



Habitat-Ecosystem Workshop
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Virginia Beach, VA
December 13-14, 2010



Goal: Identify projects and opportunities for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) to utilize the latest habitat and ecosystem science, policy, and management to provide healthy Mid-Atlantic fisheries. Establish and strengthen partnerships to extend these benefits to other mid-Atlantic activities with shared interests, beginning with NOAA, other federal and state agencies, environmental and industry NGOs, and constituents.

Objective: Coastal and marine resources and the habitats that support them are important to many groups in the mid-Atlantic region for a variety of reasons. The Council plans to use its specific role in the fishery management process to forge broader discussions about coastal and marine ecosystems, current and projected human activities, and the full array of resource management approaches and tools available to improve habitat and ecosystem health in the mid-Atlantic. The Council wishes to use its role in fishery management to engage in broader discussions related to new policy (the President's National Ocean Policy), broader perspectives (ecosystem approaches based on regional priorities), new tools (coastal and marine spatial planning, integrated ecosystem assessments), and new partnerships (related to ocean energy, offshore aquaculture, or others). The workshop will use these discussions to identify projects and advance our collective efforts to enhance, protect, and restore habitat and ecosystems.

Organizers: The MAFMC has worked with the NMFS Northeast Region, NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation, and NMFS Office of Science and Technology to plan this workshop.

Participants: MAFMC, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, New England and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, states, regional governance bodies (governors' regional association, MARCO), fishing industry, environmental groups, NOAA, and the public.

Format: This one and a half day event will feature more than 20 presentations grouped by panels to generate discussion. Each panel is designed to identify the roles of individual attendees, beginning with introductory talks followed by technical presentations and discussion.

Outcome: The primary outcome of this workshop will be to identify proposed projects and actions to incorporate habitat science, ecosystem-based fishery management, coastal and marine spatial planning, and related efforts into fishery science to provide healthy fisheries. The broad agenda and diverse attendance will benefit others with parallel objectives. Each presentation will be summarized in a workshop report to be published as a NOAA Technical Memo. Each speaker will be encouraged to identify what they see as the next steps in developing possible proposals and projects with Council involvement. Also, each panel discussion will identify next steps for short- and long-term accomplishments. Finally, this interactive workshop will serve to stimulate other regional discussions related to Council involvement in issues related to mid-Atlantic marine ecosystems.

RSVP: Due to room seating constraints, **please RSVP** if you plan to attend this workshop: Jan Saunders (302) 526-5251 or jrsaunders@mafmc.org.

Habitat-Ecosystem Workshop Agenda
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Monday, December 13, 2010

- 1:00 pm Welcome and Introductory remarks – **Gene Kray** (Chair, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council/Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee)
- 1:05 pm **Jennifer Lukens** and **Jessica Kondel** – (NOAA Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Program) *Implementing the President’s National Ocean Policy*
- 1:35 pm *Policy/Management Panel*
- Pat Montanio** (Director, NOAA/NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation) *Connecting opportunities in the mid-Atlantic*
- Tom Bigford** (Chief, NOAA/NMFS/Office of Habitat Conservation/Habitat Protection Division) *This mid-Atlantic effort in a national perspective*
- Pete Colosi** (Assistant Regional Administrator, NOAA/NMFS/Northeast Regional Office/Habitat Conservation Branch) *Habitat priorities and opportunities from a NMFS regional program*
- Fan Tsao** (Deep Coral Program Specialist, NOAA/NMFS/Office of Habitat Conservation/Habitat Protection Division) *Deep-sea corals and sponges as species of special concern*
- 3:10 pm Break
- 3:30 pm *Policy/Management Panel – cont.*
- John Catena** (Northeast Regional Supervisor, NOAA/NMFS/Office of Habitat Conservation/Restoration Center) *Habitat restoration interests in the mid-Atlantic*
- Lauren Wenzel** (National MPA System Coordinator, NOAA/NOS/Marine Protected Areas Center) *Supporting habitat and ecosystem priorities through the National System of MPAs*
- Reed Bohne** (North Atlantic Regional Manager, NOAA/NOS Office of National Marine Sanctuaries) *Considering mid-Atlantic sites for sanctuary nomination*
- Elaine Vaudreuil** (Manager, NOAA/NOS/Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program) *Connecting state coastal land conservation priorities with fishery habitat conservation priorities*
- 5:15 pm *Policy/Management Panel – Discussion with Council –* **Joe Nohner** (NOAA/NMFS Office of Science & Technology/Assessment and Management Division) and **Tom Hoff** (Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council), rapporteurs
- 6:00 pm Adjourn
- 6:15 pm Hospitality

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

- 8:00 am NMFS Habitat Assessment Improvement Plan (HAIP) – **Tom Noji** (Director, NOAA/NMFS NEFSC Sandy Hook Lab, NJ)
- 8:45 am *Science Panel*
Ned Cyr (Director, NOAA/NMFS/Office of Science & Technology) *NMFS science in support of new management initiatives: perspectives from headquarters*
Mike Fogarty (NOAA/NMFS/NEFSC/Ecosystem Division) *Spatial considerations for ecosystem-based management on the northeast continental shelf*
Peyton Robertson (Director, NOAA/NMFS/Office of Habitat Conservation/Chesapeake Bay Office) *Strengthening science to improve habitat protection and restoration in Chesapeake Bay*
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:20 am *Science Panel – cont.*
Tom Noji (NOAA/NMFS NEFSC/Sandy Hook Lab) *Habitat science to support mid-Atlantic fisheries management*
John Manderson (NMFS NEFSC/Sandy Hook Lab) *What makes some parts of the ocean sticky to fish? Applications of IOOS to habitat science and regional scale ecosystem management*
- 11:10 am *Science Panel – Discussion with Council* – **Dave Packer** (NOAA/NMFS NEFSC Sandy Hook Lab) and **Tom Hoff** (Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council), rapporteurs
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm **Greg Capobianco** (New York Department of State) *Perspectives from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Oceans (MARCO)*
- 1:30 pm *Stakeholder panel*
Jason Link (NOAA/NMFS NEFSC; Member, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Science and Statistical Committee) *Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible (Francis of Assisi)*
Monty Hawkins (Charter Boat Captain) *Discovering reef: Possibilities of accelerated and permanent reef-fish restoration*
Greg Di Domenico (Executive Director, Garden State Seafood Association) *Regulatory requirements that exceed our knowledge of the ocean environment and the impact on the public*
Jay Odell (The Nature Conservancy/Mid-Atlantic Regional Program) *Preparation meets opportunity for mid-Atlantic habitat conservation*
Wilson Laney and **Patrick Campfield** (representing Habitat Committee, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission) *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission ecosystem habitat programs and collaboration opportunities*
- 3:10 pm Break

Tuesday, December 14, 2010, cont.

3:30 pm *Stakeholder panel – cont.*

Chris Kellogg (Deputy Director, New England Fishery Management Council) *NEFMC progress and plans to address essential fish habitat protection requirements and ecosystem-based fishery management*

Wilson Laney (DOI/Fish and Wildlife Service, South Atlantic Fisheries Coordination Office) *South Atlantic Fishery Management Council ecosystem habitat programs and collaboration opportunities*

4:10 pm *Stakeholder Panel – Discussion with Council – **Jim Armstrong** and **Tom Hoff** (Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council) – rapporteurs*

5:00 pm Wrap-up discussion – **John Boreman** (Chair, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Science and Statistical Committee), **Dave Wallace** (Wallace & Associates), and **Rick Robins** (Chair, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council)

5:45 pm Adjourn

Workshop Steering Committee:

Tom Hoff	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Staff
Gene Kray	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Member
Pete Colosi	NOAA/NMFS Northeast Regional Office
Tom Bigford	NOAA/NMFS HQ Habitat Conservation Office
Kirsten Larsen	NOAA/NMFS HQ Science and Technology Office
Joe Nohner	NOAA/NMFS HQ Science and Technology Office