



Research Steering Committee

Comprehensive Mid-Atlantic Research Set-Aside Timeline

This comprehensive Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council research set-aside (RSA) timeline encompasses correspondences between the Councils, Committees, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, National Fisheries Institute, other agencies, and the public. Hyperlinks are available to access briefing materials from program inception in 2001 to its suspension in 2014, as well as discussions of redevelopment from 2015 to present. All hyperlinks provide access to briefing materials over the timeline. In some years, certain hyperlinks will access the same briefing materials as in other bullets but will navigate to the appropriate reference pages.

[All Mid-Atlantic RSA-Funded Projects and Final Reports](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions: Research Set-Aside Program](#)

RSA Program is initiated in 2001

2001

- [Framework Adjustment 1](#) (Quota Set-Aside for Research)
 - Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP, Bluefish FMP, and Tilefish FMP

2002

- **3 Projects Funded** [Research Priorities List](#)
 - Loligo Squid Gear Modification Study - **FINAL REPORT**, \$115,183
 - The Effect of Circle and Square Escape Vents on Discard Reduction in the Black Sea Bass Trap Fishery - **FINAL REPORT**, \$57,069
 - Evaluation of Catch Efficiency and Size Selectivity of Inshore New England Fish Pots for Black Sea Bass and Scup as a Function of Escape Vent Size - **FINAL REPORT**, \$43,079

2003

- **5 Projects Funded** (2 Projects Discontinued) [Research Priorities List](#)
 - Development of a Supplemental Finfish Survey Targeting Mid-Atlantic Migratory Species - **FINAL REPORT**, \$484,226
 - Bycatch Characterization and Reduction from Codend Mesh Size Increases in the Directed Bottom Trawl Northern - Inshore Scup Fishery, \$0
 - Effect of Vent Size on Sex Ratios of Black Sea Bass Retained in the Coastal Pot Fishery, \$0
 - Loligo Squid: Extension of Gear Modification Study Through Scup Migratory Season - **FINAL REPORT**, \$174,541
 - Effects of Increasing Mesh Size in the Summer Flounder Fishery in Southern New England Inshore Rhode Island Waters - **FINAL REPORT**, \$40,320

2004

- **3 Projects Funded** [Research Priorities List](#)
 - Fishery Independent Scup Survey of Selected Areas in Southern New England Waters - **FINAL REPORT**, \$52,652
 - Development of a Supplemental Finfish Survey Targeting Mid-Atlantic Migratory Species - **FINAL REPORT**, \$704,692
 - Evaluation of the Effect of Vent Size and Shape on Black Sea Bass Behavior and Escapement from Pot Gear - **FINAL REPORT**, \$110,825

2005

- **3 Projects Funded** [Research Priorities List](#)
 - Development of a Supplemental Finfish Survey Targeting Mid-Atlantic Migratory Species - **FINAL REPORT**, \$822,563
 - 2005 Fishery Independent Survey of Selected Hard Bottom areas in Southern New England - **FINAL REPORT**, \$85,779
 - Loligo Squid Mesh Selectivity Study to Reduce Bycatch of Juvenile Loligo Squid and other Species - **FINAL REPORT**, \$563,367

2006

- **4 Projects Funded** [Research Priorities List](#)
 - Evaluating Size and Bag Limits in the Summer Flounder Recreational Fishery - **FINAL REPORT**, \$321,691
 - 2006 Fishery Independent Survey of Selected Hard Bottom areas in Southern New England - **FINAL REPORT**, \$86,364
 - Development of a Supplemental Finfish Survey Targeting Mid-Atlantic Migratory Species - **FINAL REPORT**, \$874,017
 - An Evaluation of Size Selectivity and Relative Efficiency of Black Sea Bass, *Centropristis strata* Habitat Pots Equipped with large Mesh Panels. - **FINAL REPORT**, \$76,540

2007

- **Committee Meeting (June)** (Briefing Materials pg. 2-4) – meeting minutes available on Council Meeting Page
 - Program accomplishments and value
 - Perceived program liabilities
 - Mission Statement (refinement?)
 - Identifying appropriate research given RSA program limitations
 - Enhanced committee activities (within RSA)
 - Coordination benefits and leveraging available resources
 - Refine the list of research priorities
 - Dissemination of results
- **Committee Meeting (October)** (Briefing Materials pg. 2)
 - Who makes the final call as to whether a cooperative research project's result can be used in management decisions?
 - What are the "inputs" to the decision on whether a particular research project's results are acceptable for use in management?
 - What are the criteria for a project's results to be deemed acceptable for use in management?
 - Should a new body similar to the New England Council's Research Steering Committee be formed in the Mid-Atlantic?
 - Will reviewers be compensated for their time and efforts?
 - Should our research priorities take a 'themed' approach so that the resulting work will better lend itself to being vetted at a workshop?
- **4 Projects Funded Research Priorities List**
 - Development of a Supplemental Finfish Survey Targeting Mid-Atlantic Migratory Species - **FINAL REPORT**, \$1,165,676
 - 2007 Fishery Independent Survey of Selected Hard Bottom areas in Southern New England - **FINAL REPORT**, \$79,762
 - Evaluation of Summer Flounder Discard Mortality in the Bottom Trawl Fishery - **FINAL REPORT**, \$284,800
 - Bycatch Reduction and Gear Development in the Mid-Atlantic: Evaluation of Optimal Codend Mesh Size in the Loligo Fishery - **FINAL REPORT**, \$522,749

2008

- **Committee Meeting (January)**
 - Research Set-Aside Program Policy for Incorporation of Research Results into the Management Process
- **Committee Meeting (March)**
 - Draft Procedures for Mid-Atlantic Research Set-Aside Program Operation
 - Project selection and review
- **3 Projects Funded - Research Priorities List**

- 2008 Fishery Independent Scup Survey of Hard Bottom Areas in Southern New England Waters - **FINAL REPORT**, \$92,540
- Data collection and analysis in support of single and multispecies stock assessments in the Mid-Atlantic: Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Near Shore Trawl Program - **FINAL REPORT**, \$481,500
- Discard Mortality in the Summer Flounder Fishery: A New Approach to Evaluation - **FINAL REPORT**, \$148,719

2009

- **Committee Meeting (June)** (Briefing Materials pg. 11-14, 17-18)
 - [RSA Program Issues - Discussion Document](#) (pg. 11-14)
 - [Mid-Atlantic RSA Program Quota Awards and Vessel Participation](#) (pg. 15-16)
 - [National Fisheries Institute – Scientific Monitoring Committee letter to develop an auction](#) (pg. 17-18)
- **RSA Programmatic Review – Report (July)**
 - “RSA programs have been operational for up to eight years in the Northeast, and other regions are considering RSAs to augment their marine fisheries research programs. In order to improve upon existing RSAs and inform the development of future programs, a programmatic review of the Northeast programs was conducted”.
- **3 Projects Funded - [Research Priorities List](#)**
 - 2009 Fishery Independent Scup Survey of Hard Bottom Areas in Southern New England Waters - **FINAL REPORT**, \$120,338
 - Data Collection and Analysis in Support of Single and Multispecies Stock Assessments in the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Near Shore Trawl Program - **FINAL REPORT**, \$1,264,582
 - Evaluation of Summer Flounder Discard Mortality in the Bottom Trawl Fishery Part II: A Study of the Offshore Winter Fishery - **FINAL REPORT**, \$376,650

2010

- **RSA Workshop (February)**
 - Goal: “This workshop will provide an opportunity to review findings of the RSA Programmatic review, present options for improving the program, and initiate discussions leading to further consideration (by the RSA Committee and the Council) of major policy changes for the Mid-Atlantic RSA program”.
 - [Presentation](#)
 - [Meeting Summary](#)
- **Committee Meeting (August)**
 - [Finalize RSA Program Mission Statement](#)
- **3 Projects Funded - [Research Priorities List](#)**
 - 2010 Fishery Independent Scup Survey of Hard Bottom Areas in Southern New England Waters - **FINAL REPORT**, \$206,300

- Data Collection and analysis in support of single and multi-species stock assessments in the Mid-Atlantic: Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Nearshore Trawl Program, 2010 to 2012. - **FINAL REPORT**, \$991,952
- A Method to Reduce Butterfish Retention in The Offshore Loligo Squid Fishery Through The Use Of a Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) Adapted to Pre-Existing Gear. - **FINAL REPORT**, \$524,024

2011

- **Committee Meeting (February)**
 - [MAFMC RSA Program Evaluation Narrative](#) (pg. 3-4)
- **Committee Meeting (June)**
 - [RSA Program Review Working Group Conference Call Summary and Decision Tree](#) (pg. 2-4)
- **Committee Meeting (October)**
 - [RSA Review Working Group Conference Call](#) (pg. 3-7)
 - [RSA Program Options](#) (pg. 9)
- **3 Projects Funded - [Research Priorities List](#)**
 - Understanding the effects of fishing on the size, age, and sex distribution of black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*) during the spawning season - **FINAL REPORT**, \$221,784
 - 2011 Fishery Independent Scup Survey of Hard Bottom Areas in Southern New England Waters - **FINAL REPORT**, \$207,600
 - Data Collection and Analysis in Support of Single and Multispecies Stock Assessments in the Mid-Atlantic: Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Nearshore Trawl Survey, 2011 - **FINAL REPORT**, \$859,060

2012

- **Committee Meeting (April)**
 - [Letter to Joel MacDonald \(NOAA General Counsel\)](#) from Chris Moore (pg. 7-8)
 - Ability to enter contractual agreement with outside entities to fund scientific research
 - Seeking legal guidance regarding the feasibility to sell RSA fish at an auction through a contractual agreement.
 - Uncertainty about the funding available in a given year – trust fund?
 - [Reply letter to Chris Moore](#) from Joel MacDonald (NOAA General Counsel) (pg. 9-10)
- **Committee Meeting (June)**
 - MAFMC Staff RSA Program Recommendations to the RSA Committee
 - Scientific quality issues
 - Administrative and Enforcement Issues
 - RSA Auction
- **Letter to John Bullard** from Chris Moore

- Recommendations to improve RSA
- **3 Projects Funded - [Research Priorities List](#)**
 - Industry Based Survey on Black Sea Bass Utilizing Ventless Traps - **FINAL REPORT**, \$212,044
 - Fishery Independent Scup Survey of Hard Bottom Areas in Southern New England Waters - **FINAL REPORT**, \$250,301
 - Data collection & analysis in support of single & multispecies stock assessments in the Mid-Atlantic & Southern New England: Northeast Area Monitoring & Assessment Program Near Shore Trawl Survey, 2012 - **FINAL REPORT**, \$922,759

2013

- **[Letter to Chris Moore](#)** from John Bullard
 - Response to a letter requesting improvements to the Mid-Atlantic RSA Program
- **2 Projects Funded - [Research Priorities List](#)**
 - Industry Based Survey on Black Sea Bass Utilizing Ventless Traps - **FINAL REPORT**, \$230,801
 - Data collection & analysis in support of single & multispecies stock assessments in the Mid-Atlantic & Southern New England: Northeast Area Monitoring & Assessment Program Near Shore Trawl Survey, 2013 - **FINAL REPORT**, \$1,120,000

2014

- **Council Meeting (June)**
 - [RSA Program Development and Execution of the Federal Funding Opportunity](#)
- **Council Meeting (August)**
 - RSA quota set to zero
 - [Presentation](#)
 - [RSA Program Issues Memo](#)
- **2 Projects Funded - [Research Priorities List](#)**
 - Industry Based Survey on Black Sea Bass Utilizing Ventless Traps - **FINAL REPORT**, \$319,174
 - Data Collection and Analysis in Support of Single and Multi-Species Stock Assessments in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern New England: Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Near Shore Trawl Survey 2014 - **FINAL REPORT**, \$1,105,620

RSA Program is suspended in 2014

Development of the Council's Collaborative Research Program

2015

- **Collaborative Research Program**
 - [Cooperative Research – Staff Update and Revised Approach](#)
- **M.S. Thesis by Erin Adams**
 - [Measuring the Performance of the Northeastern United States Research Set Aside Programs](#)

2016

- **[Collaborative Research Program](#)** (Non-RSA)
 - The goal of this initiative was to enhance the science used in the management of Mid-Atlantic fisheries and to facilitate collaboration among scientists, fishermen, and other fishery stakeholders. The Council funded four collaborative research projects that were carried out in 2016 and 2017.

2017

- **[Collaborative Research Program](#)** (Non-RSA)
 - The goal of this initiative was to enhance the science used in the management of Mid-Atlantic fisheries and to facilitate collaboration among scientists, fishermen, and other fishery stakeholders. The Council funded four collaborative research projects that were carried out in 2016 and 2017.

Potential Redevelopment of the Council's RSA Program

2018

- **Council Meeting (December)**
 - [Briefing Materials](#)
 - The collaborative research program (expanding involvement with other entities)
 - Potential viability of the RSA program
 - Committee Recommendations
 - Formalize the "Program Approach", which details how the program will follow steps from setting priorities to utilizing project results, in a transparent document that defines the role of the Research Steering Committee.
 - Recommend that "RSA Program Review/Development" be added to possible additions in the 2019 Implementation Plan for consideration at the December meeting.

2019

- **Council/Committee Meeting (August)**
 - [Briefing Materials](#)
 - Review Committee requests and recommendations
 - RSA-related violations and enforcement issues – [Presentation](#)
 - New England Fishery Management Council RSA Review – [Full Report](#)
 - Discussion of potential redevelopment of RSA

2020

- **Committee Meeting (April)**
 - Discussion of RSA redevelopment through a workshop
 - [Briefing Materials](#)
 - [Meeting Summary](#)

2021

- **Committee Meeting (March)**
 - Confirmed workshop redevelopment
 - [RSA Program Proposal, Participants, Timeline, and Trigger Questions](#)
 - [Meeting Summary](#)
 - Discussed Scientific and Statistical Committee Economic Working Group involvement - [Research Set Aside Program Review and Redevelopment](#)
 - 3 subgroups (Research, Funding, Enforcement)