



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

2013 Spring 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 Spring Meeting
Alexandria, VA
May 20-23, 2013

For more information, please contact
the identified individual,
Toni Kerns, ISFMP, or
Tina Berger, Public Affairs

703.842.0740

Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

ATLANTIC HERRING SECTION (MAY 20, 2013)	3
<i>Press Release</i>	3
<i>Motions</i>	3
WINTER FLOUNDER MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 20, 2013)	4
<i>Press Release</i>	4
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	4
<i>Motions</i>	5
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE (MAY 20 & 21, 2013)	5
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	5
AMERICAN LOBSTER MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 20, 2013)	6
<i>Press Release</i>	6
<i>Motions</i>	7
MANAGEMENT & SCIENCE COMMITTEE (MAY 21 & 22, 2013)	8
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	8
SPINY DOGFISH & COASTAL SHARKS MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 21, 2013)	8
<i>Press Release</i>	8
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	9
<i>Motions</i>	10
AMERICAN EEL MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 21, 2013)	10
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	10
<i>Motions</i>	11
ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (MAY 21, 2013)	11
<i>Press Release</i>	11
ATLANTIC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 22, 2013)	15
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	15
<i>Motions</i>	15

HORSESHOE CRAB MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 22, 2013)	17
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	17
<i>Motions</i>	18
INTERSTATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM POLICY BOARD (MAY 22 & 23, 2013)	18
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	18
<i>Motions</i>	19
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MAY 23, 2013)	19
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	19
<i>Motions</i>	19
STURGEON MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 23, 2013)	19
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	19
<i>Motions</i>	20
TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 23, 2013)	20
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	20
<i>Motions</i>	20
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATE/FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 23, 2013)	21
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	21
<i>Motions</i>	21
BUSINESS SESSION (MAY 23, 2013)	22
<i>Press Release</i>	22
<i>Motions</i>	22

ATLANTIC HERRING SECTION (MAY 20, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section Approves Addendum VI for Public Comment

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Herring Section has approved Draft Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Herring for public comment. The Draft Addendum proposes several changes to the management program, including (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, (4) a research set-aside of up to 3% of the sub-ACLs, and (5) using the annual specification process to set triggers and research set-aside.

Draft Addendum VI was initiated to establish consistent tools for all four management areas for Atlantic herring and to complement the New England Fishery Management Council’s Framework 2, which was submitted to NOAA Fisheries in February 2013. 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 Draft Addendum proposes to allow for up to 10% of unused sub-ACL for all management areas to carry over from one year to the next. This provision would allow for unused quota to be rolled from one season to the next within the same fishing year. The Draft Addendum also proposes triggers that would close directed fisheries (1) in a management area when 92% of a sub-ACL is projected to be reached and (2) stock-wide when 95% of the ACL is projected to be reached. A 2,000 pound bycatch allowance would continue 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 may be conducting public hearings on Draft Addendum VI. Information on those hearings will be released when it is finalized. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum VI, either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum will be available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under “*Breaking News*” by the end of May. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on July 12, 2013 and should be forwarded to Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741(fax) or via email at myuen@asmfc.org (Subject line: Atlantic Herring Draft Addendum VI).

###

PR13-27

Motions

Move to approve Draft Addendum VI for Public Comment.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion passes (7 in favor).

WINTER FLOUNDER MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 20, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC Winter Flounder Board Approves Addendum III

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Winter Flounder Management Board has approved Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for the Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder. The Addendum establishes an annual specification process to set commercial and recreational management measures for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) fisheries. Each year, with advice from the Winter Flounder Technical Committee, the Board can adjust trip limits, size limits, and seasons for the commercial fishery; and size limits, bag limits, and seasons for the recreational fishery.

The Addendum will enable the Commission to respond more quickly to federal actions and changes in the winter flounder fishery. The Commission manages the two inshore stocks of winter flounder in the GOM and SNE/MA (0 – 3 miles from shore), while the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) manages winter flounder in offshore waters (3 – 200 miles). NEFMC establishes specifications for winter flounder stocks, including catch limits (ACL), the allocation of the ACL by sub-component (including state water set-aside), and accountability measures (AMs). These specifications are forwarded to NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region for final approval. The state water set-aside is not subject to federal accountability measures.

The Board maintained existing management measures for the 2013 fishing season for the SNE/MA stock due to its continued poor stock status and for the GOM stock because of its unknown stock status. This action is consistent with the Technical Committee’s catch advice.

Addendum III will be available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under *Breaking News* or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. For more information, please contact Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at myuen@asmfc.org.

Meeting Summary

The Winter Flounder Management Board approved Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for the Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder (see press release). The Board received reports from the Technical Committee (TC) and Advisory Panel. Both reported on the stock status of winter flounder in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) and advised against increasing harvest. The TC expressed that increased landings could negatively impact spawning aggregations.

The Board discussed the significant increases in federal annual catch limits (ACL) for the SNE/MA stock, which had been under a fishing moratorium since 2009. Specifically, there was concern about the 5,000-pound trip limit (5,000 pound days-at-sea/15,000 pound trip limit) for common pool vessels that would land in state ports, compared to the 50-pound trip limit for non-federally permitted commercial vessels fishing in state waters. It was noted that the trip limits are bound by ACLs and sub-ACLs. The total ACL is 1,612 mt (a 167% increase from 2012), while the state water sub-component is 235 mt (34% increase from 2012).

The Board maintained existing management measures for the 2013 fishing season for the SNE/MA stock due to its continued poor stock status and for the GOM stock because of its unknown stock status. This action is consistent with the Technical Committee's catch advice.

The Board will meet during the Commission's Summer Meeting in August to consider landings data in the GOM and SNE/MA areas. Regarding federal landings in state ports, states will include regulations on this issue in their compliance reports for the 2012 fishing year, due on November 1. For more information, please contact Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at myuen@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to approve Issue 1, Option 1 for section 3.1 and 3.2.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Fote. Motion substituted.

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute Option 2 for Issue 1 for section 3.1 (GOM and SNE).

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Dr. Pierce. Motion passes (6 in favor, 3 opposed).

Main Motion as Substituted

Move to approve Issue 1, Option 2 for Section 3.1 and Option 1 for Section 3.2.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Fote. Motion carries (6 in favor, 3 opposed).

Move to approve Addendum III as amended.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries by roll call vote (In favor – ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, DE; Opposed – NJ; Abstentions – NJ; Null – None).

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE (MAY 20 & 21, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) met in conjunction with the 2013 Spring Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The LEC addressed a number of issues including species activities; state/federal coordination; information sharing; and LEC panning and priorities.

SPECIES ISSUES:

American eel.—Kate Taylor presented management options being considered in Draft Addendum III. The LEC heard public comment on enforcement programs for glass eel harvest in Maine and had a detailed review and discussion of ongoing enforcement issues associated with the legal harvest of glass eels in Maine and South Carolina. The LEC provided updated advice on each of the management options in the addendum. These recommendations were submitted to the American Eel Management Board for consideration.

Flounder, scup, and black sea bass.—The LEC reviewed potential enforcement issues associated with commercial vessels carrying landing limits from more than one state. Several states deal with this on occasion and the LEC will review and prepare recommendations for addressing potential enforcement concerns.

STATE/FEDERAL COORDINATION:

Bruce Buckson, Director of NOAA Office of Law Enforcement updated the LEC on current staffing and budget issues and some of the program priorities for the office. He introduced Jim Landon, Chief of the Enforcement Section for NOAA Fisheries Office of General Counsel. LEC members and guests reviewed current federal caseloads and staffing improvements within NOAA OGC.

Members discussed recent efforts via the LEC to coordinate at-sea boarding for certain fisheries where concurrence is needed among NOAA Fisheries, the USCG and states.

INFORMATION SHARING:

Steve Anthony of NC presented information on his state's development of communications technology for officers based on Apple tablets and phones. A representative from Apple Corporation (Government Applications) was invited to attend and present additional information.

Members of the LEC exchanged information concerning the use and effectiveness of various enforcement tools and communication equipment. The LEC coordinator will work with LEC members to compile information on each agency's use of communications and safety equipment for later use and review.

LEC members reviewed current programs and activities in their states or federal jurisdictions. Most states are attempting to fill vacant positions and address chronic staffing shortages.

LEC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Members were provided a copy of enforcement goals and tasks found in the ASMFC 2013 Action Plan. The LEC coordinator will update members on key tasks in the plan on an ongoing basis. Membership on the LEC is changing. We recently lost Dorothy Thumm, Jeff Bridi and Jeff Marston to retirement. Rob Beaton has rotated off of the LEC because of change of duties. John Tulik has announced his retirement and introduced Pat Moran who may replace him on the LEC. The LEC welcomed our new members, including Rama Shuster and Timothy Huss. Members discussed impending retirements and successional issues in their own agencies.

For more information, please contact Mark Robson, LEC Coordinator, at markrobson2012@gmail.com.

AMERICAN LOBSTER MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 20, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC American Lobster Board Approves Addendum XX and Releases Draft Addenda XXI for Public Comment

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's American Lobster Management Board approved Addendum XX to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. The Addendum formalizes measures outlined in an agreement between the offshore lobster fishery and groundfish sector trawl fishermen for bottom sharing in Closed Area II of Georges Bank in order to prevent gear conflicts and to protect large concentrations of egg bearing females.

The agreement specifies certain times of year when lobster trap gear and sector trawl fishermen may fish in (or not fish in) certain portions of Closed Area II. The fishing industry developed this agreement in anticipation of the final approval of the New England Fishery Management Council's (NEFMC) Groundfish Framework 48 which contains measures to help mitigate the economic impact of the dramatic reductions in groundfish annual catch limits for the 2013 fishing year which began on May 1, 2013. NOAA Fisheries has published an interim rule allowing for groundfish sectors to request, through their operations plans, access to areas currently closed solely to reduce fishing mortality. NEFMC explicitly considered the potential for gear conflicts and included language in the Framework that states "when considering sector requests for access to closed areas, NMFS Regional Office should include, inter alia, consideration of the potential for gear conflicts, shifts in fishing effort out of the closed areas and impacts on protected species and lobsters."

The Board also approved Draft Addendum XXI for public comment. The Draft Addendum proposes changes to the transferability program for Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMAs) 2 and 3. These changes are designed to allow for flexibility in the movement of traps as the consolidation program for LCMAs 2 and 3 occur to address latent effort (unfished allocation) are implemented. The proposed measures are also intended to provide a mechanism for industry to maintain a profitable fishery as trap reductions occur.

The Draft Addendum is the second in a series of addenda that respond to the depleted condition of the Southern New England (SNE) lobster resource by scaling the capacity of the SNE fishery to the size the SNE resource. Since the scope of the SNE resource encompasses all or part of six of the seven LCMAs established by Amendment 3, additional addenda will be developed to address effort reductions in the remaining LCMAs (4, 5, and 6).

Addendum XX and Draft Addendum XXI will be available on the Commission website (www.asmf.org) under *Breaking News* or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. It is anticipated that the states will be conducting public hearings on Draft Addendum XXI; a subsequent press release will be released once the hearing schedule has been finalized. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, at ktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

###

PR13-26

Motions

Move to approve Option 2 in Addendum XX to the American Lobster FMP.

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

Move to adopt Addendum XX in the American Lobster FMP as amended.

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

Move that the Board accept the changes presented to Draft Addendum XXI concerning the ownership language in sections 3.1.4 and 3.2.5 as well as the sunset provision for single ownership as presented in section 3.1.3.

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

Move to approve section 3.1.1C and section 3.2.1C in the document.

Motion made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. McElroy. Motion carries (11 in favor, 1 abstention).

Move to approve Draft Addendum XXI as amended today for public comment.

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

MANAGEMENT & SCIENCE COMMITTEE (MAY 21 & 22, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Management and Science Committee (MSC) met to address several issues. It discussed progress on a task assigned by the ISFMP Policy Board to investigate whether climate change and warming coastal water temperatures are causing shifts in the geographic distributions of several stocks. MSC will discuss considerations for adjusting allocations and present guidance to the Policy Board in October. MSC also discussed efforts by its subcommittee to develop guidance on dealing with different types of management uncertainty. This effort will complement similar work being conducted by the Assessment Science Committee regarding guidance on scientific uncertainty.

MSC received a report on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Forage Fish Workshop. The Committee discussed how the Commission is taking a stepwise ecosystem approach, beginning with the efforts of its Biological Ecosystem Reference Points Work Group, which MSC will provide guidance and feedback to, in liaison with the Policy Board.

MSC reviewed the updated ASMFC 2013 Research Priorities as well as a Comprehensive Research Priorities List which highlights common themes amongst the highest research priorities. It will work on developing a list of short-term, critical research priorities and explore funding to carrying out these efforts. The Committee also discussed working with MRFSS/MRIP ratio estimators and will continue this discussion at its next meeting in October.

MSC received updates on the ASMFC/MAFMC Observer Program for Mid-Atlantic small mesh otter trawl fisheries, ACFHP, and Commission ageing activities. For more information, please contact Melissa Paine, Scientific Committee Coordinator, at mapine@asmfc.org.

SPINY DOGFISH & COASTAL SHARKS MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 21, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Board Approves Smoothhound Shark Addendum II & Initiates Draft Addendum III

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board has approved Addendum II to the Atlantic Coastal Sharks Fishery Management Plan. The Addendum allocates state shares of smoothhound sharks (also known as smooth dogfish) and changes the maximum fin-to-carcass ratio for smoothhound shark processing-at-sea.

The Addendum was developed in anticipation of NOAA Fisheries upcoming federal smoothhound shark quota, establishing state shares to prevent one region from harvesting the quota and excluding other regions (Table 1). The shares were established based on historical landings from 1998-2010. The Addendum also addresses changes to the maximum fin-to-carcass ratio for smoothhound sharks which were approved by Congress in the Shark Conservation Act of 2010.

Currently, there are no harvest restrictions for smoothhound sharks. Addendum I allows for the removal of all fins for processing-at-sea from March through June as long as the total wet weight of the fins found on board the vessel does not exceed 5% of the total dressed weight of smoothhound carcasses which are found on board the vessel. Addendum II was developed and approved to ensure consistency between the state and federal smoothhound shark plans.

The Atlantic Coastal Shark Plan and its two addenda continue to prohibit the finning of sharks. Finning is defined as the removal of the fins of a shark while discarding the carcass at sea. Fin-to-carcass ratios are used in high volume fisheries to allow fishermen to process the catch at sea, so long as the weight of the fins corresponds to the correct ratio of carcasses on board the vessel. Processing at sea is used to prevent the meat from being contaminated with ammonia and spoiling while still at sea.

Draft Addendum III was also initiated to ensure consistency between the state and federal plans. NOAA Fisheries' Amendment 5a to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan changes coastal shark species groupings and the recreational size limit for hammerhead sharks. Draft Addendum III proposes changing the species groupings and recreational size limit in state waters accordingly. The Board will review the Draft Addendum and consider its approval for public comment at the Commission's 2013 Summer Meeting.

Addendum II 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 Marin Hawk, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mhawk@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Table 1: Final State Share Percentages as Approved in Addendum II

	State-Share Percentages
ME	0.021%
MA	0.433%
RI	1.363%
CT	0.234%
NY	7.953%
NJ	18.828%
DE	0.339%
MD	6.703%
VA	34.803%
NC	28.583%
SC	0.742%

###

PR13-28

Meeting Summary

The Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board (Board) met to review preliminary 2013/2014 spiny dogfish quotas and consider Draft Addendum II for final approval. Addendum II was approved and states may implement the new smooth dogfish fin: carcass ratio immediately. State proposals to implement Addendum II are due July 15th. These proposals will be reviewed by the Technical Committee, and then forwarded to the Board for its consideration and approval at the Summer Meeting. All affected states must implement their regulations by January 1, 2014.

The Board also received an update on NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Division actions. Draft Addendum III to the Atlantic Coastal Sharks FMP was initiated to address changes in species groupings and recreational size limits that are occurring in the HMS plan. The Board directed the Technical Committee to review the impacts of the potential endangered species listings of great hammerhead and dusky sharks. For more information, please contact Marin Hawk, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mhawk@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to draft an addendum to address the new species groupings and size limit changes.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce and seconded by Mr. Gilmore.

Move to adopt the options Issue 1 Option C (historical landings 1998-2010), Issue 2 Option B (allow quota transfers), Issue 3 Option A (status quo), Issue 4 Option B (state-specified possession limits), Issue 5 Option A (no re-evaluation of state shares), Issue 6 Option B (at-sea processing measures consistent with the Shark Conservation Act).

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

Move to approve the following dates:

July 15, 2013: States submit proposals to meet requirements of Addendum II.

August 2013: Management Board reviews and takes action on state proposals.

January 1, 2014: States implement regulations.

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

Motion to approve the addendum as modified today.

Motion made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Bellavance. Motion carries with one abstention (NMFS).

AMERICAN EEL MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 21, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The American Eel Management Board met to consider Draft Addendum III for final approval, review state compliance with the Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and approve a nomination to the Advisory Panel (AP).

The Board was briefed on the management options contained in Draft Addendum III as well as submitted public comment. The public comment period was open from March 20th – May 2nd and 13 public hearings were held in 12 states. At the meeting the Board received input from the AP, Technical Committee (TC), and Law Enforcement Committee. After lengthy deliberations, the Board decided to appoint a subcommittee of the Board, including the TC and AP chairs, to further review the management options in the draft addendum and develop recommendations for the Board's consideration at the Commission's Summer Meeting in August.

The Board accepted the 2012 FMP Review of the 2011 fishing year and granted *de minimis* requests for Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, and the District of Columbia. The Board was briefed on the timeline of the potential Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing of American eel. A status

review, as required under the ESA, is expected to be released by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in September 2015. The Board approved Mari-Beth DeLucia, a non-traditional stakeholder with The Nature Conservancy, to the Advisory Panel.

For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at ktaylor@asmfc.org 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to nominate Mari-Beth Delucia to the Advisory Panel for American Eel.

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

Move to accept the 2012 FMP Review and approve *de minimis* requests from MA, PA, SC, GA, and DC for the yellow eel fisheries.

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

ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (MAY 21, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC Presents Annual Awards of Excellence

Alexandria, VA – Mr. William J. Goldsborough, Mr. Thomas W. McCloy, Dr. Malcolm M. Rhodes, Mr. Robert E. Ross, Jr., Mr. Wayne Hettenbach Mr. Patrick Duggan, and Captain Dorothy Thumm were presented the Commission’s Annual Awards of Excellence in Alexandria, Virginia for their contributions to the success of fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. Mr. Goldsborough, Mr. McCloy, Dr. Rhodes and Mr. Ross received their awards in the management and policy category, while Mr. Hettenbach, Mr. Duggan, and Captain Thumm received awards in law enforcement category. “Every year a great many people contribute to the success of fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. The Commission’s Annual Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding efforts by professionals who have made a difference in the way we manage and conserve our fisheries,” said ASMFC Chair, Paul J. Diodati of the Commonwealth of



From left: ASMFC Awards Chair Jack Travelstead, Thomas McCloy, Wayne Hettenbach, Robert Ross, Malcolm Rhodes, Captain Dorothy Thumm, Patrick Duggan, ASMFC Chair Paul Diodati, and William Goldsborough

Massachusetts. “This evening, we honor several individuals for their contributions to the management and conservation of Atlantic coast fisheries.”

Management & Policy Contributions

William J. Goldsborough, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

For 30 years, Mr. William J. Goldsborough has been on the front lines of fisheries management, advocating for science-based decision-making and the integration of ecological services into the Commission’s species management programs. As senior scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Mr. Goldsborough has been a steadfast voice supporting the conservation of Chesapeake Bay fisheries, effectively opposing legislation and other actions that might harm the Bay’s resources. He played a central role in striped bass recovery beginning with the implementation of Maryland’s moratorium in 1985 and through to the development of a conservation-based approach to reopening the fishery in 1990.

Passionate about the significance of healthy habitat on healthy fisheries, he advanced the importance of habitat as a critical common concern among fishermen. At the regional level, he brought together a diverse group of commercial and recreational fishermen, representing 16 fishing organizations, to adopt codes for protecting the Chesapeake Bay. Coastwide, he has left an indelible mark on the Commission’s Habitat Program as one of the earliest members of the Habitat Committee and its longest serving chair, having served in that position for 10 years. Under his leadership and participation, the Committee has developed habitat sections for many of our FMPs and released numerous publications – all of which have elevated our understanding of habitat and its critical link to supporting abundant fisheries.

He has been a tireless and articulate advocate for the need to address Atlantic menhaden’s ecological role in the Commission’s management process. He was instrumental in the development and adoption of Amendment 1 in 2001, which formally recognized menhaden as an important forage species. He helped plan and conduct a 2004 menhaden workshop, which highlighted the various ecological services menhaden provide and the need for ecological reference points in managing the resource. He was instrumental in developing the Chesapeake Bay reduction cap, beginning in 2006, and prompting a five-year Chesapeake Bay population research program. Over the past few years, Mr. Goldsborough vigorously campaigned for the development of ecological reference points. The recent adoption of interim reference points and a new management program for Atlantic menhaden are, in part, due to his efforts.

Mr. Thomas W. McCloy, New Jersey Marine Fisheries Administration

Mr. Thomas W. McCloy has spent his entire career, now extending into its 40th year, working for the betterment of New Jersey’s marine resources and the fisheries they support. He began his career in the early 1970s as a biologist, conducting some of the first comprehensive population and habitat assessments for the state’s various shellfish resources. He was promoted to Bureau Chief for New Jersey Marine Fisheries in 1990 and Administrator for New Jersey Marine Fisheries Administration in 2001.

In the 1990s, Mr. McCloy became engaged in broader coastal resources issues, serving as his state’s administrative proxy to both the Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. At the Commission, he played a key role in developing many of the Commission’s initial FMPs in response to the requirements of the newly enacted Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. These documents serve as the foundation for much of the Commission’s management policies today.

For the past 12 years as Marine Fisheries Administrator, Mr. McCloy has been a key link between upper management within the state's resource agency and its diverse fisheries constituency. His expertise and experience has guided these groups in ensuring that the appropriate and prudent actions are taken to the benefit of the resource first and the fisheries that rely on them second.

However, Mr. McCloy's greatest and most enduring success has been the mentorship of his staff. He demands the best of them, expecting excellence, professionalism, and a commitment to safeguard fisheries resources for their sustainable use. In turn, he invests significant time in training staff on how to fairly evaluate the issues before them, listen carefully to all affected parties, understand the full scope of the problem, and use the best scientific information to make an informed decision. Due to this mentorship, a good number of his staff has served in important leadership roles, from chairing the majority of the Commission management boards to serving as vital contributors on species technical and stock assessment committees as well as the Management & Science Committee.

Dr. Malcolm Rhodes, South Carolina Governor Appointee to the Commission

A passionate steward of Atlantic coast fisheries and their habitats, Dr. Malcolm Rhodes has served as South Carolina's Governor Appointee to the Commission for eight years. From the outset, he has brought his leadership and expertise to bear, chairing both the Shad & River Herring Management Board and the Governors' Appointees. He has also been a longstanding and active participant on the Administrative Oversight Committee and Executive Committee – two primary committees which set Commission administrative policies and provide guidance to the Executive Director on personnel, fiscal, and organizational matters.

As Chair of the Shad and River Herring Management Board, Dr. Rhodes led the states through the complex process of developing American shad sustainable fisheries plans for specific river systems. In doing so, he ushered in a new model and standard of fisheries conservation by turning the traditional, "Fish until you see there is a problem, " management approach to a more precautionary and enlightened "Don't fish unless you can prove there won't be a problem " mindset.

A true gentleman conservationist, Dr. Rhodes' calm and kind demeanor have enabled him to provide sound leadership to the Commission as it works to sustain and rebuild Atlantic coast fish stocks.

Robert J. Ross, Jr., NOAA Fisheries Northeast

Mr. Robert J. Ross, Jr., began his career in fisheries management 40 years ago as a student working in a NOAA Fisheries lab testing fish samples for heavy metals and contaminants. From there, he became a well-known port agent collecting important fisheries landings and biological data throughout New England. His outstanding work ethic and affable manner led to steady promotions within NOAA Fisheries from including a stint with the State/Federal and Constituent Office and later working in the Northeast Regional Office.

Mr. Ross has been an active and engaged participant in the Commission's fisheries management process for the last 15 years. His leadership and collaborative efforts have been critical to the continued success of several cooperatively managed species, including spiny dogfish, summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and winter flounder. But, by far, his greatest contributions have been in the management of American lobster. As a member of the American Lobster Plan Development Team and Management Board, Mr. Ross has played a vital role in ensuring the sustainable management of this valuable species coastwide. He worked closely with the lobster industry, scientists, and state partners to craft a unique and cutting-edge approach to sustainable lobster management which involves the implementation of area-based eligibility and trap transferability. His analytical abilities yielded important analyses of federal

actions in support of Commission management goals and he drafted and published countless federal actions to complement state management measures for the American lobster fishery. Despite this program's increasing complexity, he has remained committed to its success and health and vibrancy of the resource and industry it supports.

Law Enforcement Contributions

Mr. Wayne Hettenbach and Mr. Patrick Duggan, U.S. Department of Justice

Mr. Wayne Hettenbach and Patrick Duggan are two members of a joint NOAA Fisheries/New Jersey Law Enforcement Team, who recently capped off a five-year investigation, ending with the conviction of seven defendants on 37 individual counts for trafficking in illegal oysters. The defendants, all from New Jersey, were overharvesting oysters from the Delaware Bay and then falsely recording their harvest on state and federal records. Further, the Delaware dealer who sold the illegal oysters helped cover up the overharvest by filing false state and federal health documentation. It is estimated that in some years the overharvest exceeded the fishermen's quota by more than 60%. All told, the defendants illegally obtained nearly 15,000 bushels of oysters from the Delaware Bay at a fair market value in excess of \$1.2 million.

New Jersey officers initiated the investigation, with NOAA Fisheries joining soon after. The agencies worked hand-in-hand to covertly record the offloading and transfer of illegal oysters over state lines to Delaware. This surveillance, combined with information gained from coordinated surprise inspections and simultaneous search warrants, yielded tens of thousands of documents. For well over a year, state and federal agents and prosecutors worked to assemble the necessary evidence, prepare their case, and conduct hearings and testimony. Ultimately, their tireless work, exemplary interagency coordination, and dedication to preserving our natural resources, led to the successful conviction of an extensive criminal ring that had been depleting a vital, keystone species in the Delaware Bay.

With this investigation and further conviction, the Team sent a clear message that state and federal law enforcement officers stand ready to uphold our collective stewardship responsibilities and ensure that all harvest is carried out in accordance to the laws protecting those resources.

The remaining members of the NOAA/New Jersey Law Enforcement Team, who were unable to attend last night's event, will be presented their awards later this year. They are Special Agent James Cassin Jr., Special Agent Jeffrey Ray, Captain Mark Canale, Conservation Officer Craig James, Conservation Officer Jeremy Trembley, and Lieutenant Karl Yunghans.

Captain Dorothy Thumm (retired), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Captain Dorothy Thumm has dedicated her 40-year career to the protection and sustainable management of Atlantic coast fishery resources. A trailblazer in her field, she was the fourth woman to be hired as an environmental conservation officer by New York in 1980 and the first woman to be promoted to Lieutenant and then later Captain after completing her FBI Academy training. She served as Commanding Officer of New York's Marine Enforcement Unit from 2005 to 2013. An outstanding officer with an impeccable record, she worked collaboratively with the Bureau Marine Resources to target priority fishery enforcement needs, networking with a myriad of local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that fishery laws and regulations were properly enforced.

For the past seven years, Captain Thumm has been an active member of the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee (LEC), providing valuable input at both the state and regional level on issues affecting high visibility species such as American lobster, Atlantic sturgeon, striped bass and tautog. Her strong leadership skills combined with her knowledge and understanding of fisheries and habitat issues

were valuable assets to the Committee. A true team player, Captain Thumm represented the LEC on the Atlantic Sturgeon Board where she provided input, comments, and feedback on law enforcement issues. She also assisted in producing the Law Enforcement Committee's document "Guidelines for Resource Managers on the Enforceability of Fishery Management Measures."

###

PR13-24

ATLANTIC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 22, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Menhaden Board approved an episodic event pilot program for 2013 for use of the 1% total allowable catch set aside by the New England States (ME, NH, MA, RI, CT). To participate in the pilot program, the New England states must resubmit implementation plans by July 1, 2013, demonstrating their state meets the mandatory provisions of timely reporting and effort controls, specific to the pilot program. Additionally, the New England states must continue to monitor their fisheries to determine if an episodic event has occurred within their state waters before harvesting from the set aside. The episodic event program will be formalized through a technical addendum. The Board will review and evaluate the effectiveness of the episodic event pilot program at the Annual Meeting.

The Atlantic Menhaden Board also approved state implementation plans for Amendment 2. For 2013, the Board approved requests by ME, MA, RI, NY, MD, PRFC, VA and NC to allow daily bycatch landings of up to 12,000 pounds on one vessel if two licensed individuals are on board the vessel.

The Technical Committee (TC) updated the Board on the progress of the benchmark stock assessment currently scheduled for peer review in 2014. Given the amount of preparatory work required for this benchmark, the TC felt it necessary to begin preliminary data gathering and analyses in 2013. The primary goal of these meetings is to identify and explore the utility of agency-collected data sources in advance of the 2014 Data and Assessment Workshops. These meetings have also included preliminary discussions about potential alternative modeling approaches.

Finally, the Board approved the benchmark stock assessment terms of reference. For more information, please contact Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Main Motion

Move to approve the Episodic Event Pilot Program for 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. Himchak. Motion amended.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend that Massachusetts be included in the Episodic Event Pilot Program for 2013.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce and seconded by Mr. Himchak. Motion carries.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to include PRFC and NC in the Episodic Event Pilot Program for 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries, with New Hampshire in opposition.

Main Motion as Amended

Move to approve the Episodic Event Pilot Program for 2013 also including MA, PRFC and NC.
Motion substituted.

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute that only New England (ME, NH, MA, RI, CT) states may participate in the Episodic Event Pilot Program for 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. Bellavance. Motion carries (8 in favor, 5 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Main Motion as Substituted

Move that only New England (ME, NH, MA, RI, CT) states may participate in the Episodic Event Pilot Program for 2013.

Motion carries (13 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Move to initiate an addendum to fully develop the Episodic Event Program for 2014 and beyond.

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion postponed to October 2013.

Move to postpone this action until the Annual Meeting in October 2013 in Georgia.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott and seconded by Mr. Stockwell. Motion carries (12 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Move that the Board approve the implementation plans for MA, PRFC and FL as meeting the full requirements for Amendment 2.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries without objection.

Main Motion

Move that the Board not approve the MD, VA and PRFC request for bycatch allowance revisions.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce and seconded by Mr. White.

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute this motion to approve MD proposal as presented.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Ms. Fegley. Motion carries by roll call vote (In favor – MA, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, PRFC, VA, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS; Opposed – NH, RI; Null – ME, NC; Abstentions – None).

Main Motion as Substituted

Move to approve MD proposal as presented.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend the motion to include PRFC, VA and NC.

Motion made by Mr. Schick and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion fails (3 in favor; 10 opposed).

Main Motion as Substituted

Move to approve MD proposal as presented.

Motion carries.

Move that the PRFC be allowed to add bycatch allowance of 12,000 pounds on one boat with 2 licensees each for pound nets only in 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Schick and seconded by Ms. Cosby. Motion carries (13 in favor, 4 opposed).

Move to approve VA plan for 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Travelstead. Motion carries by roll call vote (In favor – ME, NY, NJ, DE, MD, PRFC, VA, SC, GA, FL; Opposed – NH, MA, RI, CT, NC; Null – None; Abstentions – NMFS, USFWS).

Move that NC be approved for a bycatch of 12,000 pounds on one vessel for two licenses each for pound nets only for 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Cole and seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion carries (15 in favor, 2 abstentions).

Move that RI, MA, NY, ME be approved for a bycatch of 12,000 pounds on one vessel for two licenses each for multi-species stationary gear only for 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Ballou and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passes.

Move that for 2014 that all states will be limited to a 6,000 pound per vessel per trip bycatch limit regardless of the number of permit holders on the vessel, with only one landing event per calendar day, unless the board approves an addendum to modify Section 4.2.1.7 of Amendment 2 to reflect this.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. Bellavance. Motion carries without objection.

Move to approve the *de minimis* requests from NH, SC, GA, and FL for 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries without objection.

Move to approve RI's plan.

Motion by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion carries without objection.

Move to approve CT's plan.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion carries without objection.

Move to approve NY's plan for 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries without objection.

Move to approve NJ's plan for 2013.

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

Move to approve NC's plan for 2013.

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

Move to approve the plans from ME, NH, DE, SC, and GA for 2013.

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

Move to accept the Terms of Reference as presented by the TC.

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

HORSESHOE CRAB MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 22, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Horseshoe Crab Management Board (Board) met to consider the 2012 FMP Review and state compliance. The 2012 FMP Review was approved as were all requests for *de minimis*. The Board also received an update on funding for the Virginia Tech Trawl Survey as well as a stock status update. For

more information, please contact Marin Hawk, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mhawk@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to accept the FMP Review and approve the *de minimis* requests.

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

INTERSTATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM POLICY BOARD (MAY 22 & 23, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board met to consider a number of issues, including an update on the Shark Conservation Act, proposed changes to the ISFMP Charter, updates from the Management & Science, Habitat, Law Enforcement Committees, as well as NEAMAP and the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP).

The Policy Board received an overview of the proposed rule for the domestic elements of the Shark Conservation Act by Karen Abrams from NOAA Fisheries. The Act amended the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson Stevens Act to improve existing domestic and international shark conservation measures. It prohibits removal of shark fins at sea with the exception of skates, rays, or individuals fishing for smoothhound sharks. The Act does not impose a universal prohibition on the possession or sale of shark fins after they have been landed. The Board agreed to send a letter of support for this action to NOAA Fisheries.

The Board approved changes to the ISFMP Charter to reflect the new Technical Support Group Guidance and Benchmark Stock Assessment Process Document. The Board was presented an overview of the whelk/conch fishery and management for consideration of a Commission fishery management plan (FMP). Because there is little migration of the distinct populations along the coast as well as varying size and age at sexual maturity by region the Board chose to not initiate a Commission FMP at this time. The Board will continue to explore possible coordinated management and data collection by neighboring states. At the request of the Commission's Artificial Reef Committee, the Policy agreed to send a letter to the US Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration requesting a review of the new policy that does not allow pre-1985 vessels to be candidates for use as artificial reefs, and rescind this portion of the MARAD's reefing policy.

The Management and Science Committee updated the Policy Board on the following activities: (1) investigation of whether climate change and warming coastal water temperatures are causing shifts in the geographic distributions of stocks. If shifts are occurring should allocations be reconsidered?; (2) development of a Commission policy on providing risk and uncertainty advice to managers; (3) approaches to ecosystem-based fisheries management; (4) the Commission's 2013 research priorities; and (5) MRFSS/MRIP ratio estimators.

The Habitat Committee updated the Board on (1) habitat sections to both the American Lobster and Black Drum FMPs; (2) a request to complete a habitat source document to address habitat needs and considerations for Commission-managed sciaenids (Atlantic croaker, weakfish, spotted seatrout) in 2014; and (3) the next installment of the Habitat Management Series on Habitat Considerations for Nearshore and Estuarine Aquaculture. ACFHP updated the Board on a number of activities and new initiatives. It received a grant award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) River Herring Conservation Initiative to prioritize herring habitat restoration needs from Southern New England to

South Carolina. ACFHP reported on the National Fish Habitat Board's '10 Waters to Watch' designation of the Cape Fear River's work on restoring spawning habitat for diadromous species. The Merrimack River Watershed Council joined ACFHP as a new partner. The Partnership also discussed its intent to promote proposals that reflect ACFHP's priorities to the 2013 RFP for NFWF's Bring Back the Natives program.

Since the Shad and River Herring Board did not meet in this week, the Policy Board took up two research requests for (1) a shad stocking program on the Ogeechee River in Georgia and (2) research of river herring diet, ageing, and habitat use on the Penobscot River in Maine. The Board approved both proposals.

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

Motions

Move that the ASMFC support initiatives taken by the New England, Mid Atlantic and Western Fisheries Management Councils in support of amending the MSFCMA to authorize the NMFS to provide the US fishing industry with a sustainability certification program and certification mark, which would provide US seafood producers with the ability to promote and sell their seafood products, in both domestic and export markets as sustainable based upon the requirements of the Act.

Motion made by Dr. Daniel and seconded by Mr. Stockwell. Motion carries (17 in favor, 1 abstention).

Move to approve the research proposals from GA and ME.

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

Move that the Board accept the changes as presented in the ISFMP Charter today.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MAY 23, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Executive Committee approved the FY 2014 budget and discussed the process for developing the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan. For more information, please contact Laura Leach, Director of Finance and Administration, at lleach@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

No motions made.

STURGEON MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 23, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Sturgeon Management Board met to review new population estimates developed by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), a draft Biological Opinion (BiOp) for federal fisheries that encounter Atlantic sturgeon, and the 2012 Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Review.

The NEFSC has released a draft BiOp for the seven major Northeast federal fisheries that encounter Atlantic sturgeon (monkfish, groundfish, skate, spiny dogfish, bluefish, squid, mackerel, butterfish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass) as required through the Section 7 consultation process of the

Endangered Species Act. In the efforts to complete the draft BiOp, the NEFSC has developed two methods to estimate abundance of Atlantic sturgeon that live in the ocean for most or all of the year. The more conservative of the two is based on information from the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment trawl survey and estimates the population of Atlantic sturgeon at 67,776 fish. Based on this information the draft BiOp concludes that while the proposed action (fishing operations in the seven fisheries) may adversely affect Atlantic sturgeon, it is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence any of Atlantic sturgeon. Public comment on the draft BiOp is being accepted through July 19, 2013.

The Board accepted the 2012 FMP Review of the 2011 fishing year. All states were in compliance with the requirements of the FMP. *De minimis* is not permitted under the current plan. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at ktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to accept the 2012 FMP Review.

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

TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 23, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The Tautog Management Board approved the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Review for Fishing Year 2012 as well as *de minimis* status for Delaware and North Carolina. The Plan Review Team found that all states had implemented management measures consistent with the FMP.

The Board discussed the issue of the illegal market for tautog. The Law Enforcement Committee had previously developed recommendations that have not been developed into management measures, and may be worth revisiting for guidance on dealing with the trade of undersized fish. It is unclear whether the source of fish for the live market comes from the commercial or recreational fishery (or both).

The Board also heard an update of the 2014 benchmark stock assessment and approved the Terms of Reference. The stock is currently managed as a single coastwide stock, with a regional assessment for Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The new stock assessment will look at all available sources of data and a variety of models (ex. data poor analysis) to inform a new regional stock definition. The TC and Stock Assessment Subcommittee will refine the discrete populations of tautog to develop regional biological reference points to inform region-specific management measures.

Connecticut Sea Grant is conducting a study on tautog fecundity in the Long Island Sound. Observations indicate that reproductive potential of larger females is considerably greater than smaller females (nonlinear relationship between size and fecundity). This information may be useful for the benchmark stock assessment. For more information, please contact Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at myuen@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move the Board approve 2012 FMP Review and all *de minimis* requests (DE and NC) for 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Schick. Motion passes unanimously.

Move to approve Terms of Reference for the Tautog benchmark stock assessment as presented today.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Gibson. Motion carries without objection.

Move to nominate Adam Nowalsky as Vice-Chair of the Tautog Management Board.

Motion made by Mr. Gibson and second by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries.

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATE/FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 23, 2013)

Meeting Summary

The South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board met to review a number of items including considering final approval of the Black Drum Fishery Management Plan; consideration and review of a white paper on alternative management measures in the Spanish mackerel fishery; approval of the Terms of Reference for the Black Drum 2015 Benchmark Stock Assessment; discussion on proposed designation of critical habitat of loggerhead sea turtles; and consideration of Draft Addendum I to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Red Drum.

The Board reviewed the white paper on Alternative Management in Spanish Mackerel Fishery, which outlined issues concerning minimum size limits in the fishery. The paper highlighted that undersized Spanish mackerel are caught and killed using pound nets, increasing the total number of dead regulatory discards, particularly in summer months. The Board initiated a draft addendum to allow states to reduce the minimum size to 11.5 inches for the 2013 and 2014 fishing seasons (July through September) to eliminate dead discards in the Spanish mackerel fishery.

The Technical Committee provided an update, specifying that the previously approved changes in Florida's northern region red drum bag limit should not have a negative impact on spawning stock-biomass-per-recruit estimates. The Technical Committee also presented its proposed Terms of Reference for Black Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment, which the Board approved.

Board Chair Dr. Daniel provided an overview of the recent Loggerhead Sea Turtle Critical Habitat listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Though the Board moved to take no action at this time, Dr. Daniel forwarded a letter to the Board which was drafted by NCDENR explaining the Department's concerns over the designation.

The Board reviewed and approved for public comment Draft Addendum I to Amendment II to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Red Drum. The Draft Addendum provides updates on red drum habitat needs and considerations. A press release announcing the document's availability for public comment will be released by the end of May. For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move adoption of option 6 under recreational measures and option 5 under commercial measures that all states maintain current measures (recreational and commercial), except that all states shall establish a maximum possession limit by January 1, 2014 and a minimum size limit that shall be no less than 12 inches by January 1, 2014 and a minimum size limit that shall be no less than 14 inches by January 1, 2016.

Motion made by Mr. O'Reilly and seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carries unanimously.

Move to establish option 2 recreational and commercial *de minimus* status 1%.

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

Move to recommend to the full Commission approval of the Black Drum FMP as modified by the South Atlantic Board.

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

Move to proceed with expedited process to develop an addendum to the Spanish Mackerel FMP to allow states to reduce minimum size to 11 ½ inches for the fishing year 2013 and 2014 (July through September) for the pound net fishery to eliminate waste of dead discards.

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

Move for Board approval of the Black Drum Terms of Reference.

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

Move to approve draft Red Drum Habitat addendum I for public comment.

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

BUSINESS SESSION (May 23, 2013)

Press Release

ASMFC Approves Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Black Drum

Alexandria, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has approved the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Black Drum. The FMP requires all states to maintain current regulations for black drum and implement a maximum possession limit and minimum size limit (of no less than 12 inches) by January 1, 2014. States will be required to further increase the minimum size limit (to no less than 14 inches) by January 1, 2016. Further, the FMP establishes a management framework to address future concerns or changes in the fishery or population. This will be particularly important as the Commission works towards the finalization of the first coastwide benchmark stock assessment for black drum in 2014.

The FMP was initiated to address a number of concerns. There has been a significant increase in harvest by both recreational and commercial fishermen in recent years, with the fishery targeting very young fish in some areas and more heavily targeting the established breeding stock in other areas; both of which could undermine the stock's ability to sustain itself. Further, the lack of consistent coastwide regulations or management goals may negatively impact the black drum population as fishing pressures shifts from other stocks.

The FMP will be available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under *Breaking News* or can be obtained by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

###

PR13-29

Motions

Move to approve the Black Drum FMP as modified by the South Atlantic Board.

Motion made by Dr. Daniel on behalf of the South Atlantic Board. Motion carries.