

## 2. Improvement of Capital Availability and Accessibility Through Existing and New Programs

- Continue ongoing federal financing programs, such as the Small Business Administration 7(a), 504 and Community Express programs and the Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund that have increased capital accessibility for minority businesses and other under-served communities.

- Implement a National Capital Access program, which allows banks and other financial institutions to make loans to higher-risk borrowers.

- Develop a national mezzanine-financing program.

## 3. Provision of Expanded Access to Management and Technical Assistance

- Tie existing and new financing vehicles to technical and management assistance appropriate for the type of firm receiving the financing.

- Focus provision of services to businesses with \$100,000 or more in annual revenues, as businesses of this size are responsible for approximately 95 percent of all employees retained by minority firms and nearly 92 percent of minority business revenues.

- Develop tiering mechanisms for provision of management and technical assistance services promoting increased efficiency and innovation within the minority business community.

- Create best practices and performance measurements for service providers.

## 4. Integration of the Investment Community, Minority Entrepreneurs, and the Federal Government

- Coordinate federal programs supporting minority business financing and increase minority business utilization of these programs.

- Support existing mechanisms for integrating entrepreneurs with financial institutions, especially with respect to venture capital.

- Promote increased collaborations between institutions with experience and expertise investing and lending to the minority business community and mainstream institutions.

For additional background on MBDA's proposals, please go to MBDA's Web site at <http://www.mbda.gov>. In particular, the Agency would like to receive any suggestions on additional approaches or options that may be included in a final report. If respondents believe that the identified issues are impractical or present serious difficulties in implementation, please note this in the comments.

The comments received will be reviewed for applicability to the issues addressed. MBDA will consider only those comments that address (1) existing successful models that could be enhanced and replicated, and (2) where there is sufficient interest within MBDA to adopt the comments, or there exists the likelihood of creating such interest. If any comments received meet the criteria, they will be included within the final report.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

**Ronald N. Langston,**

*National Director, Minority Business Development Agency.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091603D]

### 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) and its Joint Mid-Atlantic Council-New England Council Spiny Dogfish Committee, Research Set-Aside Committee, Demersal Committee, Tilefish Committee, and Executive Committee will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on Tuesday, October 7, through Thursday, October 9, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Outer Banks Resort & Conference Center/Ramada Inn, 1701 Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills, NC; telephone: 252-441-1830.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On Tuesday, October 7, the Joint (Mid-Atlantic Council-New England Council) Spiny Dogfish Committee will meet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Research Set-Aside (RSA) Committee will meet

concurrently from noon until 3 p.m. Council will meet from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be a NMFS Public Hearing on annual landing limits for blue and white marlin from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Wednesday, October 8, the Council will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Council will review and approve the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP); review and comment on the NMFS' Northeast Regional Office's Draft Regional Bycatch Implementation Plan; and, review and comment on the New England Fishery Management Council's (NEFMC) Groundfish Amendment 13 proposals regarding Essential Fishery Habitat (EFH) closures and effort management measures. The Council, together with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board, will meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to determine and prioritize management actions for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. On Thursday, October 9, the Tilefish Committee will meet from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The Executive Committee will meet from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Council will meet from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Agenda items for the Council's committees and the Council itself are: The Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee will review the Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee's recommendations regarding 2004/05 fishing year quota and associated management measures; develop and adopt recommended quota and management measures for 2004/05 fishing year. The RSA Committee will review, discuss and establish RSA priorities for 2005; review, discuss and establish project selection criteria for the 2005 RSA solicitation. The Council will convene its first meeting session with the swearing-in of new and re-appointed Council members, and by conducting an election of its officers. The Council will then review the Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee's recommendations regarding the 2004/05 fishing year quota and associated management measures; develop and adopt recommended quota and management measures for 2004/05; review and approve the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) Public Hearing document for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP; discuss and comment on NMFS' Northeast Regional Office's Draft Regional Bycatch Implementation Plan regarding how to address state waters fisheries, how to address recreational fisheries, and how to create incentives to encourage harvesters to