

Mid-Atlantic Council: Highlights & Updates

Council Coordination Committee

May 2022



Mid-Atlantic Council

7 states represented; 21 voting and 4 non-voting members



1977

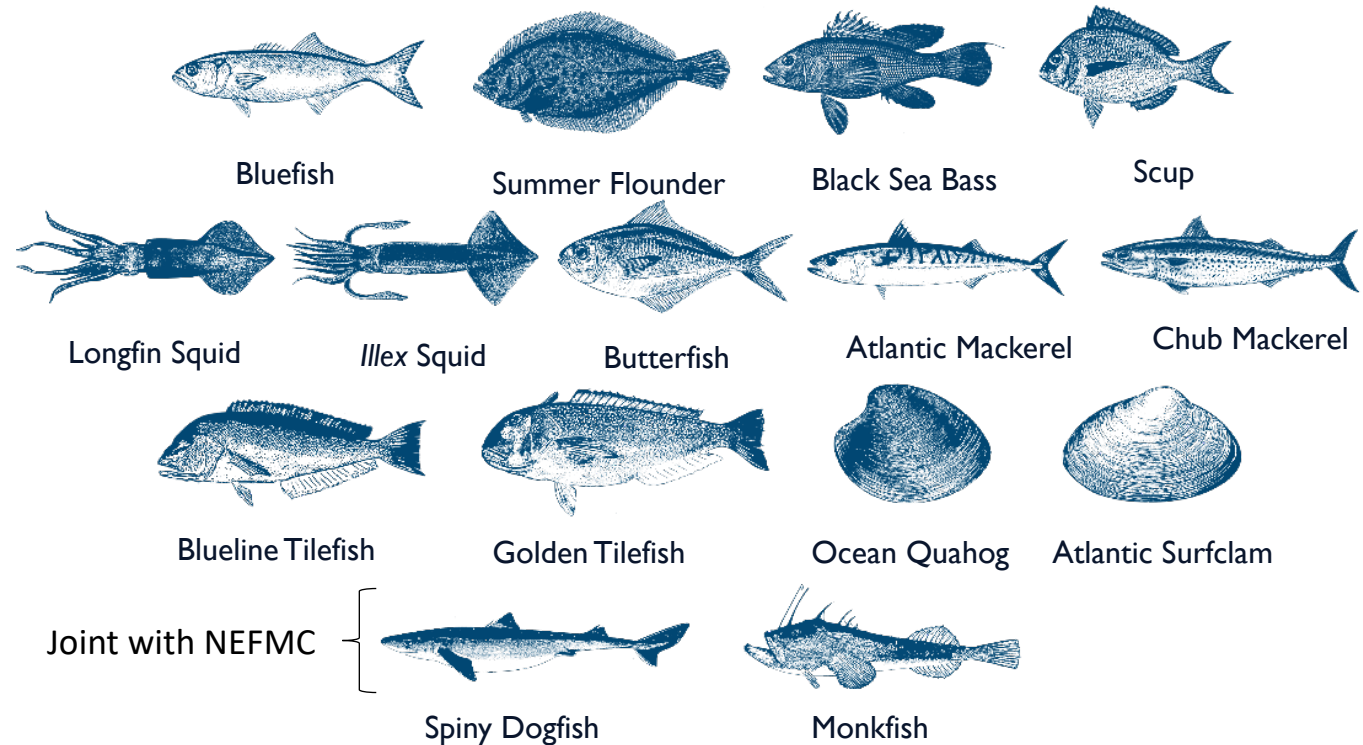


2021

Where and what does the Mid-Atlantic Council manage?



15 Species, 7 Fishery Management Plans



+More than 50 ecosystem component species

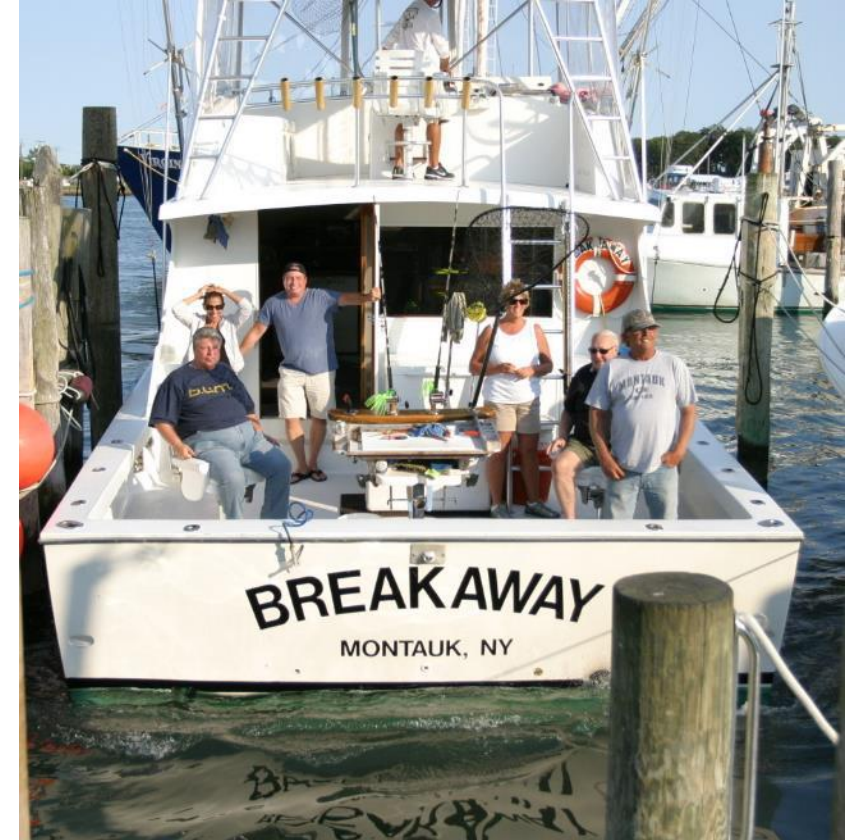
Key Documents

5-Year (2020-2024) Strategic Plan: Long-Term Vision, Mission, and Goals
Annual Implementation Plans: Near-term priorities and management activities



Mid-Atlantic Commercial Fisheries (2019)

- 644.5 million pounds valued at \$498 million
- 28,659 jobs
- Key Commercial Species: Surfclam, Ocean Quahog, Squid, Summer Flounder



Mid-Atlantic Recreational Fisheries (2019)

- 43 million fishing trips (1.6 billion in trip expenses)
- 15,594 Jobs
- Key Species: Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass, Scup, Bluefish

Source: Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2019

Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog

- First Council FMP (1977)
- Managed under ITQs since 1990
- Primarily harvested with hydraulic dredges

Recent:

- Surfclam genetics research

Current:

- Species separation requirements

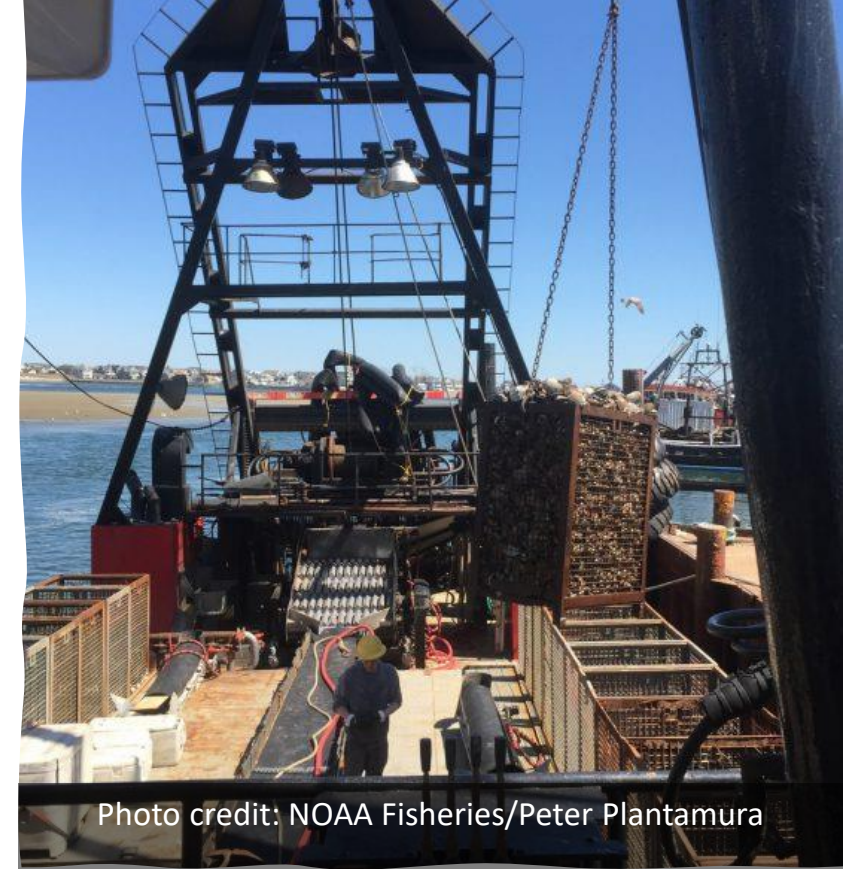


Photo credit: NOAA Fisheries/Peter Plantamura



Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass

- Managed cooperatively by the MAFMC and ASMFC since 1990 (summer flounder) and 1996 (scup and black sea bass)
- Important commercial and recreational fisheries
- Most commercial harvest caught by bottom otter trawl (+pots/traps for black sea bass)





Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass

Recent:

- Commercial/Recreational Allocations
- Black Sea Bass State Allocations

Current:

- Recreational Reform/Harvest Control Rule

Commercial/ Recreational Allocations of Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass

	Original Allocations	Revised Allocations
Summer Flounder	60% Commercial; 40% Recreational Landings-based	55% Commercial; 45% Recreational Catch-based
Scup	78% Commercial; 22% Recreational Catch-based	65% Commercial; 35% Recreational Catch-based
Black Sea Bass	49% Commercial; 51% Recreational Landings-based	45% Commercial; 55% Recreational Catch-based

** Pending NMFS approval*

Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocations

- Amendment addressed significant changes in distribution since the original allocations were implemented in 2003
- New allocations based on a combo of **historical dependence on the fishery** (represented by the previous allocations) and **recent biomass distribution**.
- Allocations will be adjusted if a new assessment indicates a change to the biomass distribution

* *Pending NMFS approval*





“...perhaps the most ferocious and bloodthirsty fish in the sea, leaving in its wake a trail of dead and mangled mackerel, menhaden, herring, alewives, and other species on which it preys.” (Bigelow and Schroeder, 1953)

Atlantic Bluefish

Managed cooperatively by the MAFMC and ASMFC since 1990

Recent:

- 7-year rebuilding plan implemented in 2022
- Revisions to commercial/recreational allocations (3% shift to recreational)

Current:

- Recreational Reform

Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish

- MAFMC-managed since 1978 (chub mackerel added in 2015)
- Most commercial harvest caught by mid-water trawl (Atlantic mackerel), otter trawl (butterfish), and small-mesh bottom trawl (squid and chub mackerel)
- Chub and Atlantic mackerel also harvested recreationally

Recent:

- *Illex* Permits Amendment (awaiting NMFS approval)

Current:

- Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0



Golden and Blueline Tilefish

Golden Tilefish

- MAFMC-managed since 2001
- Commercial IFQs since 2009
- Smaller recreational fishery

Blueline Tilefish

- Added to FMP in 2015
- Data-limited

Current:

- Recreational permitting and reporting



Photo Credit: David Hoke, NMFS Port Agent

Recreational Tilefish Permitting and Reporting

- Significant recreational data uncertainty – fishery occurs so far offshore that relatively few anglers are intercepted for MRIP interviews
- Mandatory permitting and reporting implemented in August 2020
- Several reporting options, including Council-funded app (eFin Logbook)
- As of October 2021, 814 private recreational permits had been issued
- Need for continued outreach



Spiny Dogfish

- MAFMC-managed since 2000
- Harvested commercially with gillnet and bottom longline
- Mostly exported - commonly used in Europe in “fish and chips”
- Minimal recreational harvest

Current:

- MSC Issues



Photo Credit: NOAA Fisheries

Finally, a word of thanks...



New England
Fishery Management
Council

