SUBJECT: Outlook for 2020 and Committee Assignments
TO: Commissioners and Proxies
FROM: Patrick Keliher, Chair
DATE: January 29, 2020

It is an honor to step into my new role as Commission Chair. The Commission closed out the decade with a very notable success and I hope that together we can continue making positive strides in 2020. I was very thankful that the Secretary of Commerce affirmed the foundation of the Atlantic Coastal Act by upholding our noncompliance finding for the menhaden fishery. However, there is no time to rest on our laurels. Many challenges, new and old, await us and we need to tackle them immediately. At the Commission’s February Meeting, the Atlantic Menhaden Board will consider Ecological Reference Points for management use – a first for this body, and one that doesn’t come without new challenges.

We will also be asked to address some weighty issues outside our control. Adapting management to climate change is chief among those. Understanding the impacts of a changing ocean and modernizing management to reflect current distribution patterns of our shared marine resources come to mind. Another outside force driving management decisions at the Commission is the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act as they intersect with right whales. We will all need to work together to find creative solutions, where no easy ones exist.

The Commission’s flagship species, striped bass, is experiencing a downturn due to a number of poor recruitment years. I’m proud that we all came together at the Annual Meeting in New Hampshire and made some hard decisions related to rebuilding this stock. Now we must ensure Addendum VI is implemented fairly and effectively across all jurisdictions thus ensuring the sustainability of this critically important species.

Our relationships with our federal partners at the New England, Mid and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries continues to be critical for our shared success. While these relationships, at times, are challenging, I am focused on working to achieve our shared goals wherever we can.

Since I was sworn in as Commissioner of Maine DMR in 2011, I have worked hard to establish and build relationships with Maine’s federal lawmakers and their staff. These relationships have benefited both my home state as well as the Commission. I would like to renew our efforts and find better ways to work together to expand and improve our collective relationships on the Hill. I plan to address this renewed effort at both the Executive Committee and Policy Board.

Below are the standing committees of the Commission and their appointees. Please review the membership of each committee carefully as changes have been made. If you are unable or unwilling to serve, let Bob Beal or I know. Participation is a reflection of your commitment to the Commission and the sacrifices you make to be an active part of our process.
2020 Committee Assignments
January 29, 2020

Administrative Oversight Committee
Spud Woodward, Chair
Dennis Abbott
Roy Miller
Jim Gilmore
Pat Keliher, (ex officio)

Awards Committee
Jim Gilmore, Chair
Pat Geer
Kurt Blanchard
Joe Cimino
Dr. Malcolm Rhodes
Eric Reid
Loren Lustig

Nominating Committee
Jim Gilmore, Chair
Jim Estes
Cheri Patterson

Resolutions Committee
Steve Murphey, Chair
Doug Haymans
Rep. Sarah Peake

Committee on Economics & Social Sciences
Dr. Syma Ebbin (Connecticut), Chair
Dr. Josh Stoll (Maine)
Dr. Rob Robertson (New Hampshire)
Dr. Tom Sproul (Rhode Island)
Antoinette Clementson (New York)
Dr. Jorge Holzer (Maryland)
Dr. Andrew Scheld (Virginia)
David Dietz (North Carolina)
Dr. Ray Rhodes (South Carolina)
Dr. Manoj Shivlani (Florida)
Dr. Tara Scott (NOAA)
Dr. Sabrina Lovell (NOAA)
Dr. Lisa Colburn (NEFSC)
Dr. Matt McPherson (SEFSC)
Dr. José Montañez (MAFMC)
John Hadley (SAFMC)

Artificial Reef Committee
State
Jordan Byrum (North Carolina), Chair
Christopher LaPorta (New York), Vice Chair

Mark Rousseau (Massachusetts)
Patrick Barrett (Rhode Island)
David Molnar (Connecticut)
Peter Clarke (New Jersey)
Jeffrey Tinsman (Delaware)
Michael Malpezi (Maryland)
Alicia Nelson (Virginia)
Dr. Robert Martore (South Carolina)
Paul Medders (Georgia)
Jeff Renchen (Florida)

Federal
Michael Burton (NOAA Fisheries)
Dr. Pace Wilber (NOAA Fisheries)
Russ Dunn (NOAA Fisheries)

Habitat Committee
State
Marek Topolski (Maryland), Chair
Jimmy Johnson (North Carolina), Vice Chair
Claire Enterline (Maine)
Joshua Carloni (New Hampshire)
Mark Rousseau (Massachusetts)
Eric Schneider (Rhode Island)
Julia Socrates (New York)
Russ Babb (New Jersey)
Benjamin Lorson (Pennsylvania)
Jeffrey Tinsman (Delaware)
Tony Watkinson (Virginia)
Sharleen Johnson (South Carolina)
Paul Medders (Georgia)
Kent Smith (Florida)

NGO
Graham Sherwood (Gulf of Maine Research Institute)
Kate Wilke (The Nature Conservancy)
Dr. Wilson Laney (North Carolina Coastal Federation)

Federal
Suzanne Ayvazian (EPA)
Martita Chintala (EPA)
Jessica Coakley (MAFMC)
Lou Chiarella (NOAA Fisheries)
Dr. Pace Wilber (NOAA Fisheries)
Virginia Fay (NOAA Fisheries)
Dr. Teresa McTigue (NOS)
Michelle Bachman, (NEFMC)
John Gill (USFWS)
Thank you for your willingness to serve, and please feel free to contact Bob or me if you have any questions or suggestions.

cc: Artificial Reef Committee
   Commissioner Proxies
   Committee on Economics and Social Sciences
   Habitat Committee
   Law Enforcement Committee
   Management and Science Committee
STANDING COMMITTEES

The Commission operates through a network of committees; some of which are standing committees to which the Chair appoints Commissioners (or proxies or others with appropriate expertise) and others to which membership is determined by each state. A description of current committees follows.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The Executive Committee shall have full power to approve formal administrative policies of the Commission; to dismiss the Executive Director; to approve the formal position of the Commission on legislation; to provide for the orderly administration of the Commission’s affairs; and generally to act in place of the Commission in the interim between meetings. The three Commissioners from each state shall caucus before the annual meeting to determine their representative on the Executive Committee for the coming year. The Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Chair of the Legislators, the Chair of the Governors’ Appointees and the Chairs of the member states delegations not represented by the Chair or the Vice Chair. (Article IV, Section 2, Rules and Regulations)

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
The Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC) was appointed by Chair Bill Hogarth in 1993 to provide guidance to the Executive Director on personnel, fiscal and organizational matters. The minimum make-up of the AOC is: Commission Vice Chair (AOC Chair), Commission Chair, and a representative from each of the Legislators and Governors’ Appointees. In addition, the Commission Chair may appoint additional Commissioners as members in order to provide full regional representation on the Committee (i.e., New England, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic.) The responsibilities of the AOC include, but are not limited to: (1) review of proposed budget (Spring); (2) review of annual audit (September); (3) review of human resources policies; (4) review of proposed new committees and/or changes to existing ones; (5) review and approve budget changes during the year; and (6) oversight on matters relating to Commission affairs that are not delegated to another committee. The AOC reports to the Executive Committee.

AWARDS COMMITTEE
The Commission, through the work of the Awards Committee, annually recognizes outstanding individuals in the field of fisheries. The David H. Hart Award is presented at the Commission’s Annual Meeting to an individual who has contributed to the betterment of the fisheries of the Atlantic coast through significant biological, legislative, enforcement or management activities. The Annual Awards of Excellence are presented at the Commission’s Spring Meeting, to individuals who have made highly significant contributions to the management and conservation of Atlantic coastal fisheries in each the following areas:
Scientific/Technical/Advisory; Congressional/Legislative; Law Enforcement; Management/Policy and Outreach/Advocacy. Such contributions must be for work on conservation issues of interstate, i.e. regional or Atlantic coastwide importance.

The Awards Committee is comprised of an Administrative Commissioner, a Legislative Commissioner, a Governor’s Appointee Commissioner, representatives of the Management & Science Committee and the Law Enforcement Committee, and the Commission Chair (ex-officio).

**Legislative Committee**
The Legislative Committee reviews federal legislation of importance to the Commission and develops a recommended Commission position on pertinent bills and resolutions. Recommendations are then reviewed by the Executive Committee for approval or rejection, thereby, establishing the official Commission policy on pending federal legislation. These official positions are then presented to the U.S. Congress upon request, normally in the form of hearing testimony or staff communications.

Legislative Committee meetings are held at the Commission’s Spring and Annual (Fall) meetings. Only ASMFC Commissioners in good standing are appointed to the Legislative Committee. The Commission Chair determines size and membership of the Legislative Committee, with consideration given to the geographic and social diversity of the Commission. Appointments are made annually but can be amended at any time at the discretion of the Commission Chair. Committee members are not restricted by term limits. If a member of the Committee leaves the Commission, the Commission Chair will appoint a replacement member to the Legislative Committee. (Please see “ASMFC’s Legislative Tracking Sheet” under Guiding Legislation later in this manual.)

**ISFMP Policy Board**
The ISFMP Policy Board, comprised of the Commissioners from the fifteen member states and representatives of District of Columbia (DC), the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, oversees the Commission’s Interstate Fisheries Management Program and meets at least bi-annually to establish and monitor the direction of the program.

**Assessment Science Committee**
The ISFMP Policy Board appoints membership to the Assessment Science Committee, with nominations provided by the 15 state marine fishery agencies, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Individuals are nominated based on their stock assessment and population dynamics expertise. Agencies may nominate personnel that require some training prior to official appointment as a committee member. The ISFMP Policy Board reviews all nominations and appoints members to the ASC based on expertise, as opposed to agency representation. The ASC membership is kept to a maximum of 25 members and periodic rotation is considered.
**MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE**

The Management & Science Committee (MSC) consists of 19 members, one from each of the 15 member states, two from the National Marine Fisheries Service (one each from the Northeast and Southeast Regions), and two from the Fish and Wildlife Service (one each from Regions 4 and 5). The state members are senior scientists within their individual organizations, representing the level between biologists and administrators. Thus, members possess a high level of scientific expertise along with extensive experience in practical fisheries management. A Chair is elected annually. The MSC reports to the Commission’s Executive Committee, the ISFMP Policy Board or other Commission bodies depending on the issue.

**HABITAT COMMITTEE**

The Habitat Committee, under the direction of the ISFMP Policy Board, is a standing ASMFC Committee that conducts the activities of the Habitat Program, with the assistance of the Habitat Coordinator. According to the ISFMP Charter (2003), the purpose of the Habitat Committee is to review, research, and develop appropriate response to concerns of inadequate, damaged, or insufficient habitat for Atlantic coastal species of concern to the ASMFC. The Committee meets at least bi-annually – usually twice at Commission scheduled meeting weeks and often once independently. The Habitat Committee operates under the principle of consensus agreement.

The Habitat Committee Chair and Vice-Chair each serve a term of two years in their respective positions to coincide with the Commission Chair’s term. Membership generally includes a representative from each member state, although this representative may not be a current ASMFC Commissioner. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries are each allowed two seats on the Habitat Committee, while the following federal agencies are allowed one seat each: National Ocean Service, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, two seats shall be available on the Habitat Committee for members from non-governmental organizations (NGO).

**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Law Enforcement Committee's goal is to integrate law enforcement more fully into the decisions of the Commission. The Committee provides information requested by the Commission on law enforcement issues, brings resolutions before the Commission addressing enforcement concerns, coordinates law enforcement among the states, exchanges data, and identifies potential problems. A law enforcement officer from each of the member states, as well as the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Coast Guard and the US Fish & Wildlife Service serves on this committee.
**ADVISORY PANEL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Based upon the recommendation of the Legislators and Governors’ Appointees (LGAs), the Advisory Panel Oversight Committee was established in February 2002 by the ISFMP Policy Board to provide leadership and guidance to the Commission’s advisory panel process. Its membership is composed of two state directors, a subset of LGAs, and two members of active advisory panels (preferably the chairs of those panels).