October 2020 Council Meeting: October 6-8, 2020 (Riverhead, NY)

- 2021 Implementation Plan: Discuss Draft Deliverables
- Research Priorities Update: Tracking Progress to Address Priorities
- Review 2021 Spiny Dogfish Specifications
- Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Commingling Issue: Update
- Surfclam Genetic Study: Update
- Joint Council-SSC meeting
- Final Report on HMS Diet Study
- Chub Mackerel 2021 Specifications: Review
- [EAFM Updates: Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation and other EAFM activities](#)

December 2020 Council Meeting: December 14-17, 2020 (Baltimore, MD)

- 2021 Implementation Plan: Approve
- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass 2021 Recreational Management Measures: Develop and Approve
- Summer Flounder, Scup, And Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment: Approve Public Hearing Document
- [Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment: Final Action](#)
- Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment: Approve Public Hearing Document
- Recreational Reform Initiative: Update
- Update on Habitat Activities
- Review RH/S White Papers

2020 Council Meeting Topics At-a-Glance

	April 7-8 Webinar	May X Webinar	June 16-18 VA Beach, VA	Aug 10-13 Philadelphia, PA	Oct 6-8 Riverhead, NY	Dec 14-17 Baltimore, MD
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish (MSB) and River Herring and Shad (RH/S)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Illex</i> Permitting & MSB Goals Amd: Final Action • <i>Illex</i> Working Group: Review Findings • <i>Illex</i> Squid 2021-2023 Specs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mackerel and Butterfish 2021-2022 specs • RH/S Cap (Mackerel) for 2021-2022 • Longfin Squid 2021-2023 Specs (Including Butterfish Cap) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chub Mackerel 2021 Specs Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review RH/S White Papers
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass (SF/S/BSB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSB Com State Allocation Amd: Review Scoping Plan and Doc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF/S/BSB Com/Rec Allocation Amd: Review Scoping Comments and Discuss Potential Alternatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF/S/BSB Com/Rec Allocation Amd: Refine Draft Range of Alternatives (Joint Committee/ Board Mtg) • Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment: Review scoping comments and approve range of alternatives • Summer Flounder Commercial/Recreational Allocation Study: Update • Recreational Reform Initiative: Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF/S/BSB Com/Rec Allocation Amd: Approve Range of Alternatives • SF/S/BSB 2021 Specs Review • BSB February Rec Fishery: Review • Commercial Scup Discards and GRAs: Review • Rec Reform Initiative: Update 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF/S/BSB Com/Rec Allocation Amd: Approve Public Hearing Doc • SF/S/BSB 2021 Recreational Mgmt Measures • Rec Reform Initiative: Update • BSB Com State Allocation Amd: Final Action
Bluefish		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluefish Amd: Review Scoping Comments and Discuss Potential Alternatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluefish Amd: Refine Draft Range of Alternatives (Joint Committee/ Board mtg) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluefish Amd: Approve Range of Alternatives • Bluefish 2021 Specs Review 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluefish Amd: Approve Public Hearing Doc
Tilefish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blueline Tilefish 2021 Specs Review • Golden Tilefish 2021 Specs 					
Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog (SC/OQ)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC/OQ 2021-2026 Specs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC/OQ Commingling Issue: Update • Surfclam Genetic Study: Update 	
Spiny Dogfish					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiny Dogfish 2021 Specs Review 	

	April 7-8 Webinar	May X Webinar	June 16-18 VA Beach, VA	Aug 10-13 Philadelphia, PA	Oct 6-8 Riverhead, NY	Dec 14-17 Baltimore, MD
Science Issues					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Priorities Update • Joint Council-SSC Meeting 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Scenario Planning: Intro and Plan for Potential East Coast/Mid-Atlantic Exercise • 2020 Mid-Atlantic State of the Ecosystem Report and Risk Assessment Update 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmanaged landings update • Update on Habitat Activities • Updates on Offshore Wind Projects 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 2020 Implementation Progress and Discuss 2021 Draft Deliverables • HMS Diet Study: Final Report • EAFM Updates: Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation and other EAFM activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Implementation Plan: Approve • Update on Habitat Activities

Acronyms/Abbreviations

Amd	Amendment	MSB	Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish
BSB	Black Sea Bass	MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
Com/Rec	Commercial/Recreational	Mtg	Meeting
Com	Commercial	NEFSC	Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Doc	Document	Pres	Presentation
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	Rec	Recreational
FMP	Fishery Management Plan	RH/S	River Herring and Shad
GARFO	NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office	SC/OQ	Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog
GRAs	Gear Restricted Areas	SF/S/BSB	Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass
HMS	Highly Migratory Species	Specs	Specifications
Mgmt	Management	SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee

Actions Referenced in this Document

- **BSB Com State Allocation Amd:** Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment
- **Bluefish Amd:** Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment
- **Rec Reform Initiative:** Recreational Management Reform Initiative
- **SF-S-BSB Com/Rec Allocation Amd:** Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment
- **Illex Permitting & MSB Goals Amd:** Illex Permitting and Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish FMP Goals and Objectives Amendment



Status of Council Actions Under Development

AS OF 3/23/20

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish	MSB FMP Goals/Objectives and <i>Illex</i> Permits Amendment	This action will consider modifications to the <i>Illex</i> permitting system as well as revisions to the goals and objectives for the MSB FMP. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/illex-permitting-msb-goals-amendment	Five public hearing webinars will be held between March 30 and April 13. Final action is anticipated in June 2020.	Didden
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment	This joint MAFMC/ASMFC amendment will reevaluate and potentially revise the commercial and recreational sector allocations for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. This action was initiated in part to address the allocation-related impacts of the revised recreational data from MRIP. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment	Scoping hearings and a comment period were held in February and March. The Council and Board will consider scoping comments and identify the scope of the action via webinar in early May.	Beaty/Coutre/Dancy
	Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment	This joint MAFMC/ASMFC action will consider adjusting the allocations of the black sea bass commercial quota among states and whether the allocations should be managed jointly by the Council and Commission.	The Council will review a scoping document and scoping plan in April 2020. The Council and Board plan to discuss next steps for this action during their joint meeting in June 2020.	Beaty
Bluefish	Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment	This joint MAFMC/ASMFC amendment considers potential revisions to the allocation of Atlantic bluefish between the commercial and recreational fisheries and the commercial allocations to the states. This action will also review the goals and objectives of the bluefish FMP and the quota transfer processes and establish a rebuilding plan for bluefish. http://www.mafmc.org/actions/bluefish-allocation-amendment	The Council held a second round of scoping hearings February 13 -March 4. The Council and Board will consider scoping comments and identify the scope of the action via webinar in early May.	Seeley
Omnibus	Omnibus Amendment for Data Modernization	This amendment will address the regulatory changes needed to fully implement the Agency's Fishery-Dependent Data Initiative.	The Council last received an update at the October 2018 meeting.	GARFO/ NEFSC

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
Non-FMP	Golden and Blueline Tilefish Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting Issues	This action will develop permitting and reporting regulations for private recreational tilefish vessels. The action was approved in a final rule amending the golden tilefish FMP to include blueline tilefish in November 2017 with delayed implementation.	The proposed rule for tilefish recreational permitting and reporting is expected to publish in the Federal Register on January 29, 2020 with a comment period through February 28, 2020. Implementation and outreach are expected by May 1, 2020.	GARFO lead MAFMC Contact: Seeley
	Recreational Reform Initiative	This is a joint initiative with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to develop strategies to increase management flexibility and stability for jointly managed recreational fisheries (i.e., black sea bass, summer flounder, scup, and bluefish).	A steering committee has met several times to prioritize specific topics to address. The Council and Board will receive an update during their joint meeting in June 2020.	Beaty

Timeline and Status of Recent MAFMC Actions and Amendments/Frameworks Under Review

As of 3/23/2020

The table below summarizes the status of actions after they have been approved by the Council. For information about the status of Council actions under development, please see the document titled "Status of Council Actions Under Development."

Status	Amendment/Framework	Action Number	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	NOA Published	Proposed Rule Published	Approval/Disapproval Letter	Final Rule Published	Regs Effective	Notes
Open	Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding Framework	MSB FW 13	8/13/18	9/27/18	2/28/19	N/A	6/7/19		10/30/19	11/29/19	
Complete	Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Framework on Conservation Equivalency, Block Island Sound Transit, and Slot Limits	SFSBSB FW 14	12/11/18	3/21/19	5/8/19	N/A	8/8/19		11/19/19	12/30/19	
Open	Summer Flounder Commercial Issues and Goals and Objectives Amendment	TBD	3/6/19	3/17/20							
Open	Chub Mackerel Amendment	MSB AM 21	3/7/19	5/31/19	10/25/19		3/9/20				
Open	Excessive Shares Amendment	TBD	12/9/19								
Open	Omnibus Risk Policy Framework	TBD	12/9/19								Workgroup is updating analyses to evaluate the modified alternative recommended by the Council
Open	Omnibus Commercial eVTR Framework	TBD	MAFMC: 12/11/19; NEFMC: 1/29/20	3/4/20							

Timeline and Status of Current and Upcoming Specifications for MAFMC Fisheries

As of 3/23/20

Current Specifications	Year(s)	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Regs Effective	Notes
Golden Tilefish	2018-2020	4/11/17	6/5/17	8/16/17	9/7/17	11/7/17	11/2/17	2019 specs were reviewed in April 2018. No changes were recommended.
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog	2018-2020	6/6/17	8/14/17	9/22/17	12/8/17	2/6/18	3/8/18	2020 specs were reviewed in June 2019. No changes were recommended.
Longfin Squid and Butterfish	2018-2020	6/7/17		8/24/17	12/13/17	3/1/18	4/2/18	2019 specs were reviewed in October 2018. No changes were recommended.
<i>Illex</i> Squid	2019-2021	10/3/18	12/4/18	2/11/19	5/1/19	8/2/19	8/1/19	
Atlantic Mackerel (MSB FW 13)	2019-2021	8/13/18	9/27/18	2/28/19	6/7/19	10/30/19	11/29/19	
Atlantic Mackerel (including RH/S cap)	2020	6/5/19	8/22/19	9/30/19	12/17/19	2/27/20	2/27/20	
Chub mackerel	2020-2022	3/7/19	5/31/19	10/25/19	3/9/20			
Scup	2020	3/7/19	6/11/19	7/24/19	7/26/19	10/9/19	1/1/20	Interim specs to be replaced as soon as possible after results of 2019 operational assessment are available
Scup	2020-2021	10/8/19	1/15/20	3/5/20				Revised specifications based on the 2019 operational stock assessment
Blueline Tilefish	2019-2021	4/11/18	8/17/18	10/24/18	11/19/18	2/12/19	2/12/19	
Bluefish	2020	3/7/19	6/11/19	7/24/19	7/26/19	10/9/19	1/1/20	Interim specs to be replaced as soon as possible after results of 2019 operational assessment are available.
Bluefish	2020-2021	12/10/19	1/23/20					
Summer Flounder	2020-2021	3/6/19	6/25/19	7/18/19	7/26/19	10/9/19	1/1/20	
Black Sea Bass	2020	3/7/19	6/11/19	7/24/19	7/26/19	10/9/19	1/1/20	Interim specs to be replaced as soon as possible after results of 2019 operational assessment are available
Black Sea Bass	2020-2021	10/9/19	1/15/20	3/5/20				Revised specifications based on the 2019 operational stock assessment
Spiny Dogfish	2019-2021	10/2/18	11/30/18	3/5/19	3/29/19	5/15/19	5/15/19	In multi-year specs

Recreational Management Measures

Current Management Measures	Year(s)	Council Approval	Initial Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Regs Effective	Notes
Summer flounder recreational measures	2020	12/10/19	1/22/20	1/22/20				Rulemaking required each year to continue use of conservation equivalency
Black sea bass recreational measures	2020	2/14/18	3/5/18	4/10/18	4/11/18	5/31/18	5/31/18	Reviewed in 2019. No changes from previous year's measures.
Scup recreational measures	2020	12/10/14	3/20/15		5/5/15	6/19/15	6/19/15	Reviewed in 2019. No changes from previous year's measures.
Bluefish recreational measures	2020	12/10/19	1/23/20					