



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Douglas E. Grout (NH), Chair

James J. Gilmore, Jr., (NY), Vice-Chair


Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

April 26, 2017

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council; Atlantic Herring Section; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Coastal Sharks Management Board; Climate Change Work Group; Executive Committee; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board; Tautog Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal 
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Spring: May 8 – 11, 2017 (TA # 17-064)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spring Meeting will be held May 8 – 11, 2017 at **The Westin Alexandria** (Telephone: 703.253.8600) located at 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, Virginia. Meeting materials are available on the Commission website at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2017-spring-meeting>. Supplemental materials will be posted to the website on Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

Board/Section meeting proceedings will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning May 8th at 1:00 p.m. and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be 3:00 p.m.) on Thursday, May 11th. The webinar will allow registrants to listen to board/section deliberations and view presentations and motions as they occur. No comments or questions will be accepted via the webinar. Should technical difficulties arise while streaming the broadcast, the boards/sections will continue their deliberations without interruption. We will attempt to resume the broadcast as soon as possible. Please go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/936308200287732994> to register.

I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Meeting. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740.

Enclosures: Final Agenda, Hotel Directions, TA#17-064, and Travel Reimbursement Guidelines

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Spring Meeting

May 8 – 11, 2017

The Westin Alexandria

Alexandria, Virginia

Public Comment Guidelines

With the intent of developing policies in the Commission's procedures for public participation that result in a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board has approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings:

For issues that are not on the agenda, management boards will continue to provide opportunity to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will use a speaker sign-up list in deciding how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

For topics that are on the agenda, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic. Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comment will not provide additional insight to the board.

For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

In addition, the following timeline has been established for the **submission of written comment for issues for which the Commission has NOT established a specific public comment period** (i.e., in response to proposed management action).

1. Comments received 3 weeks prior to the start of a meeting week will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5:00 PM on the Tuesday immediately preceding the scheduled ASMFC Meeting (in this case, the Tuesday deadline will be **May 2, 2017**) will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting and a limited number of copies will be provided at the meeting.
3. Following the Tuesday, **May 2, 2017 5:00 PM deadline**, the commenter will be responsible for distributing the information to the management board prior to the board meeting or providing enough copies for the management board consideration at the meeting (a minimum of 50 copies).

The submitted comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution. As with other public comment, it will be accepted via mail, fax, and email.

Final Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

Monday May 8, 2017

8:00 a.m. – Noon

Climate Change Working Group

Members: Abrams, Armstrong, Arnott, Brady, Clark, Gartland, Gibson, Grout, McKown, Morrison, Muffley, Nowalsky, Train, White, Woodward

Chair: Grout

Staff: Kerns, Campfield

- Continue to Draft White Papers on Science and Policy Strategies to Assist the Commission in Adapting its Management to Changes in Species Abundance and Distribution Resulting from Climate Change Impacts

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Atlantic Herring Section

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey

Other Members: NEFMC (Non-voting)

Chair: White

Other Participants: Eastman, Kaelin, Zobel

Staff: Harp

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*R. White*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Addendum I for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review Options (*A. Harp*)
 - Public Comment Summary (*A. Harp*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*J. Kaelin*)
 - Law Enforcement Committee Report (*M. Robson*)
 - Consider Final Approval of Addendum I
5. Review Scoping Comments on a Tiered Weekly Landing Limit **Possible Action**
6. Discuss 2016 Spawning Closure Pilot Program (*R. Zobel*) **Final Action**
 - Consider Permanent Implementation of the GSI₃₀ Based Forecast System
7. Consider Approval of 2017 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports (*A. Harp*) **Action**
8. Review and Populate the Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel **Possible Action**
9. Other Business/Adjourn

2:45 – 5:15 p.m.

American Lobster Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

Other Members: NEFMC, NMFS

Chair: Borden

Other Participants: Moore, Cloutier, Reardon, Bachman

Staff: Ware

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Borden*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from January 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Discuss New England Fishery Management Council Deep-Sea Coral Amendment **Possible Action**
 - Overview of Deep-Sea Coral Amendment Management Alternatives (*M. Bachman*)
5. American Lobster Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Subcommittee Report (*M. Ware*)
6. Update on Development of American Lobster Draft Addendum XXVI (*M. Ware*)
7. Consider American Lobster Addendum XXV for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review Options (*M. Ware*)
 - Public Comment Summary (*M. Ware*)
 - Law Enforcement Committee Report (*M. Robson*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*G. Moore*)
 - Consider Final Approval of Addendum XXV
8. Recess

Tuesday May 9, 2017

8:00 – 10:15 a.m.

American Lobster Management Board (continued)

9. Reconvene
10. Consider Addendum XXV for Final Approval **Final Action**
11. Consider Inconsistencies between State and Federal Regulations **Possible Action**
 - Addenda XXI and XXII Provisions in Federal Waters (*M. Ware*)
 - Lobster Conservation Management Area 4 Season Closure (*M. Ware*)
12. Other Business/Adjourn

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Law Enforcement Committee (LEC)

(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Law Enforcement Committee members only to discuss ongoing enforcement activities)

Members: Anthony, Blanchard, Burton, Cloutier, Donovan, Eastman, Furlong, Gadomski, Garner, Gordon, Green, Hettenbach, Kersey, King, Lynn, Messeck, Moore, Moran, Overturf, Santiago, Snellbaker

Chair: Eastman

Staff: Robson

1. Call to Order/Roll Call of the LEC Representatives (*M. Eastman*)
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes from May 2016
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Update of Regional Tautog Management Options
5. Review 2017 Action Plan Items
6. Report on Atlantic Herring Addendum I Final Action
7. Discuss Storm Preparedness, Training and Equipment
8. Discuss New or Emerging ASMFC Species Management Issues
9. Review and Discuss American Lobster Management Issues
10. Review and Discuss Ongoing Enforcement Activities (**Closed Session**)
11. Federal Agency Reports
12. State Agency Reports
13. Discuss NOAA Priority-setting and Planning for ASMFC Input
14. Update Survey for Enforceability Guidelines
15. Discuss ISFMP Species Management Issues
16. Develop Orientation Process for New LEC Members
17. Other Business/Adjourn

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Tautog Management Board**

Member States: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

Other Members: NMFS, USFWS

Other Participants: McNamee, Snellbaker

Chair: Nowalsky

Staff: Harp

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*A. Nowalsky*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Review Consistent Management Measures by Region (*J. McNamee, A. Harp*)
 - Massachusetts/Rhode Island
 - Long Island Sound

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- New Jersey/New York Bight
 - Delaware/Maryland/Virginia
5. Consider Draft Amendment 1 for Public Comment **Action**
 - Review Management Options (*A. Harp*)
 - Law Enforcement Report (*J. Snellbaker*)
 - New York Letter to the Board Regarding the Long Island Sound Boundaries (*J. Gilmore*)
 6. Other Business/Adjourn

1:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

Other Members: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Chair: Gilmore

Other Participants: Lengyel

Staff: Appelman

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Gilmore*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Draft Addendum V for Public Comment (*M. Appelman*) **Action**
 - Technical Committee Report (*N. Lengyel*)
5. Consider Approval of 2018 Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (*K. Drew*) **Action**
6. Board Guidance to Stock Assessment Subcommittee Regarding Development of Biological Reference Points for the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment (*K. Drew*)
7. Other Business/Adjourn

3:30 – 5:45 p.m.

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: McNamee, Kersey

Chair: Ballou

Staff: Ware

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*R. Ballou*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Hilborn et al. 2017 Paper for Technical Review (*R. Ballou*) **Possible Action**
5. Biological Ecological Reference Points Work Group Progress Report (*S. Madsen*)
6. Update on Draft Amendment 3 (*M. Ware*) **Possible Action**

- Review Allocation Workgroup Recommendations
 - Provide Guidance/Additional Input to Plan Development Team Regarding Management Options
7. New York Participation in Episodic Events Program (*J. Gilmore*) **Possible Action**
 8. Provide Guidance to Technical Committee Regarding Stock Projections
 - Review Stock Projection Methodology (*J. McNamee*)
 9. Consider Approval of 2017 FMP Review and State Compliance Reports (*M. Ware*) **Action**
 10. Other Business/Adjourn

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. **Annual Awards of Excellence Reception**

Wednesday May 10, 2017

8:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Executive Committee**

Breakfast to be served **(A portion of this meeting may be a closed session for Committee members and Commissioners only)**

Members: Abbott, Allen, Blazer, Boyles, Jr., Bull, Clark, Davis, Estes, Gilmore, Grout, Keliher, McNamee, Miller, Miner, Pierce, Shiels, Woodward

Chair: Grout

Staff: Leach

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Grout*)
2. Committee Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Meeting Summary from February 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Report of the Administrative Oversight Committee
 - Presentation of FY18 Proposed Budget
5. Discussion on Advisory Panel Members Serving as Board Proxies
6. Consider the Necessity for Technical Committee Meeting Weeks (*R. Beal*)
7. Future Annual Meetings Update (*L. Leach*)
8. Executive Director’s Annual Performance Review (*R. Beal*) **(Closed Session)**
9. Other Business/Adjourn

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. **Coastal Sharks Management Board**

Member States: Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: NMFS, USFWS

Chair: Miller

Other Participants: Garner, Gillingham

Staff: Harp

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*R. Miller*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2016

3. Public Comment
4. Final Rule for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Amendment 5b (Dusky Sharks)
 - Review Final Rule for HMS Amendment 5b (*K. Brewster-Geisz*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*L. Gillingham*)
 - Consider Complementary Management Measures (*R. Miller*) **Possible Action**
5. Other Business/Adjourn

11:00 a.m. – Noon

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

Members: Alexander, Baum, Beal, Blazer, Boyles, Jr., Carmichael, Cimino, Clifford, Coit, Cyr, Detlor, Fegley, Gary, Geer, Gilmore, Grout, Keliher, King, McCawley, Michels, Moore, Nies, Perkins, Pierce, Ponwith, Risenhoover, Shiels, Stephen, White

Chair: Boyles, Jr.

Staff: Cahall

1. Welcome/Introductions (*R. Boyles, Jr.*)
2. Public Comment
3. Council Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2016
4. ACCSP Status Report
 - Program Status (*M. Cahall*)
 - Committee Updates (*P. Campfield*)
5. Review and Consider Approval of 2017 Request for Proposals (*M. Cahall*) **Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

1:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

MAFMC Members: Batsavage, Baum, Beaty, Dancy, DeFur, DiLernia, Elliott, Heins, Hemilright, Hughes, King, Luisi, Mann, McMurray, Michels, Moore, Muffley, Nolan, Nowalsky, O’Reilly, Shiels, Slacum, Townsend, Winslow

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: Wojcik, Snellbaker

Chair: Luisi

Staff: Rootes-Murdy

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Luisi*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2017
3. Public Comment

4. Scup Addendum XXIX for Final Approval (*K. Rootes-Murdy*) **Final Action***
 - Review Management Alternatives
 - Public Comment Summary
 - Technical Committee Report
 - Advisory Panel Report
 - Consider Final Approval of Addendum XXIX
 - * *Council will also take action on Scup Framework 10*
5. Review Summer Flounder Draft Comprehensive Amendment Range of Alternatives for Commercial Issues (*K. Rootes-Murdy, K. Dancy*)
6. Consider 2017 Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures (*K. Rootes-Murdy*) **Final Action**
 - Review Final 2016 Recreational Black Sea Bass Harvest Estimate
 - Consider Management Response to the Final Harvest Estimate
7. Review White Paper on Potential Experimental Recreational Wave 1 Black Sea Bass Fishery (*B. Muffley*) **Possible Final Action***
 - Consider Postponed Motion to Allow Experimental Wave 1 For-hire Fishery:
 - Motion to allow an experimental 2018 January/February (wave one), recreational federally permitted for-hire fishery for black sea bass with a 15 fish per person possession limit, a suspended minimum size limit, and a zero discard policy to allow for barotrauma, and a mandatory trip reporting requirement.*
 - * *Joint Board and Council Action*
8. Review White Paper on Summer Flounder Recreational Specifications (*R. Ballou*)
9. Other Business/Adjourn

Thursday May 11, 2017

8:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: VanVoorhees

Chair: Grout

Staff: Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Grout*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from January 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Executive Committee Update (*D. Grout*)
5. Review and Consider New Jersey Appeal of Addendum XXVIII to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan **Final Action** (*D. Grout*)
6. Update on Climate Change Working Group (*T. Kerns*)
7. Review and Discuss 2017 Commissioner Survey Results (*D. Tompkins*)
8. Committee Report on Safe Harbor Landings (*J. Gilmore*) **Possible Action**
9. Update on the Marine Recreational Information Program Transition of the Fishing Effort Survey and APAIS (*D. Van Voorhees*)

10. Review and Consider Approval of Standard Meeting Practices (*T. Kerns*) **Action**
11. Progress Update on the 2017 Sturgeon Benchmark Stock Assessment (*K. Drew*)
12. Review and Consider Approval of the Assessment Schedule (*S. Madsen*) **Action**
13. Standing Committee Reports
 - Law Enforcement Committee (*M. Robson*)
 - Habitat and Artificial Reefs (*L. Havel*)
 - Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (*L. Havel*)
14. Review Non-compliance Findings (if necessary) **Final Action**
15. Other Business/Adjourn

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Business Session (if necessary)**

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida
Chair: Grout
Staff: Beal

1. Welcome/Introductions (*D. Grout*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from January 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Review Non-compliance Findings (if necessary) **Final Action**
5. Other Business/Adjourn

11:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board**

Member States: New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida
Other Members: DC, PRFC, NMFS, SAFMC, USFWS
Other Participants: Jiorle, Lynn, Lee, McDonough, Powers, Rickabaugh
Chair: Estes
Staff: Schmidtke, Daniel

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Estes*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2017
3. Public Comment
4. 2017 Atlantic Croaker Benchmark Stock Assessment **Final Action**
 - Presentation of Benchmark Stock Assessment Report (*C. McDonough*)
 - Peer Review Panel Report (*P. Campfield*)
 - Consider Acceptance of Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report for Management Use
 - Consider Management Response to Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report (*J. Estes*)

5. 2017 Spot Benchmark Stock Assessment **Final Action**
 - Presentation of Benchmark Assessment Report (*C. McDonough*)
 - Peer Review Panel Report (*P. Campfield*)
 - Consider Acceptance of Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report for Management Use
 - Consider Management Response to Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report (*J. Estes*)
6. Progress Report on Cobia Draft Fishery Management Plan (*L. Daniel*)
 - Provide Guidance to the Plan Development Team
7. Other Business/Adjourn