



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Contact: Maggie Mooney-Seus
978-281-9175 (office)
774-392-4865 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2011

Procedures for Setting Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for all Mid-Atlantic Fisheries are Approved

NOAA announced today approval of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's omnibus amendment to establish uniform procedures for setting annual catch limits and accountability measures. This amendment is further demonstration that a corner has been turned towards having sustainable U.S. fisheries because now all required federally managed fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic will be operating under these measures to help rebuild and prevent overfishing of fish stocks.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, all federally managed fisheries must have annual catch limits and accountability measures in place by the end of 2011. The Council determined that it would be more efficient to establish a common set of ground rules for all the management plans at once through an omnibus amendment, rather than developing them for each management plan separately. The amendment also formalizes the process for how scientific advice from the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will be integrated in fishery management plans.

The fish species in the Mid-Atlantic affected by this proposed action include Atlantic mackerel, butterfish, Atlantic bluefish, spiny dogfish, summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, tilefish, Atlantic surfclam, and ocean quahog. Actual catch limits and accountability measures for each fish stock will be set within the respective fishery management plans for these stocks.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).