

Member Update

My apology for missing this meeting, but members can contact me (Jessica Coakley – 302-526-5252, jcoakley@mafmc.org) if they would like additional detail on these update topics.

In July 2017, NOAA Fisheries announced the publication of a final rule for the Mid-Atlantic Council's Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment. Forage species are small fish and invertebrates that serve as prey for larger commercially and recreationally important fish, as well as for marine mammals and sea birds. Anchovies, herring, chub mackerel, and sardines are some common forage species. This is the first rule in the Atlantic to list forage species as ecosystem component species. This action sets landing and possession limits for 17 species and species groups to prevent the expansion of directed commercial fisheries on these species in Mid-Atlantic federal waters. For more information, Mid-Atlantic fishermen can refer to the Mid-Atlantic Forage Species Identification Guide, which is available at www.mafmc.org/forage.



In December 2017, the Council will consider elements of its draft Mid-Atlantic Council's Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) initial risk assessment. A Risk Element is an aspect that may threaten achieving the biological, economic, or social objectives that the Council desires from a fishery. The EAFM Risk Assessment will be a dynamic and evolving process that will be revisited and updated in future years. The Council will select a range of risk elements to be evaluated at either the managed species level, the species and sector level, or the ecosystem level.

<http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/december-2017>