

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XA010]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public hearings pertaining to Amendment 11 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan for the South Atlantic Region. The amendment addresses transit provisions for the shrimp fishery.

DATES: The public hearings will be held via webinar February 5 and 6, 2020.

ADDRESSES: *Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571–4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The public hearings will be conducted via webinar and begin at 6 p.m. Registration for the webinars is required. Registration information will be posted on the Council's website at <https://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/public-hearings-scoping-meetings/> as it becomes available.

Amendment 11 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

The draft amendment addresses transit provisions for shrimp vessels through federal waters that are closed to shrimp harvest due to cold water.

During the public hearings, Council staff will present an overview of the amendment via webinar and answer clarifying questions relevant to the proposed actions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to go on record to record their comments for consideration by the Council.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the public hearings.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: January 9, 2020.

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–XA009]

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

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

ACTION: Notice of initiation of scoping process; notice of public scoping meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) will hold 11 public scoping meetings and a written comment period to solicit public comments on potential topics to be addressed by a Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

DATES: Written public comments must be received on or before 11:59 p.m. EST, March 17, 2020. The meetings will be held between February 13, 2020 and March 3, 2020. For specific dates and times, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The scoping document is accessible electronically at: http://www.mafmc.org/s/SFSBSB_allocation_scoping_PID_Jan2020_final.pdf or by request to Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331.

Meeting addresses: The public hearings will be held in Buzzards Bay, MA; Narragansett, RI; Old Lyme, CT; Stony Brook, NY; Belmar, NJ; Galloway, NJ; Dover, DE; Berlin, MD; Fort Monroe, VA; and Washington, NC. One additional hearing will be held by internet webinar. For specific dates and locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Public comments: Written comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

- *Email to:* jbeaty@mafmc.org; Include “Fluke/Scup/Sea Bass

Allocation Amendment” in the subject line.

- *Via webform at:* <http://www.mafmc.org/comments/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment>.

- *Mail to:* Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901. Mark the outside of the envelope “Fluke/Scup/Sea Bass Allocation Amendment.”

- *Fax to:* (302) 674–5399.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526–5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission have initiated an amendment to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP, known as the “Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment.” This amendment will consider potential modifications to the allocations of catch or landings between the commercial and recreational sectors for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The commercial and recreational allocations for all three species were set in the mid-1990s based on historical proportions of landings (for summer flounder and black sea bass) or catch (for scup) from each sector. In July 2018, the Marine Recreational Information Program released revisions to its time series of catch (harvest and discards) estimates. These revisions resulted in much higher recreational catch estimates compared to previous estimates, affecting the entire time series of data going back to 1981. Some changes have also been made to commercial catch data since the allocations were established. The current commercial and recreational allocation percentages for all three species do not reflect the current understanding of the recent and historic proportions of catch and landings from the two sectors. This amendment will consider whether changes to these allocations are warranted.

Additional information and amendment documents are available at: <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment>.

The Council and Commission will hold 11 public scoping hearings on this amendment, during which Council or Commission staff will brief the public on the contents of the amendment documents and alternatives under consideration, prior to opening the hearing for public comments. Scoping is