



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

August 19, 2019

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Oliver:

At our August 2019 meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) discussed the NMFS Fisheries Allocation Review Policy (NMFS Policy Directive 01-119) and the associated Procedural Directive on allocation review triggers (NMFS Procedural Directive 01-119-01). In response to the request that the Regional Fishery Management Councils establish review triggers for relevant Fishery Management Plan (FMP) allocations by August 2019, the Council adopted the following allocation review policy for our applicable allocations:

- For fisheries with annually varying deductions from the total allowable landings for small recreational fisheries (i.e., spiny dogfish and Atlantic mackerel), these deductions will continue to be reviewed during the process of setting specifications (at most every 5 years for spiny dogfish and at most every 3 years for Atlantic mackerel), with the option of additional reviews in interim years of multi-year specifications if appropriate.
- Allocations to the incidental golden tilefish fishery (in the Golden and Blueline Tilefish FMP) and to the Maine mahogany quahog fishery (in the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog FMP) will be reviewed as part of periodic catch share reviews conducted for these fisheries.
- For all other allocations, the Council will use a combination of time-based and public interest criteria. Each relevant allocation will be reviewed at least every 10 years; however, the Council may choose to conduct reviews more frequently based on substantial public interest in allocation review or other factors. Stakeholder input is received through many channels in the Council's deliberative process including but not limited to comments at meetings, during the development of management actions, through the development of annual fishery performance reports, and during the setting of annual priorities. The Council may also choose to formally solicit input on allocations through dedicated processes such as scoping, surveys, or other mechanisms. As indicated by the NMFS Policy Directive, the Council will consider ecological, social, and economic data in conjunction with public input to determine whether a full allocation review is warranted.
- Although the Council is not formally adopting the use of specific indicator-based criteria for allocation reviews, the Council and its advisory bodies regularly review economic, social, and ecological metrics through the typical Council process. These metrics will continue to be monitored for changes that may suggest that an allocation review is warranted.

A table of Mid-Atlantic Council allocations that will be reviewed as the result of this policy is appended to this letter. Note that this policy does not apply to the allocations to individuals and vessels for fisheries managed under Individual Transferable Quota and Individual Fishing Quota programs (Surfclam, Ocean Quahog, and Golden Tilefish), as these allocations fall outside the scope of NMFS Policy Directive 01-119.

The Council plans to develop a schedule for time-based allocation reviews in connection with its 5-year strategic plans and annual implementation plans. The Council will publish the allocation review criteria on its website and looks forward to working with the Greater Atlantic Regional Office and Northeast Fisheries Science Center on future allocation reviews.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Council members and staff
Executive Directors
Sam Rauch and Alan Risenhoover, NMFS HQ
John Almeida, NOAA GC
Jon Hare, NMFS NEFSC

Applicable Allocations Under MAFMC Allocation Review Trigger Policy

Fishery Management Plan	Allocation
Summer flounder, scup, black sea bass	Summer flounder commercial/recreational allocation
	Summer flounder commercial allocation
	Scup commercial/recreational allocation
	Scup seasonal quota period allocation
	Scup summer period allocation
	Black sea bass commercial/recreational allocation
	Black sea bass commercial allocation
Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish	Longfin squid trimester allocation
Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs	Allocation to Maine mahogany quahog fishery
Bluefish	Bluefish commercial/recreational allocation
	Bluefish commercial allocation
Blueline and Golden Tilefish	Golden tilefish incidental fishery allocation
	Blueline tilefish commercial/recreational allocation