



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

2013 Summer Meeting Summary

Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015

2013 Summer Meeting
Alexandria, VA
August 6-8, 2013

For more information, please contact
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Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

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ATLANTIC HERRING SECTION (AUGUST 6, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section Approves Addendum VI

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Herring Section approved Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Herring. The Addendum improves alignment between state and federal Atlantic herring management by allowing the use of consistent tools across all four management areas of the species range. The Addendum’s measures include (1) seasonal splitting of the annual catch limit sub-components (sub-ACLs) for Areas 1B, 2, and 3; (2) up to 10% carryover of a sub-ACL for all management areas; (3) the establishment of triggers to initiate the closing of directed fisheries, and (4) using the annual specification process to set triggers.

Addendum VI was developed to complement the New England Fishery Management Council’s Framework 2, which was released as a proposed rule on August 2, with a comment period ending on September 3. While the current Interstate Atlantic Herring FMP provides states the flexibility to split quota in Area 1A, it does not include provisions for seasonal splitting in Areas 1B, 2, and 3. The Addendum allows for up to 10% of unused sub-ACL for all management areas to carry over from one year to the following year after final landings data have been released. This provision also allows unused quota to be rolled from one season to the next within the same fishing year. The Addendum establishes triggers to close directed fisheries in a management area when 92% of a sub-ACL is projected to be reached and stock-wide when 95% of the ACL is projected to be reached. A 2,000 pound bycatch allowance continues after directed fisheries are closed. The 10% rollover provision is intended to provide greater flexibility to herring industry, while the triggers are intended to prevent overharvesting in individual management areas and coastwide. States must implement Addendum VI’s measures on or before January 1, 2014.

The Addendum will available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under “*Breaking News*” by mid-August. For more information, please contact Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at 703.842.0740 or via email at myuen@asmfc.org.

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PR13-35

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Herring Section approved Addendum VI after receiving reports from its Technical Committee (TC) and Advisory Panel (AP) on the options contained therein. The AP Chair mentioned that the Council may open Area 2, which is currently closed to harvest. If opened, this would provide an additional quota for the remaining 2013 fishing season. Section members who also serve on the Council will bring forth this issue at the Council’s September meeting. The AP Chair also noted that fishermen in Area 2 are not interested in seasonal splitting. For more information, please contact Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at myuen@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to approve section 3.1 Seasonal Splitting of Quota for areas 1B, 2, and 3 option 2; under section 3.2 quota roll over for all management areas option 2; for section 3.3 harvest control measures: trip limit triggers option 2; for section 3.4 specification process for sub ACL triggers option 2.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Stockwell. Motion carries.

Move to have the Addendum implemented on or before January 1, 2014.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion approved.

Move to approve Addendum VI as amended.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion carries without objection.

AMERICAN LOBSTER MANAGEMENT BOARD (AUGUST 6, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC American Lobster Board Approves Addendum XXI and Initiates Draft Addendum XXII

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s American Lobster Management Board approved Addendum XXI to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster and moved the issues pertaining to single and aggregate ownership caps in Lobster Conservation Management Area (LCMA) 3 into Draft Addendum XXII for public comment. Addendum XXI implements changes to the transferability program for LCMAs 2 (Southern New England) and 3 (offshore waters). These changes are designed to allow for flexibility in the movement of traps as the consolidation program for LCMAs 2 and 3 is implemented to address latent effort (unfished traps) in the fishery. The measures are also intended to provide a mechanism for industry to maintain a profitable fishery as trap reductions occur. Through Draft Addendum XXII, the Board will further explore the issue of single and aggregate ownership caps in LCMA 3 as well as clarify resulting trap limits after trap reductions are implemented.

Under Addendum XXI, LCMA 2 and 3 fishermen purchasing traps with multi-area trap history may fish those traps in any area the traps have history. Previous regulations required recipients of partial trap transfers to choose a single LCMA the transferred traps are authorized to fish in. This new measure aligns the rules for the sale of partial traps with those for full business sales of multi-area history traps. For LCMA 2 only, the Board approved a single and aggregate ownership cap of 1,600 traps (800 active and 800 banked). The ownership cap allows for the purchase and accumulation of traps over and above the current LCMA 2 trap cap of 800 active traps. The single ownership cap sunsets two years after the last trap reduction occurs under Addendum XVIII. For LCMA 3 only, the Board approved an active trap cap of 2,000 traps, which will be reduced over five years to 1,548 traps (5% per year). The management measures contained in Addendum XXI will be implemented by November 1, 2013.

Addendum XXI and Draft Addendum XXII will be available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under *Breaking News* or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. States may be conducting public hearings on Draft Addendum XXII; the Commission will announce the hearing details once they are finalized. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, at ktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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PR13-39

Motions

Move to adopt the following elements of Addendum XXI for Area 2:

For 3.1.1 Part C (Multi-LCMA Trap Allocation): Adopt Option 3 which allows all areas to be fished and the multi-LCMA history to be retained in the database.

For 3.1.2 (Ownership Caps) Adopt Option 2 which creates a single ownership cap of 1600 traps.

For 3.1.3 (Sunset provision for the single ownership cap) Adopt Option 3 which would sunset after 2 years the trap cap. This means that two years after the last of 6 annual scheduled trap allocation reductions, permit holders would not be allowed to own more than the Area 2 trap limit that is currently at 800 traps.

For 3.1.4 (Aggregate Ownership Cap or Ownership Accumulation Limits). Adopt Option 2 which replaces the status quo of 2 permits per entity and replaces the limit with 1600 traps.

Motion made by Mr. McKiernan and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries (8 in favor, 3 abstentions).

Move to adopt the following elements of Addendum XXI for Area 3:

For 3.2.1 Part C (Multi-LCMA Trap Allocation): Option 3 which allows all areas to be fished and the multi-LCMA history to be retained in the database.

For 3.2.2 (LCMA Endorsements): Option 1 which maintains status quo – no Area 3 sub-area designation.

For 3.2.3 (Active Trap Cap): Option 2 which would cap traps at 2000 in year one and 1548 by year five.

For 3.2.4 adopt status quo.

For 3.2.5 adopt status quo.

Motion made by Mr. McKiernan and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries (9 in favor, 1 abstention).

Move that the implementation date be effective November 1, 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carries (10 in favor, 1 abstention).

Move to approve Addendum XXI as discussed today.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Stockwell. Motion carries without objection (1 abstention from the National Marine Fisheries Service).

Move to initiate Addendum XXII to include revised sections from Draft Addendum XXI (Section 3.2.4 and Section 3.2.5).

Motion made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Borden. Motion passes unanimously.

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (AUGUST 6, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to review landings data and abundance indices used in the 2013 benchmark stock assessment, which was peer-reviewed at the 57 SAW/SARC in July 2013 and will be formally considered by the Board in October once the peer review report has been released. Based on the data presented, the Board continues to be concerned about relative low levels of recruitment over recent years as well as recent downward trends in recreational landings. Given this information and in anticipation of the final results of the benchmark stock assessment, the Board tasked the Plan Development Team to begin drafting an addendum to explore reductions in fishing mortality for possible

Board review in October at the Commission's Annual Meeting. For more information, please contact Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

No motions made.

BUSINESS SESSION (AUGUST 6, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Business Session reviewed a first Draft of the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan. A Working Group, composed of a subset of Commissioners, was established to further develop proposed goals and strategies, and establish a timeline for public comment and final plan approval.

Motions

No motions made.

ATLANTIC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT BOARD (AUGUST 6, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board met to revise the terms of reference for the upcoming benchmark stock assessment, and review progress on the assessment, the Technical Committee's report of a proposed aerial survey design, and the 2013 Fishery Management Plan Review and state compliance. The revised terms of reference included a clarification for the peer review panel to address where the stock is relative to the management targets and thresholds. The Technical Committee continues to make progress on the benchmark stock assessment and recently identified forty potential fishery-independent data sets for inclusion in the assessment model. The relative abundance indices include both regional and state surveys with most targeting juveniles and some targeting adults.

A proposed aerial survey design by Dr. James Sulikowski and his colleagues at the University of New England was previously reviewed by the Technical Committee for its merit as a tool in surveying menhaden abundance. The Technical Committee reported that the proposed aerial survey design is unlikely to produce biomass estimates with a high degree of confidence or to provide data that will be applicable to the 2014 stock assessment. The Technical Committee also concluded that adequate statistical justification for the proposed survey methodology was not presented in the proposal. The Board agreed with the Technical Committee's recommendation that the authors conduct further simulation and power analysis work.

The Board was presented the 2013 Fishery Management Plan Review of the 2012 fishery. Total coastwide landings of Atlantic menhaden in 2012 were 224,200 metric tons; a 2% decrease from 2011 landings. Generally, bait landings have continued to increase recently while landings for reduction purposes have remained constant. At its May 2013 meeting, the Board approved *de minimis* status for New Hampshire, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida as part of their Amendment 2 implementation plans. The Plan Review Team plans to work with states in early 2014 to assist them in compiling compliance reports for the Amendment 2 adopted for the 2013 fishery.

For more information, please contact Mike Waine, FMP Coordinator at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to adopt the changes in the Terms of Reference as modified by the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carries unanimously.

Move that the Board approve the 2013 Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan Review and state compliance.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carries unanimously.

AMERICAN EEL MANAGEMENT BOARD (AUGUST 7, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC American Eel Board Approves Addendum III and Initiates Draft Addendum IV

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s American Eel Management Board approved Addendum III to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and initiated development of Draft Addendum IV. Given the scope of issues addressed in Draft Addendum III and the wide range of input received through public comment, the Board decided to divide the issues between the two addenda, with Draft Addendum IV primarily focusing on management measures for the glass eel fishery.

Addendum III establishes a 9” minimum size limit for recreational and commercial yellow eel fisheries, trip-level reporting for the commercial yellow eel fishery, a seasonal closure of silver eel fisheries, a 25 recreational fish per day creel limit, and measures to restrict the development of fisheries on pigmented eels. It also calls for the implementation of state-specific monitoring programs and provides recommendations for habitat improvements. States will be required to implement the Addendum’s measures by January 1, 2014.

Draft Addendum IV will propose a suite of options to address the glass eel fishery. These include, but are not limited to, the allowance of glass eel fisheries in states where harvest is currently prohibited, a coastwide quota, monitoring requirements, enforcement measures and associated penalties, quota transferability, and timely reporting. The Draft Addendum will also include options for managing New York’s Delaware River silver eel weir fishery. The Board will review and consider approval of Draft Addendum IV for public comment in October at the Commission’s Annual Meeting. If approved, Draft Addendum IV will be released for public comment during late fall/early winter, with possible Board final action in February 2014 and the implementation of management measures in 2014.

The Board’s actions respond to the findings of the 2012 benchmark stock assessment indicating the American eel population in U.S. waters is depleted. The stock has declined in recent decades and the prevalence of significant downward trends in multiple surveys across the coast is cause for concern. Causes of decline are likely due to a combination of historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants, and disease.

Commercial regulations vary by state. Glass eel fisheries currently occur in Maine and South Carolina. Significant yellow eel fisheries occur in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, the Potomac River, Virginia, and North Carolina. Although commercial fishery landings and effort in recent times have declined in most regions, current levels of fishing effort may still be too high given the depleted nature of the stock. Given the current status of the fishery and resource, the Board approved Addendum III in order to reduce overall mortality of American eel, and will consider further conservation measures in Draft Addendum IV.

Addendum III will be available on the Commission website (www.asmf.org) under *Breaking News* or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, at ktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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PR13-38

Motions

Main Motion

Move to initiate Addendum IV to develop the four working group recommendations: potential glass eel fisheries, glass eel quota management options, yellow eel quota management options and yellow eel limited entry.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. Augustine.

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute to remove Section 4.1.1 (the glass eel fishery) from addendum III and task staff to prepare a new addendum including but not limited to the following: (1) coastwide glass eel quota of 5,300 lbs allocated equally between all states (2) outline adequate monitoring requirements (3) outline adequate enforcement measures and penalties (4) transferability (5) timely reporting.

Motion made by Mr. R. White and seconded by Dr. Daniel.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to strike 5,300 lbs allocated equally between all states.

Motion made by Mr. Train and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion carries (16 in favor, 2 opposed).

Motion to Substitute as Amended

Move to substitute to remove Section 4.1.1 (the glass eel fishery) from Addendum III and task staff to prepare a new addendum including but not limited to the following: (1) coastwide glass eel quota (2) outline adequate monitoring requirements (3) outline adequate enforcement measures and penalties (4) transferability (5) timely reporting.

Motion carries (14 in favor, 4 opposed).

Main Motion as Substituted

Move to remove Section 4.1.1 (the glass eel fishery) from Addendum III and task staff to prepare a new addendum including but not limited to the following: (1) coastwide glass eel quota (2) outline adequate monitoring requirements (3) outline adequate enforcement measures and penalties (4) transferability (5) timely reporting.

Motion carries (14 in favor, 4 opposed).

Main Motion

Move to adopt for the yellow eel fisheries under Section 4.1.2 for Option 2 increasing minimum size to 9 inches, for Option 3b 1/2" by 1/2" minimum mesh size, and for Option 5 trip level reporting requirements.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. McElroy.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to remove Option 5 trip level reporting requirements.

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Gilmore. Motion fails on a lack of majority (9 in favor, 9 opposed).

Main Motion as Amended

Move to adopt for the yellow eel fisheries under section 4.1.2 for Option 2 increasing minimum size to 9 inches, for Option 3b 1/2" by 1/2" minimum mesh size, and for Option 5 trip level reporting requirements.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to add a 5% tolerance to minimum size limit by number.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Train. Motion fails (4 in favor, 13 opposed, 1 null).

Main Motion

Move to adopt for the yellow eel fisheries under section 4.1.2 for Option 2 increasing minimum size to 9 inches, for Option 3b 1/2" by 1/2" minimum mesh size, and for Option 5 trip level reporting requirements.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. McElroy. Motion carries unanimously.

Move to have a three year phase in period for the minimum mesh size, in which a 4 inch square 1/2" by 1/2" mesh escape panel could be utilized.

Motion made by Mr. Nowasky and seconded by Mr. Gilmore. Motion carries (16 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 null).

Main Motion

Move to adopt under Section 4.2 recreational fisheries Option 2 (a 25 fish per day creel limit) and Option 3 (an exemption for party charter boats).

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. Adler.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to strike Option 3 - an exemption for party charter boats.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Train. Motion fails (4 in favor, 12 opposed).

Motion to Amend

Move to amend that the size limit for recreational fishery matches the size limit for the commercial fishery.

Motion made by Mr. Feigenbaum and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries unanimously.

Main Motion as Amended

Move to adopt under Section 4.2 recreational fisheries Option 2 (a 25 fish per day creel limit) and Option 3 (an exemption for party charter boats) and the size limit for recreational fishery that matches the size limit for the commercial fishery.

Motion carries unanimously.

Main Motion

Move for Section 4.1.3 for silver eel fisheries adopt Option 2 season closure.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. McElroy.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend for Section 4.1.3 for silver eel fisheries to adopt Option 2 season closure, but exempt the Delaware River weir fishery in NY and allow for spearfishing gear.

Motion made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mr. Diodati. Motion fails (2 in favor, 15 opposed).

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute for further consideration of silver eel fisheries into Addendum IV.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. Gilmore. Motion fails (8 in favor, 10 opposed).

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to include an exemption for spear fishing.

Motion made by Mr. Feigenbaum and seconded by Mr. Diodati. Motion carries (15 in favor, 1 abstention).

Main Motion as Amended

Move for Section 4.1.3 for silver eel fisheries adopt Option 2 season closure with an exemption for spear fishing.

Motion carries unanimously.

Move to adopt the working group recommendation on option 5 pigmented eel tolerance.

Motion made by Mr. Feigenbaum and seconded by Mr. Stockwell. Motion carries unanimously.

Main Motion

Move to approve Addendum III as modified today with an implementation date of January 1, 2014.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. McElroy.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to include a one year exemption for the implementation date of the NY Delaware River silver eel weir fishery.

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Dr. Rhodes. Motion carries (15 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention).

Main Motion as Amended

Move to approve Addendum III as modified today with an implementation date of January 1, 2014 with a one year exemption for the implementation date of the NY Delaware River silver eel weir fishery.

Motion carries (15 in favor, 1 opposed (NC), 2 abstentions (NMFS, USFWS)).

Move to add to Addendum IV consideration of the NY Delaware River silver eel weir fishery.

Motion made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mr. Nowalsky. Motion carries without opposition.

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATE/FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD (AUGUST 7, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC Approves Spanish Mackerel and Red Drum Addenda

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board approved two addenda – Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plans

(FMPs) for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout and Addendum I to Amendment 2 to the Interstate FMP for Red Drum.

Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment establishes a pilot program that would allow states to reduce the Spanish mackerel minimum size limit for the commercial pound net fishery to 11 ½ inches during the summer months of July through September for the 2013 and 2014 fishing years only. The measure is intended to reduce waste of these shorter fish, which are discarded dead in the summer months, by converting them to landed fish that will be counted against the quota.

The Addendum responds to reports about the increased incidence of Spanish mackerel ¼ to ½ inch short of the 12 inch fork length minimum size limit in pound nets during the summer months. While the fish are alive in the pound, once the net is bunted and bailing commences, they die before being released. This may be due to a combination of temperature, stress and crowding. While individual fishermen have experimented with different wall or panel mesh sizes depending on the target species, there is no consistent use of cull panels. Those who have used cull panels have noted the difficulty and lack of success in being able to release the undersized fish quickly enough to prevent dead discards during this time of year.

The measure will only apply for the 2013 and 2014 fishing years after which the success of the program will be evaluated for consideration in years beyond 2014. Interested states would be required to notify the Commission of the specific time period it intends to use the minimum size limit exemption.

The Board also approved Addendum I to Amendment 2. The Addendum revises Amendment 2's habitat section to include current information on red drum spawning habitat and habitat by life stage (egg, larval, juvenile, sub-adult, and adult). It also identifies and describes the distribution of key habitats and habitats of concern, including threats, habitat bottlenecks (habitat or habitat characteristics that limit the sustainability or recovery of red drum), and ecosystem considerations.

Both addenda will be available on the Commission's website (www.asmfc.org) under *Breaking News* or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or via email at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org.

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PR13-40

Meeting Summary

The South Atlantic State-Federal Management Board met to review a number items including the Spot & Atlantic Croaker Trigger Exercises and state compliance reports and fishery management plan reviews for Atlantic Croaker and Red Drum.

The Board reviewed the work of the Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee (TC) and Spot Plan Review Team (PRT) on the 2012 Assessment Triggers, as well as analysis of the Atlantic croaker fishery using a traffic light method analysis. Based on the results of the trigger reports, which found declines in commercial and recreational landings for both Atlantic croaker and spot fisheries but did not trip the triggers, the Board tasked the TC and PRT with developing traffic light approach analyses for both species with management options to consider under a variety of conditions. The analyses will be presented to the Board in February 2014 at the Commission's Winter Meeting.

The Board accepted the Fishery Management Plan Reviews for Atlantic croaker and red drum. The Board approved *de minimis* requests from Delaware, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida for Atlantic croaker

and New Jersey and Delaware for red drum. The Board received a brief update on the South east Area Monitoring and Assessment Program regarding available funding for 2013 and 2014. Finally, the Board elected Pat Geer from Georgia as its Vice-Chair Board and approved the addition of Harry Rickabaugh from Maryland to the Spot PRT.

For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to develop the traffic light approach for spot and Atlantic croaker and propose management options in response to various conditions of that traffic light approach.

Motion made by Mr. Woodward and seconded by Mr. Goldsborough. Motion carries.

Move to approve Option 2.

Motion made by Mr. Boyles and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carries.

Move to approve Addendum I to the Spanish Mackerel FMP.

Motion made by Mr. Boyles and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carries without objection.

Motion to approve the FMP Review for Atlantic Croaker.

Motion made by Mr. Boyles and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carries.

Move to accept the FMP Review for Red Drum and grant *de minimis* status to the states of New Jersey and Delaware.

Motion made by Mr. Boyles and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carries.

Move to accept the Red Drum Habitat Addendum.

Motion made by Dr. Laney and seconded by Mr. Boyles. Motion carries.

Move to add Harry Rickabaugh to the PRT.

Motion made by Mr. O'Connell and seconded by Mr. Grist. Motion carries.

INTERSTATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM POLICY BOARD (AUGUST 7, 2013)

Press Release

Margaret Hunter Receives ASMFC Annual Award of Excellence

Alexandria, VA – Ms. Margaret Hunter, scientist with the Maine Department of Marine Resources, was presented the Commission's Annual Award of Excellence in Alexandria, Virginia for her years of outstanding contributions to the fisheries science and management programs of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the State of Maine. Ms. Hunter received her award in the area of scientific, technical and advisory contributions.

Ms. Hunter has served on the Commission's Northern Shrimp Technical Committee for well over a decade and for the majority of those years, she provided critical leadership as its Chair. Over the course of her chairmanship, she directed the technical committee's work through two peer-reviewed benchmark stock assessments, several annual stock assessment updates, two major plan amendments, and several



From left: Mike Waine, ASMFC FMP Coordinator, Bob Beal, ASMFC Executive Director, Margaret Hunter, Terry Stockwell, ME DMR, and Ritchie White, NH Governor Appointee

addenda. Further, she has provided valuable scientific advice to the Northern Shrimp Section on quota setting,

monitoring, reference points, and effort controls. She is one of those truly gifted scientists who is not only able to conduct sound scientific analysis, but is also able to effectively communicate the analysis and findings in a relatable and understandable way to both fishery managers and fishermen.

Ms. Hunter has been a dedicated scientist with the Maine Department of Marine Resources for over 30 years, conducting field research on northern shrimp, Atlantic herring, sea urchins, groundfish and other species, as well as providing valuable computer and analytical support for numerous fisheries projects. Since 2000, she has been responsible for the monitoring and assessment of Maine's sea urchin and northern shrimp fisheries. Both programs are critically important in that they provide the scientific foundation for management of these valuable fisheries.

Ms. Hunter's outstanding work ethic and commitment to detailed, but understandable, scientific advice has set an example for other scientists at the Maine Department of Marine Resources as well as those working on the Commission's technical and stock assessment committees. The Commission established the Annual Awards of Excellence in 1998 to recognize the important contributions of individuals to the success of the organization. The awards are given in the areas of law enforcement, legislation, management & policy, and scientific, technical & advisory contributions. Each year, the Commission honors the very best contributions in those areas.

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PR13-37

Meeting Summary

The Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (Policy Board) met to consider a number of issues, including the annual performance of the stocks, the Habitat Committee Guidance Document, an update on Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) projects, an announcement from NOAA Fisheries regarding river herring, and the potential for whelk and Jonah crab management.

The Policy Board reviewed the rebuilding progress for each of the species under Commission management. This review was intended to determine if the progress toward each species rebuilding goals

was occurring at an appropriate rate. The Board focused on the species in the categories of “concern,” “depleted,” and “unknown” in its discussions.

The Policy Board reviewed and approved the *Habitat Committee Guidance* Document. The guidance document is in response to the recommendations from the Habitat Program review and to comply with the guidelines in the Commission’s *Technical Committee Guidance and Assessment Process* document. The new document includes the program goal, description of member and coordinator roles, and annual work plan guidance, as well as other information.

ACFHP updated the Policy Board on two funded projects. The first addresses the disappearance of oyster reef and salt marsh grasses in Guana Peninsula, Florida. The second focuses on the need to re-establish submerged aquatic vegetation in the Peconic Estuary in New York. Also, the Partnership has endorsed two new projects. The first expands riverine migratory corridor habitat and spawning grounds for river herring in the West River in Connecticut. The second creates more salt marsh and tidal creek area in North River Farms, North Carolina.

The Policy Board discussed the potential for Commission management of two new species: whelk and Jonah crab. The Board concluded that coastwide management of whelk is not warranted at this time due to the life history and limited migration of the species. States have expressed interest to set up regional working groups to consider collaborative management among a small group of states. The Policy Board also tasked staff to collect information on the current Jonah crab fishery and state management measures for a discussion at the next Policy Board meeting.

NOAA Fisheries announced that the listing of river herring (alewife or blueback herring) as either threatened or endangered is not warranted at this time under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Policy Board thanked NOAA for its efforts in improving transparency in the listing process as well as working cooperatively with the states during the data collection process. NOAA will be working with the Commission and other partners to implement a coordinated coastwide effort to continue to address data gaps and proactively conserve river herring and their habitat. NOAA Fisheries also announced its intention to establish a technical working group and to continue to work closely with the Commission and others to develop a long-term and dynamic conservation plan for river herring throughout both species’ range from Canada to Florida.

The Policy Board will send comments to NOAA fisheries on the measures contained in the most recent American lobster proposed rule that were not consistent with the Commission’s FMP. A letter will also be sent to the New England Fishery Management Council regarding the opportunity to comment on the possible opening of access to mobile gear fishermen in closed area II where lobster trap fishermen have access. The Board is concerned with the potential for gear conflicts and possible impacts to egg bearing lobster.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at tkerns@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move that the ISFMP Policy Board approve the Habitat Guidance document as modified today.
Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Dr. Laney. Motion passes.

SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (AUGUST 7, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board met to review a progress report from the Technical Committee (TC). The Summer Flounder Recreational Working Group tasked the TC Committee with examining methods to achieve more equity in the recreational harvest opportunities along the coast. The TC presented to the Board a progress report on the analysis of current retention rates in the summer flounder recreational fisheries of each state. The TC noted the caveats in using the currently available data analysis to make decisions regarding management, with the next steps of the analysis to incorporate management metrics for Board consideration. The Board tasked the TC with continuing its analysis. The Working Group will also continue to meet to review the TC's progress and develop additional potential solutions for the Board to review in October.

For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

No motions made.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (AUGUST 8, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Executive Committee received reports on the Commission exploring 501(c) (3) status and potential conflict of interest guidelines. The Committee will continue to work on both issues over the coming months. For more information, please contact Laura Leach, Director of Finance & Administration, at lleach@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

SPINY DOGFISH & COASTAL SHARKS MANAGEMENT BOARD (AUGUST 8, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Board Approves Coastal Sharks Draft Addendum III for Public Comment

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board approved Draft Addendum III to the Atlantic Coastal Sharks Fishery Management Plan for public comment. The Draft Addendum proposes changes to the coastal shark species groupings for hammerhead and blacknose sharks and the establishment of a new commercial quota and recreational size limit for hammerhead sharks.

Draft Addendum III was initiated to ensure consistency between the state and federal coastal shark plans. The federal Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan was amended to address recent findings that scalloped hammerhead, blacknose, and sandbar sharks are overfished and/or experiencing overfishing. Specifically, Amendment 5a changed the coastal shark species groupings for hammerhead and blacknose sharks and established a new commercial quota and recreational size limit for hammerhead sharks.

Draft Addendum III proposes to remove all hammerheads (i.e., great, scalloped, and smooth) from the “Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks” group and move them under the “Hammerheads” group due to the difficulty in differentiating between various hammerhead species particularly when dressed. The Draft Addendum also proposes removing blacknose sharks from the “Small Coastal Sharks” group and placing them under the “Blacknose Shark” group. Finetooth, bonnethead and Atlantic sharpnose would remain in the “Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks” species group.

Further, the Draft Addendum considers a new recreational size limit of 78 inches fork length (FL) for all hammerhead sharks based on research which found female scalloped hammerhead sharks reach maturity at 78 inches. The proposed measure is intended to limit the retention of immature female hammerheads.

It is anticipated that several states will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum; information on those hearings will be released when it is finalized. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum is available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under *Breaking News*. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on September 25, 2013 and should be forwarded to Marin Hawk, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Coastal Sharks Draft Addendum III).

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PR13-41

Meeting Summary

The Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board met to review state implementation plans for Addendum II to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. All state implementation plans were approved, including Maine’s request for *de minimis*. The Board also approved Draft Addendum III for public comment. Draft Addendum III was initiated to address changes in species groupings and recreational size limits that are occurring in the HMS plan. For more information, please contact Marin Hawk, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mhawk@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to approve *de minimis* status for Maine.

Motion made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. McElroy. Motion carries.

Move that the implementation plans as presented today are approved.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries.

Move to approve Draft Addendum III to the Coastal Shark FMP for public comment.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries unanimously.