



Fishery Allocation Review Policy

Approved 8/14/19

Background

In July 2016, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued Policy Directive 01-119, which outlines the use of an adaptive management approach to fisheries allocations, with a series of steps for periodic re-evaluation and, if necessary, reconsideration of fisheries allocations. This policy directs each Council to identify criteria that will be used to trigger reviews of allocations within their Fishery Management Plans. The policy directive is accompanied by two procedural directives that provide additional details on criteria for initiating allocation reviews (NMFS Procedural Directive 01-119-01) and recommended practices and factors to consider with allocation reviews (NMFS Procedural Directive 01-119-02).

MAFMC Fishery Allocation Review Policy

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has adopted the following allocation review policy:

- 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.

Below is a table of Mid-Atlantic Council allocations that will be reviewed as the result of this policy. 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.

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