

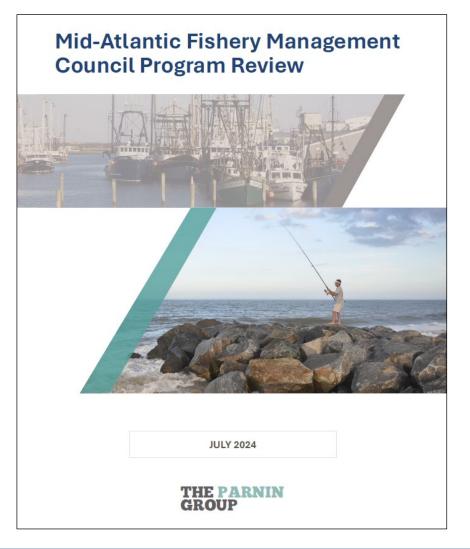


# Program Review: Perspectives

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Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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## Review Objective and Scope

 Primary objective to find innovative and efficient methods for Council to remain agile and responsive to new and evolving management challenges, including those related to climate change

• Identify opportunities to enhance the efficiency and adaptability of Council's processes, from early consideration of fishery management issues to the initiation of federal rulemaking



## Project Oversight Team

- Council Staff (3): Ecosystem, Habitat, Climate (+)
- NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic RFO (2): Sustainable Fisheries, NEPA
- NOAA Fisheries Northeast FSC (3): Ecosystems, Population Dynamics, Social Science Branch
- Group to help with proposal review and guide/advise work, review draft reports



## **Timeline**

- Desire to get work completed prior to finalization of:
  - 5-year strategic plan, 2025 implementation plan, Regional Operating Agreement
- November 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, presentation at August 2024 Meeting
- Everything was done well, but plan for more time!



## **Program Review Phases**

#### **Discover** Recommend Assess PHASE 01 PHASE 03 PHASE 02 Gain an understanding Identify key drivers of Collaborate with key inefficiencies from data participants to identify of current management by examining policies, and information collected potential solutions and/ processes, and practices in prior phase or actions to improve current Systems Link key drivers to specific Establish a system of collaboration and challenges and identify Incorporate findings into feedback when collecting trends and paint a total draft reports and draft Information and picture of the organization recommendations for the preparing insights and its processes project's Oversight Team to review Develop a list of Analyze interviews, experienced personnel and timelines, questionnaire, Develop a detailed questions for focus group and benchmarks to identify implementation roadmap, key drivers of inefficiencies, success metrics, and goals and individual interviews

challenges, and trends

for each recommendation

Figure 1. The Parnin Group's analytical approach.

## Discover and Assess

- Parninattended December Council Meeting to speak to attendees
- Attended other meetings virtually
- Conducted 10 focus groups, 6 individual Interviews, online questionnaire
- In total, interviewed 47 participants and received responses from 55 stakeholders
- OT worked closely withParninteam to id 102 total contacts; provide context to connect findings with recommendations

#### GROUP

Council Member (voting)

Council Member (non-voting)

Council Staff

SSC

**Advisory Panel Members** 

ASMFC Members

**GARFO Members** 

**NEFSC** 

**TOTAL** 



- » Key Finding Category 1: Efficient and Flexible Management
- » Key Finding Category 2: Regulatory Process Documentation
- » Key Finding Category 3: Data Acquisition and Modeling
- » Key Finding Category 4: Climate Change Response
- » Key Finding Category 5: Coordination and Communication





- Anticipated Time Frame Long-term: greater than 5 years; Medium-term: 2 to 5 years;
   Short-term: less than 2 years.
- Anticipated Task Complexity High: high degree of complexity with many considerations and complications, challenging to implement; Medium: somewhat complex, dependent on range of solutions, may be challenging to implement; Low: low degree of complexity, likely easy to implement.
- Anticipated Impact on Process Increases flexibility (F); efficiency (E); and anticipation of climate change (C). High: could address all 3 criteria, Medium: meets 2 out of 3 criteria;
   Low: meets 1 of 3 criteria.





#### Recommendations Category 1: EFFICIENT AND FLEXIBLE MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATION	ANTICIPATED TIMEFRAME	ANTICIPATED TASK COMPLEXITY	ANTICIPATED IMPACT ON PROCESS
R1. Limit Timeline for Scoping Actions/Development of Alternatives	Short-term	Low	Low (E)
R2. Develop Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to Aid in the Development of Future Analyses	Long-term	High	High
R3. Reconsider Timelines and Frequency of Reviews	Medium-term	Low	Medium (F, E)
R4. Conduct a Framework Action Efficiency Analysis	Medium-term	Medium	Medium (F, E)



## Timeline Analysis and Benchmarking

Table 4. MAFMC action timeline analysis details (for 10 actions).

STAGE <sup>5</sup>	AMENDMENT MEDIAN TIME	AMENDMENT TIME RANGE	FRAMEWORK MEDIAN TIME	FRAMEWORK TIME RANGE
Initial (Scoping,     Alternative development)	24 months	5-32 months	12 months	10-12 months
2. Engagement and Review	5 months	4-7 months	4 months	4 months
3. Council Transmittal	10 months	3-32 months	9 months	6-13 months
4. NOAA final rule development	3 months	2-5 months	2.5 months	1-4 months
5. Time from Council's final action to NOAA final rule	14 months	5-35 months	11.5 months	9-15 months
Total time taken	41.5 months	18-64 months	24.5 months	23-25 months

## **Examples of Process/Communications Tools**

#### **MAFMC FMP and Major FMP Amendment Timeline**

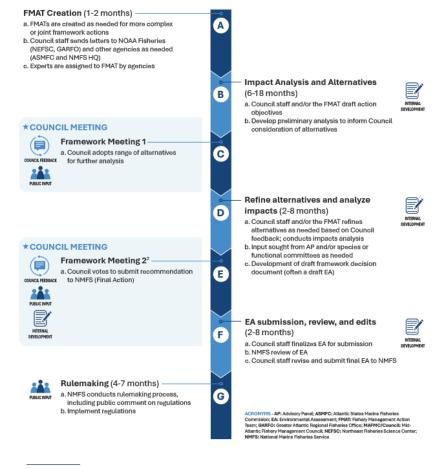
#### FMAT Creation (1-2 months) · Council staff sends letters to NOAA Fisheries (NEFSC, GARFO) and other agencies as needed (ASMFC and NMFS HQ) Scoping Document (1.5-3 months) . Experts are assigned to FMAT by agencies · Council staff draft document and conduct review with FMAT Scoping Hearings (1-2 months) C · Council staff conducts hearings · General public provides input Scoping Hearing Summary (1 month) on scope of proposed action D · Council staff summarize public input **★COUNCIL MEETING** Establish Scope of Action (1-3 months) COUNCIL FEEDBACK · Council establishes scope of topics Impact Analysis and Alternatives for action (6-18 months) PUBLIC INPUT Council, AP, FMAT, and SSC, Species, DEIS Review (1-2 months) or Functional Committees NMFS (DEIS review & preliminary approval) · GARFO and NEFSC conduct G review of DEIS DEIS Editing (1-2 months) H · Council and NMFS staff **★COUNCIL MEETING** edit DEIS **DEIS** and Alternatives Approval (1-2 months) • Council selects preferred alternatives and DEIS for public hearings Finalize DEIS and Public Hearing Document (2-3 months) · Council staff and FMAT creates public hearing document and DEIS Public Hearing -Council staff submits DEIS to NMFS and Comments (3 months) NOA and notice of public Public Hearing Summary (1 month) hearings published Council staff conducts hearings · Council staff summarize public input Comment Review and DEIS Amendments (3-6 months) M **\*COUNCIL MEETING** · Review public input and comments · Potentially revise Alternatives and DEIS **Final Action** COLINCII FEEDBACK N · Council votes to submit recommendations to NMFS **DEIS Final Review and Edits** (2-4 months) Council and NMFS staff perfects DEIS Rulemaking (4-7 months) · Submit final EIS to NMFS · NMFS conducts rulemaking process, YMS - AP: Advisory Panel: ASMFC: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commision: including public comment on regulations

· Implement regulations

DEIS: Draft Environmental Impact Statement; EIS: Environmental Impact Statement; FMAT: Fishery Management Action Team; FMP: Fishery Management Plan; GARFO: Greater

Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office; MAFMC/Council: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; MEFSC: Northeast Fisheries Science Center; NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Science Center; NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Science Office Marine Fisheries Science (Committee)

#### Typical Framework Action Timeline<sup>1</sup>



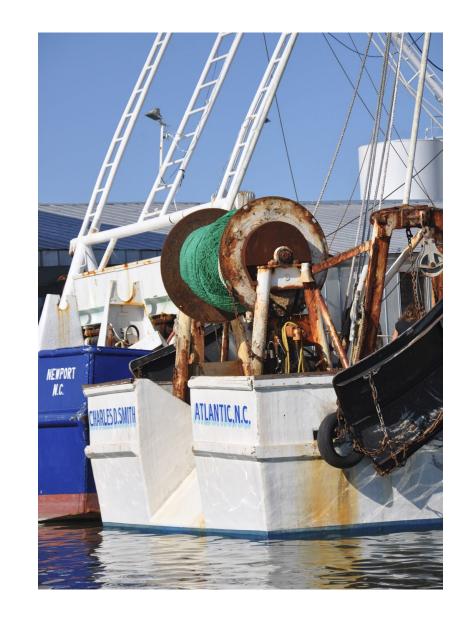
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Typically a Council framework action does not include public hearings or a comment period. The Council may hold public hearings or a comment period per the ASMFC process if the framework action is part of a joint MAFMC-ASMFC action.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>More complex frameworks may take more than 2 Council meetings to reach final action.

## My Overall Takeaways

- Report was well-received by Council
- Our Council staff are awesome! Input received reflected very positively on staff
- Need for better process communication tools
- Level of knowledge/perspectives about process from different groups was interesting to hear
- Room for improvement along a continuum from better staff resources to substantial fishery mgmt. process changes for Council



## **Next Steps**

- Some recommendations included in MAFMC Strategic plan (2025-2029)
- And the 2025 implementation plan to direct Council/staff priorities
- Additional work under IRA planned to help more fully develop/implement recommendations



### Questions about the project?

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Link to project description and report: <a href="here">here</a>

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