



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 24, 2021  
**To:** Council  
**From:** Matthew Seeley, Staff  
**Subject:** Revisions to the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel Charter

At the January 14, 2021 Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP) meeting, the panel reviewed the current charter and developed a list of NTAP research priorities to vote on given there are FY21 funds available to support NTAP research. The panel discussed and identified a variety of research projects that could be supported. Ultimately, the preferred research direction was deemed not possible due to logistical concerns. NTAP members then re-voted to express support for specific projects in order to reprioritize the potential research efforts. Now, the NTAP is initiating the process to pursue research on the effects of restrictor cables on catch using the NEAMAP platform. During the course of this discussion (and via email), NTAP members suggested the panel revisit the charter to confirm the shared understanding of the goals and topics the NTAP wants to address.

The NTAP met again on March 19, 2021 via webinar to discuss revisions to the NTAP charter. Revisions were initially suggested to improve transparency between industry, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and Councils. The NTAP discussed the panel purpose, current goals, priorities, and organizational structure to improve communications and effort at future meetings. Through this discussion, NTAP members suggested adding action items to the charter as a way to make measurable forward progress on prioritized research initiatives.

The NTAP initially planned to present these revisions at the April Council meetings, however the revisions to the charter are still in development. Therefore, any adjustments to the charter will be presented at a subsequent meeting for Council approval.