

**Atlantic States Marine
Fisheries Commission**
1050 N. Highland Street
Arlington, VA 22201

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director




**New Hampshire
Marine Fisheries Division**
225 Main Street
Durham, NH 03824-4732

Douglas E. Grout, Chief

MEMORANDUM

September 5, 2019

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Eel Management Board; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council; Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee; Atlantic Herring Management Board; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Coastal Sharks Management Board; Executive Committee; Habitat Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Management and Science Committee; Shad and River Herring Management Board; South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board; Spiny Dogfish Management Board; Tautog Management Board; Weakfish Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal 
Executive Director

RE: **78th Annual Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**
October 27-31, 2019

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 78th Annual Meeting will be held October 27-31, 2019 at the Wentworth by the Sea, 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, New Hampshire. This memorandum contains meeting details, including the preliminary agenda. All of the business meetings scheduled during the week (with the exception of closed sessions) are open to the public, free of charge. However, if you plan to attend any of the Annual Meeting social events, please help us prepare for these events by registering early (see next page for more details).

Please note the preliminary agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided in the Preliminary Agenda which follows.

Doug Grout, Ritchie White, and Dennis Abbott have been working with staff on the meeting details and are looking forward to welcoming you all to the island of New Castle, one of New Hampshire's oldest

settlements. New Castle, the only town in New Hampshire composed entirely of islands, covers approximately 500 acres and serves as a scenic residential and recreational community. New Castle was founded in 1623, chartered in 1679, and incorporated in 1693 during the reign of William and Mary. Today, in addition to a residential population of slightly more than 1,000, it is home to the Great Island Common recreational park, a UNH marine research laboratory, a Coast Guard station, and Fort Constitution and Fort Stark state parks.

ACCOMODATIONS: A block of rooms is being held at the Wentworth by the Sea. Cindy Robertson (crobertson@asmfc.org) will make Commissioner/Proxy reservations and will contact you regarding the details of your accommodations. **Please notify Cindy of any changes to your travel plans that will impact your hotel reservations (including late arrivals), otherwise you will incur no-show penalties.** We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

For all other attendees, please make your reservations by calling 877.762.2876 as soon as possible and identify **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission** to obtain the negotiated room rate of \$169.00 sgl/dbl plus tax. Hotel reservations must be made before **September 29, 2019. Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** Please be aware that you must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or one night's advance payment and you must notify the hotel of any cancellation **prior to 72 hours before arrival** or you will be billed one night's room plus tax. **If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Cindy at 703.842.0740 or crobertson@asmfc.org.**

GETTING TO NEW CASTLE: New Castle is served by 3 major airports, Boston Logan International, Portland Jetport in Maine, and Boston-Manchester Regional in Manchester, New Hampshire. Each of the airports is approximately 50 miles from New Castle. Since participants will need to rent a car to get to New Castle, we encourage people to ride share, using <http://www.groupcarpool.com/t/sxzib0>

REGISTRATION: The meeting registration fee is \$200/per participant and \$150/per spouse or guest if you register by **October 18, 2019**. After **October 18th** and in New Castle the fees will be \$225 and \$175, respectively. The registration fee covers the Monday night reception, the Tuesday night dinner, and the Wednesday Hart Award Luncheon, as well as event materials. Payment is not required until you arrive at the meeting; however, we ask that you please assist us in planning for the meeting by registering as soon as possible. You may register by submitting the attached registration form by email to lhartman@asmfc.org, fax (703.842.0741) or US mail to 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201. Once you have registered, payment can be made in several ways (1) check, cash, or credit card at the ASMFC Registration Desk at the Annual Meeting; (2) credit card by calling Lisa Hartman at 703.842.0744; or (3) mail a check to ASMFC (address above). **(Please note all board/committee members attending the Annual Meeting will be reimbursed for the full registration fee. However, the additional \$25 for late registration fees will not be reimbursed.)**

FISHING TOURNAMENT: Plans are well underway for the 28th Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate. You will receive a T-shirt with your \$20 entry fee; and 100% of the tournament proceeds will be donated to support teaching kids to fish in New Hampshire. Full details will be provided in the next meeting notice.

FOR SPOUSES/GUESTS: Plans are also underway for the Spouses & Guests Program. The Monday Morning Social for spouses and guests will be held at the hotel. On Tuesday, spouses and guests will tour Strawberry Banke Museum, an authentic 10-acre outdoor history museum dedicated to bringing 300+ years of American history to life, and dine at the Oar House for lunch. Final details will be provided in the next meeting notice. These events are included in the Spouse/Guest registration fee.

The final agenda and meeting materials will be available on October 16th on the Commission website at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2019-annual-meeting>. In the interim, if there are any questions concerning the 78th Annual Meeting of the Commission, please contact me at 703.842.0740. We look forward to seeing you all in New Castle in October!

Enclosures: Preliminary Agenda
Travel Authorization 19-086
Travel Reimbursement Guidelines
Meeting Registration Form



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 **October 22, 2019**) 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, **October 22, 2019 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.

Preliminary Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. 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, October 28

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Atlantic Herring Management Board

- Progress Update on 2019 Atlantic Herring Area 1A Fishery Performance
- Progress Update on Development of Georges Bank Spawning Protection Discussion Document
- Review and Set Atlantic Herring Fishery Specifications for 2020/2021 Season

9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

American Lobster Management Board

- Progress Update on Resiliency in the Gulf of Maine
- Progress Update on 2020 American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Tautog Management Board

- Progress Update on Commercial Tagging Program

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Steering Committee

- Develop Action Plan for 2020-2021
- Finalize Recommendations for FY2020 National Fish Habitat Partnership-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Funding
- Progress Update on Northeast Fish Habitat Conservation Mapping Prioritization
- Develop Strategy for Sub-regional Project Fundraising

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Management and Science Committee

- Review Commission Success in Rebuilding and Sustaining Stocks
 - Consider Climate Change Impacts on Stock Distributions and Productivity
- Consider Use of Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)
- Discuss Offshore Wind and Fisheries Interactions
- Discuss Implementation of New Recreational Data in Fisheries Management

1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

- Progress Update on the 2019 Atlantic Menhaden Single-Species and Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Stock Assessments
- Update on Reduction Fishery Harvest from the Chesapeake Bay

- 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council**
- Funding Subcommittee Report
 - Consider Approval of Recommendations of FY2020 Submitted Proposals
 - Discuss Changes to ACCSP Committee Structure
 - Formulation of Data Coordination Committee
 - Program/Committee Updates
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
- Tuesday, October 29**
- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Spiny Dogfish Management Board**
- Consider Approval of Addendum VI
 - Review and Revise (if Needed) Spiny Dogfish Fishery Specifications for 2020/2021 Season
 - Review and Consider Approval of 2019 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance
- 8:30 a.m. – Noon **Management and Science Committee (continued)**
- 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **ACFHP Steering Committee (continued)**
- 9:45 – 11:45 a.m. **Horseshoe Crab Management Board**
- Review Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Subcommittee and Delaware Bay Ecosystem Technical Committee Recommended Updates for the ARM Model
 - Review and Set Horseshoe Crab Harvest Specifications for 2020 Season
 - Consider Postponed Development of Draft Addendum VIII
 - Review and Consider Approval of 2019 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance
- 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Law Enforcement Committee**
- (A portion of this meeting may be a closed session for Committee members only)*
- Review Circle Hook Regulations and Enforcement
 - State and Federal Agency Reports
 - Review Action Plan for 2020
 - Discuss State Compliance Reporting Process
 - Review ASMFC Managed-Species as Needed
 - Elect Chair and Vice-chair
- 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. **American Eel Management Board**
- Draft Policy on Coastwide Cap Overages for Board Approval
 - Review and Consider Approval of 2019 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance

- 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. **Weakfish Management Board**
- Progress Update on 2019 Benchmark Stock Assessment
 - Consider Management Response to the 2019 Weakfish Benchmark Stock Assessment Update
 - Review and Consider Approval of 2019 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance
- 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. **Business Session**
- Review and Consider Approval of 2020 Action Plan
 - Elect Chair and Vice-Chair
- 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Annual Dinner**
- Wednesday, October 30**
- 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Executive Committee**
(A portion of this meeting may be a closed session for Committee members and Commissioners only)
- Report of the Administrative Oversight Committee
 - Review and Consider Approval of FY19 Audit
 - Review Policy Addressing Non-payment of State Assessments
 - Future Annual Meetings Update
- 8:00 a.m. – Noon **Law Enforcement Committee (continued)**
- 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Habitat Committee**
- Discuss Progress on ASMFC Fish Habitats of Concern
 - Review Success of Species Assignments
 - Progress Update on Acoustics Impacts Document, Aquaculture Document, and *Habitat Hotline Atlantic*
- 10:15 – 11:45 p.m. **Shad and River Herring Management Board**
- Review Technical Committee Recommendations on Management and Monitoring Inconsistencies with Amendments 2 and 3
 - Consider Approval of Revisions to the Maine River Herring Sustainable Fishery Management Plan
 - Discuss Updates to Shad Habitat Plans
 - Progress Update on Shad Benchmark Stock Assessment
 - Review and Consider Approval of 2019 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Captain David H. Hart Award Luncheon**

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Coastal Sharks Management Board

- Consider Postponed Motions from May 2019:
Move to require, for state waters, the use of circle hooks on lined intended to catch sharks.

Move to postpone until the Board has received feedback from the Law Enforcement Committee and the Advisory Panel with the intention of considering the motion at the Annual Meeting.
- Set Coastal Sharks Fishery Specifications for 2020
- Review and Consider Approval of 2019 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance
 - Status Update on State Implementation of North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Measures

2:45 – 5:45 p.m.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

- Consider Approval of Addendum VI

Thursday, October 31

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board

- Discuss Commission Strategy to Address Changing Ocean Conditions
- Review Draft Stock Status Definitions
- Committee Reports
 - ACFHP
 - Assessment Science
 - Habitat
 - Law Enforcement
 - Management and Science

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Business Session (continued)

10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

- Consider Approval of Atlantic Croaker Draft Addendum III and Spot Draft Addendum II for Public Comment
- Consider Approval of 2019 Fishery Management Plan Reviews and State Compliance for Red Drum, Black Drum, Spotted Seatrout, and Spanish Mackerel