

NAFO Contracting Party to the United States, the U.S. may agree to facilitate such a transfer. However, there is no guarantee that if an applicant has facilitated the transfer of quota from another Contracting Party to the United States, such applicant will receive authorization to fish for such quota. If quota is transferred to the United States, we may need to solicit new applications for the use of such quota. All applicable NAFO requirements for transfers must be met. As in the case of chartering operations, the United States may also consider a NAFO Contracting Party's previous compliance with NAFO bycatch, reporting, and other provisions, as outlined in the NAFO CEM, before agreeing to accept a transfer. Any fishing quota or other harvesting opportunities received via this type of transfer are subject to all U.S. and NAFO rules as detailed below.

For more details on NAFO requirements for chartering and transferring NAFO allocations, contact Patrick Moran (see **ADDRESSES**).

#### **Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area**

U.S. applicant vessels must be in possession of, or obtain, a valid HSFCA permit, which is available from the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office. All permitted vessels must comply with any conditions of this permit and all applicable provisions of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and the CEM. We reserve the right to impose additional permit conditions that ensure compliance with the NAFO Convention and the CEM, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and any other applicable law.

The CEM provisions include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining a fishing logbook with NAFO-designated entries (Annex II.A and Article 28);
- Adhering to NAFO hail system requirements (Annexes II.D and II.F; Article 28; Article 30 part B);
- Carrying an approved onboard observer for each trip consistent with requirements of Article 30 part A;
- Maintaining and using a functioning, autonomous vessel monitoring system authorized by issuance of the HSFCA permit as required by Articles 29 and 30; and
- Complying with all relevant NAFO CEM requirements, including minimum fish sizes, gear, bycatch retention, and per-tow move on provisions for exceeding bycatch limits in any one haul/set.

Further details regarding U.S. and NAFO requirements are available from

the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, and can also be found in the NAFO CEM on the internet (<https://www.nafo.int/Fisheries/Conservation>).

Vessels issued valid HSFCA permits under 50 CFR part 300 are exempt from certain domestic fisheries regulations governing fisheries in the Northeast United States found in 50 CFR 648. Specifically, vessels are exempt from the Northeast multispecies and monkfish permit, mesh size, effort-control, and possession limit restrictions (§§ 648.4, 648.80, 648.82, 648.86, 648.87, 648.91, 648.92, and 648.94), while transiting the U.S. EEZ with multispecies and/or monkfish on board the vessel, or landing multispecies and/or monkfish in U.S. ports that were caught while fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area. These exemptions are conditional on the following requirements: The vessel operator has a letter of authorization issued by the Regional Administrator on board the vessel; for the duration of the trip, the vessel fishes, except for transiting purposes, exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area and does not harvest fish in, or possess fish harvested in, or from, the U.S. EEZ; when transiting the U.S. EEZ, all gear is properly stowed and not available for immediate use as defined under § 648.2; and the vessel operator complies with the provisions, conditions, and restrictions specified on the HSFCA permit and all NAFO CEM while fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Dated: November 19, 2018.

#### **Christopher Rogers,**

*Acting Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

#### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XG645**

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public meetings of the Council and its Committees.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held Monday, December 10, 2018 through Thursday, December 13, 2018. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Westin Annapolis, 100 Westgate Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401 telephone: (410) 972-4300.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255. The Council's website, [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org) also has details on the meeting location, proposed agenda, webinar listen-in access, and briefing materials.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following items are on the agenda, though agenda items may be addressed out of order (changes will be noted on the Council's website when possible.)

#### **Monday, December 10, 2018**

*Executive Committee—CLOSED MEETING*

Ricks E Savage Award

*Risk Policy Framework*

Final results of the Summer Flounder Economic Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and discuss next steps.

*Law Enforcement Workshop Report*

Report on Law Enforcement/For-Hire Workshop (November 13-14, 2018) and review workshop summary and develop recommendations on further actions.

#### **Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

*Discussion of Potential 2019 Mid-Year Revisions for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass*

Discuss timeline for revising 2019 summer flounder specifications and discuss potential for mid-year revisions to the 2019 black sea bass and scup specifications, including timing of the 2019 operational assessment.

*Black Sea Bass 2019 Recreational Specifications*

Review recent fishery performance, Monitoring Committee and Advisory Panel recommendations and adopt recommendations for 2019 federal waters recreational management measures.

*Scup 2019 Recreational Specifications*

Review recent fishery performance, Monitoring Committee and Advisory

Panel recommendations and adopt recommendations for 2019 federal waters recreational management measures.

*Summer Flounder 2019 Recreational Specifications*

Review recent fishery performance, Monitoring Committee and Advisory Panel recommendations and discuss timeline for developing 2019 recreational measures in early 2019 based on benchmark assessment results.

*Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Framework and Addendum XXXI on Conservation Equivalency, Block Island Sound Transit, and Slot Limits*

Take final action.

*Board-Only Meeting on Addendum XXXII for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Management*

Take final action.

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018**

*Summer Flounder Commercial Issues and Goals and Objectives Amendment*

Take final action.

*Revised Stock Assessment Process*

Presentation on Summer Flounder F-Based Management MSE

Review preliminary results of MSE to explore F-based recreational management.

*Black Sea Bass Amendment and Review of Progress on Commission's Strategic Plan for Black Sea Bass*

Discuss initiation of an amendment including identification of issues to consider.

*Research Steering Committee Report*

Report on Research Steering Committee Webinar (November 27, 2018) and discuss recommendations from the meeting.

**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

*Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team Report 2019 Implementation Plan*

Review and approve 2019 Implementation Plan.

*Business Session*

Committee Reports (SSC and Executive Committee); Executive Director's Report; Organization Reports; and, Liaison Reports.

*Continuing and New Business*

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management

Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 20, 2018.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XG638**

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a one-day meeting of its Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter For-Hire Advisory Panel.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the Gulf Council office.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Matt Freeman, Economist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; [matt.freeman@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:matt.freeman@gulfcouncil.org), telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., EDT:**

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Presentation of Allocation Decision Tools

3. Summary and Discussion of Actions in Reef Fish Amendment 41 and Options in Referendum Eligibility
  4. Presentation on Reef Fish Amendment 50 (State Management)
  5. Presentation on Historical Captain Permits Framework Action
  6. Other Business
- Meeting Adjourns

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) as they become available.

The meeting will be webcast over the internet. A link to the webcast will be available on the Council's website, <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Advisory Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Advisory Panel will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Gulf Council Office (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: November 20, 2018.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**XRIN 0648-XG463**

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of one permit application for enhancement and monitoring purposes, including an