

In Draft Amendment 14, NMFS considered management options in order to revise the ABC framework that was established in Amendment 3. The management options considered included modifying the ABC control rule, revising processes for the implementation of an ABC, and modifying carry-over and phase-in provisions and multi-year overfishing status determinations. Full descriptions of the management options considered, including the preferred management options, are provided in Draft Amendment 14.

In Draft Amendment 14, NMFS preferred Management Option A3, which would adopt a general tiered approach to ABC control rules based on stocks that are categorized into tiers depending on the availability and quality of scientific data. NMFS did not provide details for its application, instead explaining that the shark ABC control rule would be similar to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's tiered ABC control rule for Amendment 29 to the snapper grouper fishery FMP.

During the comment period for Draft Amendment 14, the agency received ten written comments and a variety of verbal comments on preferred management options. Regarding the ABC control rule specifically, several commenters asked questions and requested additional information regarding Management Option A3. Based on these comments, NMFS has revised Management Option A3 and is providing further details in a supplement to Draft Amendment 14. These tiers apply to all sharks that have a stock status of healthy (*i.e.*, not subject to overfishing and not overfished), experiencing overfishing, or unknown. For shark stocks that are: (1) Under a rebuilding plan, (2) assessed (or could be assessed) by the scientific body of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), or (3) in the prohibited shark complex, different approaches would apply.

The supplemental document provides further details regarding preferred Management Option A3 on the ABC control rule. The remaining options published in Draft Amendment 14 are still being considered to establish the general framework through which specific management measures would later be developed and adopted. Any changes to the actual management and quotas of HMS-managed Atlantic shark stocks or management complexes would occur in future FMP amendments or regulatory actions, as appropriate.

NMFS is requesting public comment on the additional details provided in the

supplement on preferred Management Option A3 and the other management options considered under the ABC control rule from Draft Amendment 14. Comments on any other topic (phase-in ABC control rule, ACL development, carry-over of underharvested ACL, or multi-year overfishing status determination criteria) within Draft Amendment 14 are not specifically being sought at this time. However, NOAA Fisheries would consider new comments if the additional details provided in this document affect how the public might comment on other issues in Draft Amendment 14. Previously-submitted comments should not be re-submitted during this comment period.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the establishment of APs and requires NMFS to consult with and consider the comments and views of AP members during the preparation and implementation of FMPs or FMP amendments. 16 U.S.C. 1854(g)(1)(A)–(B). NMFS meets with the HMS AP approximately twice each year to consider potential alternatives for the conservation and management of Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and shark fisheries, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

For the upcoming HMS AP meeting, we will focus on the supplement to Draft Amendment 14 and the ABC control rule for Atlantic HMS shark fisheries. Additional information and a copy of the draft agenda will be posted prior to the meeting at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/february-2022-hms-advisory-panel-meeting>.

Public Hearings

NMFS will take into consideration public comments on Draft Amendment 14 and the supplemental document before finalizing the preferred management options. The preferred management options may be altered or different management options may be adopted at the final Amendment stage, although any significant changes would require additional notice and opportunity for public comment. NMFS anticipates that Final Amendment 14 and its related documents would be available in 2022.

Comments on supplement to Draft Amendment 14 may be submitted via www.regulations.gov, and comments may also be submitted at the public hearing. NMFS solicits comments on this action by March 10, 2022. During the comment period, NMFS will hold one public hearing via webinar. Information on the webinar will be posted at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/>

amendment-14-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-shark-quota-management. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Guy DuBeck at guy.dubeck@noaa.gov or 301-427-8503, at least 7 days prior to the meeting. In addition, NMFS will make a presentation on the supplement to the HMS AP on February 11, 2022. Information on the HMS AP meeting will be posted prior to the meeting at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/february-2022-hms-advisory-panel-meeting>.

The public is reminded that NMFS expects participants at public webinar to conduct themselves appropriately. At the beginning of the webinar, the moderator will explain how the webinar will be conducted and how and when participants can provide comments. NMFS representative(s) will structure the webinars so that all members of the public will be able to comment, if they so choose, regardless of the controversial nature of the subject(s). Participants are expected to respect the ground rules, and those that do not may be asked to leave the webinar.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*, and 1801 *et seq.*)

Dated: January 18, 2022.

Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB734]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a one-and-a-half-day meeting of its Coral Advisory Panel (AP) and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) via webinar.

DATES: The meeting will take place Monday, February 7, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday, February 8, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., EST.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. Registration information will be available on the Council's

website by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the Meetings Tab and selecting Advisory Panel meetings, then Coral AP/SSC meeting.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; carrie.simmons@gulfcouncil.org, telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, February 7, 2022; 9 a.m.–5 p.m., EST

The meeting will begin with Introductions of Members, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from the September 10, 2021 meeting, and review of Scope of Work and Contract, Roles and Responsibilities of the Coral AP and Coral SSC.

The AP and SSCs will review the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Mesophotic and Deepwater Coral Assessment; Introduction and Methodology for the Project, Site Selection and Literature Review of Potential Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), Results of Site Prioritization for Management Purposes: Ecological and Vulnerability Assessment, Data Visualization Dashboard and Panel Feedback.

Tuesday, February 8, 2022; 9 a.m.–12 p.m., EST

The AP and SSC will review and discuss *Deepwater Horizon* Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities Restoration and upcoming activities and products and receive an overview of the Coral Reef Conservation Program Outcomes and Products titled: *A proposal addressing changes in coral reef habitats and potential management implications to ensure the sustainability of coral reefs and associated fisheries habitats in the Gulf of Mexico*; and, hold Panel discussion and feedback.

The AP and SSC will receive Public Comment and discuss any Other Business items. The meeting will adjourn by 12 p.m. EST on February 8, 2022.

The meeting will be via webinar only. You may register for the webinar by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the Advisory Panel meeting on the calendar. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on www.gulfcouncil.org as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the

Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*)

Dated: January 18, 2022.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB739]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public meetings of the Council including a joint session with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board.

DATES: The meetings will be held Tuesday, February 8, 2022 through Wednesday, February 9, 2022. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be conducted entirely by webinar. Webinar registration details will be available on the Council's website at <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events>.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302)

526-5255. The Council's website, www.mafmc.org also has details on the meeting location, proposed agenda, webinar listen-in access, and briefing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the agenda, although agenda items may be addressed out of order (changes will be noted on the Council's website when possible.)

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Working Group
Presentation on the formation and planned activities of the Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Working Group and request for public input

Recusal Briefing

John Almeida, NOAA General Counsel
2022 Recreational Management Measures for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

Review action taken by ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board regarding 2022 recreational management measures

Consider revising Council recommendation for 2022 recreational management measures if needed in response to Board action

Council Meeting with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's ISFMP Policy Board

Recreational Harvest Control Rule

Framework/Addenda for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish

Review draft range of alternatives

Consider splitting range of alternatives into multiple actions

Approve final range of alternatives for framework/addenda

Approve draft addenda for public hearings

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Business Session

Committee Reports (SSC, RSC); Executive Director's Report; Organization Reports; and Liaison Reports

Other Business and General Public Comment

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c).

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden,