



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmfc.org

MEMORANDUM

January 29, 2014

To: ASMFC Executive Committee
From: Robert Beal, ASMFC Executive Director
RE: Species Management Board Declared Interests

Statement of the Problem:

The Commission has several management boards that include more than one species, yet the boards are made of a single grouping of states and jurisdictions. For example, the South Atlantic Board has fishery management plans (FMPs) for spot, spotted sea trout, Spanish mackerel, red drum, black drum, and Atlantic croaker. In some cases there are voting member states on the management board with declared interest in only some of the species covered by the management board. As stock dynamics change with rebuilding and climate change it is anticipated species ranges will also alter, increasing the number of states shifting their declared interest. Should member states be obligated to participate and vote on all issues covered by the management board or should member states only participate and vote on issues for species it has a declared interest?

Guiding Documents:

The charter state's the voting membership of each Management Board shall be comprised as follows: each state with an interest in the fishery covered by the Management Board shall be a voting member, and shall be represented by all of its Commissioners (or duly appointed proxies) in attendance. The position of a state on any matter before the Management Board shall be determined by caucus of its Commissioners in attendance;

Current Practice:

The South Atlantic Board has fishery management plans (FMPs) for spot, spotted sea trout, Spanish mackerel, red drum, black drum, and Atlantic croaker. The Board's core states include Florida though North Carolina. The states of Virginia to New York have declared interest in some species. For example, the States of Florida to New York have a declared interest in Spanish mackerel where as Florida to New Jersey have a declared interest in Black Drum. In practice the states will only vote on issues for which their state has active fishery or a declared interest at South Atlantic Board meetings. This allows states to spend the necessary time focusing on issues that pertain to their state fisheries and not have to spend time keeping up to speed on issues outside of their state's interest.

Emerging Issues

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board addresses the management of all three species. The original FMPs were species specific but later amendments/addenda combined management for all three species. The board is comprised of the states from North Carolina to

the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The range of the black sea bass stock has increased and for the last few years New Hampshire has seen an increase of black sea bass in state waters. New Hampshire is considering declaring an interest in the management of black sea bass but not summer flounder and scup since neither species is present in state waters. **Should the state be obligated to participate and vote on issues for summer flounder and scup since those species are covered by the board or could they only participate and vote on issues concerning black sea bass?**

The Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board discusses and takes action on two separate FMPs, the Spiny Dogfish FMP and the Coastal Sharks FMP. The Board is coastwide, yet the majority of coastal sharks are never or rarely harvested in some state waters, particularly the northern states. While spiny dogfish's range is coastwide, there is little to no harvest south of North Carolina. There are states that have expressed interest in participating in one FMP but not the other. **Should the Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board be split into two Boards? Or could states only participate and vote on issues for one of the FMPs?**