

**Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act**

**Agencies:** U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Citation:** [16 U.S.C. §§ 5101 et seq.](#)

**Enacted as:** the “Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act”, Title VIII—Atlantic Coastal Fisheries of the “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1993”, on December 20, 1993

**Summary:**

The purpose of the [Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act \(the Act\)](#) is to support and encourage the development, implementation, and enforcement of effective interstate conservation and management of Atlantic coastal fishery resources. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (the Commission) is responsible for coordinating the interjurisdictional management of Atlantic coastal fish species, including the preparation and adoption of coastal fishery management plans. The Act provides a vehicle for the Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior, to support the interstate fishery management efforts of the Commission. Such support could be shown in a multitude of ways, including the promulgation of federal regulations that are compatible with a Commission fishery management plan, or federal implementation of a fisheries moratorium under the Act.

The Act allows for a federal moratorium when a state does not implement and enforce a provision of a Commission fishery management plan. If the Commission finds non-compliance with an aspect of a state’s coastal fishery management plan and refers that state to the Secretary of Commerce, and if the Secretary agrees that those responsibilities are necessary to conserve the species in question, then the Secretary must declare a moratorium on fishing in the fishery in question within the waters of the non-complying state

**Source:** [16 U.S.C. §§ 5101 et seq.](#)

**See also:** [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/state\\_federal/State-Federal-WEB/acfcmafs.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/state_federal/State-Federal-WEB/acfcmafs.htm)

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