MEMORANDUM

April 22, 2015

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council; ACCSP Executive Committee; Atlantic Herring Section; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Executive Committee; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Shad and River Herring Management Board; South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal
Executive Director

RE: Spring Meeting: May 4-7, 2015 (TA # 15-048)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Spring Meeting will be May 4-7, 2015 at The Westin Alexandria (Telephone: 703.253.8600) located at 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA. Meeting materials are available on the Commission website at http://www.asmfc.org/home/2015-spring-meeting. Supplemental materials will be posted to the website on Wednesday, April 29, 2015. CDs containing all meeting materials will also be available at the meeting in limited quantities. The following pages contain the Spring Meeting Agenda.

Please note the cancellation of the Legislative and Governors’ Appointee Luncheon, originally scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at 12:45 p.m. and the addition of a meeting of the South Atlantic Board on Tuesday at 11:15 a.m., which has prompted a change in the scheduling and sequence of meetings that day.

Board/Section meeting proceedings will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning at 12:45 p.m. on May 4th and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be Noon) on May 7th. 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. To register for the webinar, please go to https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/469040481978536481

We 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: Spring Meeting Agenda
Directions to Westin Alexandria Hotel
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 April 28, 2015) 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, April 28, 2015 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 4, 2015

12:45 – 2:15 p.m. Atlantic Herring Section

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

**Other Participants:** Eastman, Zobel, Kaelin, Dean, Robson

**Chair:** Stockwell

**Staff:** Yuen

1. Welcome/Call to Order *(T. Stockwell)*
2. Section Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Draft Amendment 3 for Public Comment *(M. Yuen)* **Action**
   - Technical Report on GSI-Based Spawning Monitoring System *(M. Dean)*
   - Review Options *(M. Yuen)*
   - Advisory Panel Report *(J. Kaelin)*
   - Law Enforcement Committee Report *(M. Robson)*
5. Consider 2014 FMP Review and State Compliance *(M. Yuen)* **Action**
6. Update on New England Fishery Management Council Herring Committee Activities *(M. Yuen)*
7. Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership *(M. Yuen)* **Action**
8. Other Business/Adjourn

2:30 – 5:00 p.m. American Lobster Management Board

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

**Other Members:** NMFS, NEFMC

**Chair:** McKiernan

**Other Participants:** Glenn, Cornish

**Staff:** Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order *(D. McKiernan)*
2. Board Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from February 2015
3. Public Comment
5. Review and Consider Previous Changes to LCMA 4 and 5 Closed Seasons for Consistency (B. Muffley) **Final Action**
6. Consider Draft Addendum XXIV for Final Approval (T. Kerns) **Final Action**
8. Update on Lobster Trap Tag Database Progress (D. McKiernan)
9. Update on Lobster Stock Assessment Progress (T. Kerns)
10. Review and Populate Jonah Crab Advisory Panel Membership (T. Kerns) **Action**
11. Other Business/Adjourn

**Tuesday, May 5, 2015**

8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

*Member States:* Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida  
*Other Members:* PRFC, NMFS, USFWS  
*Other Participants:* Ingerson, Kaelin, Kersey, McNamee  
*Chair:* Boyles  
*Staff:* Waine

1. Welcome/Call to Order (R. Boyles, Jr.)
2. Board Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from February 2015
3. Public Comment
   - Review Ecological Reference Point Task
5. Consider 2015 FMP Review and State Compliance (M. Waine) **Action**
6. Technical Committee Report (J. McNamee)
   - Review Biological Reference Points
   - Review Stock Projections
7. Review and Set Atlantic Menhaden Specifications (M. Waine) **Final Action**
   - Advisory Panel Report (J. Kaelin)
8. Discuss Next Steps for Management Based on Results of the Benchmark Assessment and Ecological Reference Points Term of Reference (R. Boyles, Jr.)
9. Other Business/Adjourn
11:15 a.m. - Noon

**South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board**

*Member States:* New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

*Other Members:* PRFC, NMFS, USFWS, SAFMC

*Other Participants:* McDonough, Murphy, Powers, Blough, Zimmerman

*Chair:* Geer

*Staff:* Rootes-Murdy

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Geer*)
2. Board Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from February 2015
3. Public Comment
4. Report from the NOAA Southeast Regional Office on Draft Strategic Plan for FY2016-2020 (*H. Blough*)
5. Other Business/Adjourn

12:15 – 2:00 p.m.

**Blank Rome Workshop**

1. Budget Status
2. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization
3. Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey Funding
4. Committee Membership Updates

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Law Enforcement Committee**

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

*Members:* Anthony, Blanchard, Buendia, Cornish, Eastman, Frampton, Furlong, Gordon, Green, Gregory, Hettenbach, Hogan, Huss, Ingerson, Kersey, King, Lauderman, Lewis, Messeck, Moran, Overturf, Santiago, Shuster, Snellbaker

*Chair:* Ingerson

*Staff:* Robson

1. Call to Order/Roll Call of the LEC Representatives (*L. Ingerson*)
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Review Draft Jonah Crab Management Options
5. Report on Outside Law Enforcement Advisory Committee Activities (AFWA/NAACLAC/Councils)
6. Review and Update of Species Board Representatives and Alternates
7. Discussion of Other ISFMP Species (tentative)
8. Discussion of Possible Joint Meeting with Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission LEC (tentative)
9. Review and Discussion of Ongoing Enforcement Activities (*Closed Session*)
10. Joint Enforcement Agreement Update/Federal Agency Reports
11. Review Recent Safe Harbor Issues
12. Recess
2:15 – 3:45 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:* PRFC, DC, NMFS, USFWS

*Other Participants:* Place, Blanchard, Godwin

*Chair:* Grout

*Staff:* Waine

1. Welcome/Call to Order *(D. Grout)*
2. Board Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from February 2015
3. Public Comment
4. Technical Committee Reports *(C. Godwin)*
   - Progress Report on Producer Area Reference Points
   - Review Virginia’s Tagging, Monitoring, and Seine Proposals **Action**
5. Update on State Implementation of Addendum IV *(M. Waine)*
6. Other Business/Adjourn

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. 

NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Update

- Progress Report on Changes and Improvements to MRIP *(G. Colvin)*

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

*Annual Awards of Excellence Reception*

**Wednesday, May 6, 2015**

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee *(Breakfast will be served at 7:45 a.m.)* *(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Executive Committee members only)*

*Members:* Abbott, Ballou, Boyles, Bull, Chanda, Clark, Daniel, Estes, Gilmore, Grout, Keliher, O’Connell, Pierce, Rhodes, Simpson, Woodward, Young

*Chair:* Daniel

*Staff:* Leach

1. Welcome/Call to Order *(L. Daniel)*
2. Committee Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Meeting Summary from February 2015
3. Public Comment
4. Closed Session
   - Staffing Update
   - Commission Budget Discussion *(ACFCMA Funding, State Assessments)*
5. Administrative Oversight Committee Report (*D. Grout*)
   - Presentation of the FY16 Budget **Action**

6. Review Revised Language on Appeal Criteria

7. Review Suggested Changes to Commission Guidance Documents

8. Stock Assessment Update (*M. Cieri*)

9. Future Annual Meetings Update (*L. Leach*)
   - November 2-5 – St. Augustine, Florida
   - 2016 – Maine
   - 2017 – Virginia
   - 2018 – New York

10. Other Business/Adjourn

8:30 a.m. – Noon

**Law Enforcement Committee (reconvened)**

13. Update on State Implementation Plans for Striped Bass (tentative)

14. State Agency Reports

15. Discussion of ASMFC 2015 Action Plan Issues

16. Discussion of Closed Area Configurations and Enforcement

17. Review of Management Options for Atlantic Herring (Amendment 3)

18. Other Business/Adjourn

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board**

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

*Other Members:* DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

*Other Participants:* Lapointe

*Chair:* Daniel

*Staff:* Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*L. Daniel*)

2. Board Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from February 2015

3. Public Comment

4. Update from Executive Committee (*L. Daniels*)

5. Review and Discuss 2014 Commissioner Survey Results (*T. Kerns*) **Action**

6. Review and Approve Stock Status Definition Revisions (*T. Kerns*) **Action**

7. Assessment Science Committee Report (*S. Madsen*) **Action**
   - Update to the Stock Assessment Schedule

8. Committee on Economics and Social Science Report (*S. Madsen*)


10. Update on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Unmanaged Forage Fish Activities (*T. Kerns*)

11. Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Report (*L. Havel*)

12. Habitat Committee Report (*L. Havel*)
13. Law Enforcement Committee Report (M. Robson)
14. Review and Discuss the Northeast Regional Ocean Council Spatial Characterization of Commercial Fisheries (G. Lapointe)
15. Other Business/Adjourn

12:45 – 2:15 p.m.  

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee  
(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Committee members only)  
Members: Alexander, Beal, Boyles, Carmichael, Colvin, Cyr, Diodati, Laney, Patterson  
Chair: Patterson  
Staff: Cahall

1. Welcome/Introductions (C. Patterson)  
2. Public Comment  
3. Committee Consent Action  
   • Approval of Agenda  
   • Approval of Proceedings from March 2015  
4. ACCSP Status Report  
   • Program Status (M. Cahall)  
   • Committee Updates  
5. Independent Program Review Progress  
6. APAIS Update (G. White)  
7. Governance Review Update (C. Patterson)  
8. Long-term Funding Decision Document  
9. Review Action Items from Previous Meetings  
   • An update of the Governance Options Paper will be provided to the Executive Committee in May. (Draft Options Paper developed)  
   • Completed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) sections will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at the June meeting.  
   • A definition and description of the Executive Committee will be developed to be incorporated into the SOP document.  
   • M. Cahall will provide options to the Executive Committee of how to cut $83,000 from ACCSP funded projects by March 19th  
10. Other Business  
11. Closed Session  
12. Adjourn (C. Patterson)
2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Shad and River Herring 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:* DC, PRFC, USFWS, NMFS

*Other Participants:* Gromen, Enterline, Furlong

*Chair:* Stockwell

*Staff:* Rootes-Murdy

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*T. Stockwell*)
2. Board Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from February 2015
3. Public Comment
5. Technical Committee Report (*K. Drew*) Action
   - Recommendations for Assessment Schedule and River Herring Data Standardization
6. Other Business/Adjourn

3:45 – 5:15 p.m. ACCSP Coordinating Council

*Members:* Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, PRFC, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, ASMFC, NOAA Fisheries, NEFSC, GARFO, SEFSC, SERO, USFWS, NEFMC, MAFMC, SAFMC

*Chair:* Patterson

*Staff:* Cahall

1. Welcome/Introductions (*C. Patterson*)
2. Public Comment
3. Council Consent Action
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from February 2015
4. ACCSP Status Report
   - Program Update (*M. Cahall*)
   - Committee Updates
5. Independent Program Review (IPR) Progress
6. Review and Consider Approval of 2015 Request for Proposals Action
   - Long-term Funding Decision Document Action
7. Other Business
8. Adjourn
**Thursday, May 7, 2015**

**Tautog Management Board**

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

Other Members: NMFS, USFWS

Chair: Gilmore

Other Participants: McNamee, Snellbaker

Staff: Yuen

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Gilmore*)
2. Board Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from February 2015
3. Public Comment
4. Technical Committee Report (*J. McNamee*)
   - Clarification to Selecting Regional Tautog Stock Definition
   - New Reference Points
5. Consider Initiation of an Amendment in Response to the Benchmark Assessment (*J. Gilmore*) **Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

**Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (If necessary)**

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*L. Daniel*)
2. Board Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Review of Non-compliance Findings (if necessary)
5. Other Business/Adjourn

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

**Business Session (If necessary)**

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

Chair: Daniel

Staff: Beal

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*L. Daniel*)
2. Board Consent
   - Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Other Business/Adjourn