



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Patrick C. Keliher (ME), Chair

Spud Woodward (GA), Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

December 21, 2020

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council; Atlantic Herring Management Board; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Bluefish Management Board; Coastal Sharks Management Board; Executive Committee; Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board; Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Shad and River Herring Management Board; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board; Winter Flounder Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Winter Meeting Webinar: February 1-4, 2021

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Winter Meeting Webinar will be held February 1-4, 2021. The preliminary agenda and public comment guidelines, which follow, are also available on the Commission website at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2021-winter-meeting-webinar>. The final agenda, meeting materials and webinar details will be available at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2021-winter-meeting-webinar> by January 20th.

We look forward meeting with you at the Winter Meeting Webinar. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740 or reach out via email.

Enclosure: Public Comment Guidelines and Preliminary Agenda

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Winter Meeting Webinar

February 1-4, 2021

Public Comment Guidelines

To provide a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings. **Please note these guidelines have been modified to adapt to meetings via webinar:**

For issues that are not on the agenda, management boards will continue to provide an opportunity to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will ask members of the public to raise their hands to let the chair know they would like to speak. Depending upon the number of commenters, the board chair will decide 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 the webinar (January 11) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 26 will be included in the supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by 10:00 AM on Friday, January 29 will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting.

Comments should be submitted via email at comments@asmfc.org. All comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution.

Preliminary Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon during the webinar. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided below. 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, February 1

- 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** **Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)**
- Review and Consider Approval of State Recreational Measures for 2021 Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fisheries
 - Review and Consider Approval of Addendum XXXIII and MAFMC Black sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment

Noon – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

Tuesday, February 2

- 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.** **American Lobster Management Board**
- Consider Management Response to 2020 American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review
 - Discuss Development of Draft Addendum XXVII on Gulf of Maine Resiliency
 - Discuss Potential for Conducting a Management Strategy Evaluation for the American Lobster Fishery
 - Elect Vice-Chair

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Lunch Break**

- 12:45 – 1:30 p.m.** **Winter Flounder Management Board**
- Consider Specifications for the 2021 Fishing Year
 - Review Technical Committee and Advisory Panel Reports Regarding Specification Recommendations

- 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.** **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**
- Review Recent Fishery Performance Relative to Commercial Allocations

- 3:15 – 5:15 p.m.** **Atlantic Herring Management Board**
- Set Area 1A Sub-Annual Catch Limit for 2021-2023 Fishing Season (Pending Approval of Final Rule by NOAA Fisheries)
 - Update on Amendment 8 and Consider Impacts to the Area 1A Fishery
 - Update on New England Fishery Management Council (Council) and Commission Coordination Discussions
 - Consider Postponed Motion on Addendum III (Pending Outcome of Council/Commission Leadership Discussions and NOAA Fisheries Approval of Amendment 8)

Wednesday, February 3

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee

- CARES Act Update
- Legislative and Appropriations Update
- Annual Meeting Update

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Coastal Sharks Management Board

- Review NOAA Fisheries Cooperative Shark Tagging Program
- NOAA Highly Migratory Species Management Update

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

- Review Program Funding Update

12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:45 – 3:45 p.m.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

- Review Sensitivity Analysis of Different Recreational Release Mortality Rate Estimates in Stock Assessment
- Consider Draft Amendment 7 Public Information Document for Public Comment
- Consider Revisions to the Stock Assessment Update Schedule

Thursday, February 4

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Shad and River Herring Management Board

- Consider Management Response to 2020 Shad Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Review Technical Committee Recommendations on Improvements to Amendments 2 and 3
- Consider Shad Habitat Plan Updates
- Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Lunch Break

12:45 – 1:30 p.m.

Bluefish Management Board

- Consider Draft Addendum II for Public Comment

1:45 – 4:15 p.m.

Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board

- Consider Approval of the Risk and Uncertainty Policy
- Review Commissioner Survey Results
- Discuss Recreational Reform Timeline and Process
- Review State Membership on Species Management Boards
- Consider Approval of Artificial Reef State Profiles
- Consider Approval of Living Shorelines Impacts to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Policy
- Review Noncompliance Findings (if necessary)

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Business Session

- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations (if necessary)