



NEWS RELEASE



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MAFMC and ASMFC Seek Participants for Recreational Sector Separation Workshop

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are seeking participants for a stakeholder workshop on recreational sector separation options for the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish fisheries.

The workshop will support development of a [joint amendment](#) considering potential changes to the recreational management programs for these species, including options for managing for-hire fisheries separately from other recreational fishing modes, as well as possible changes to permit and reporting requirements for the for-hire sector. Workshop discussions will primarily focus on the current draft range of options, including:

- Recreational mode management approaches and guidelines
- Potential Letter of Authorization program for federally-permitted for-hire vessels
- Federal for-hire permit requirements and limited entry options
- State for-hire permitting and reporting requirements

Input provided during the workshop will help inform continued development of management options for consideration by the Council and Commission later in 2026.

[Workshop Details](#)

The workshop will be held **September 23-24, 2026**, in the Baltimore, MD area.

[Who Should Apply?](#)

The Council and Commission are seeking approximately 20 highly engaged recreational fishery stakeholders with experience in the for-hire or private recreational fisheries for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass and bluefish and an interest in identifying meaningful approaches for improving management across all recreational sectors. **Participants must be available to attend in person.** The Council will cover travel/lodging costs for selected participants.

[How to Apply](#)

Interested individuals are encouraged to complete the [Workshop Application Form](#) by **Friday, July 3, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Applications will be reviewed by the Fishery Management Action Team/Plan Development Team for this action, with recommendations forwarded to the Council and the Commission Chairs for approval. The Council and Commission will seek to identify a group of participants with balanced representation across states/regions, interest groups, and expertise. Individuals selected to participate will be notified in late July.

If you have questions about the workshop, please contact Kiley Dancy at kdancy@mafmc.org.

Given the presence of summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish in state waters (0-3 miles from shore) and federal waters (3-200 miles from shore), these fisheries are managed cooperatively by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.