



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Meeting Summaries for Weakfish, Atlantic Striped Bass, American Eel and South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Boards

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

71st Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, PA
October 21- 25, 2012

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

703.842.0740

The transcribed proceedings for the following Boards are unavailable due to technical difficulties. The following meeting summaries and motions will serve as an overview of the Boards' discussions and actions.

Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

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WEAKFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD (October 23, 2012)

Meeting Summary

The Weakfish Management Board reviewed the Technical Committee's (TC) report on the Weakfish stock status indicators for 2011 including Proportion of trips that max out the harvest limit, Relative biomass indices (recreational CPUE, Delaware Bay Trawl CPUE, New Jersey Trawl positive tows), Proportional Stock Density (a size quality index estimated from the Delaware Bay trawl survey and the NJ trawl survey), relative F (harvest and discards divided by an index of abundance or biomass), Juvenile Abundance Indices (JAI). Generally stock status indicators in 2011 suggest a stronger year class in 2011 and in terms of fishing mortality, relative F has decreased presumably a result of the management implementation of Addendum IV in 2010. The Board saw the more positive indicators in 2011 encouraging, but acknowledged this is one year in the time series and future updates will be more telling. The TC will continue to update stock status indicators in and report to the Board annually.

The Weakfish Management Board reviewed and accepted the 2012 Fishery Management Plan Review of the 2011 fishery. Landings for both the commercial and recreational fisheries declined to a time series low in 2011 totally roughly 160 thousand pounds. In terms of biological sampling, a few states fell short of their sampling requirements because of the low weakfish landings from which to sample, but the states reconfirmed their intention to fulfill future sampling requirements in 2012 and there is already anecdotal signs of improved fish availability. The Board approved the requests of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Georgia, and Florida for continued *de minimis* status for 2012.

For more information, please contact Michael Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or mwaine@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move that the Board accept the 2012 FMP review and compliance report and approve de minimis status for MA, CT, GA, and FL.

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

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (October 23, 2012)

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Striped Bass Board met to approve the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment, discuss a request from Rhode Island, and review state compliance.

The Technical Committee presented the TORs for the upcoming benchmark stock assessment, which were approved by the Board. The assessment is expected to be peer reviewed in June 2013. Rhode Island presented a request to allow the state to submit their commercial tagging report, as required under Addendum III, by January 1st rather than 60 days prior to the start of the first fishing season (originally November 1st). The Board approved this request for 2013. The Board reviewed the 2012 Striped Bass FMP Review and found all states in compliance. The stock is currently not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

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

Motions

Move to approve the stock assessment terms of reference as modified today.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Dr. Daniel. Motion carries.

Move to approve Rhode Island request on timeframe for implementation of Addendum III.

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

Move the Board approve the Striped Bass FMP Review.

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

AMERICAN EEL MANAGEMENT BOARD (October 23, 2012)

Meeting Summary

The American Eel Management Board met to review the potential Endangered Species Act (ESA) and CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species) listings, as well as provide guidance to the Plan Development Team (PDT) in the development of Draft Addendum III.

In April 2010, American eel was petitioned to be listed as threatened under the ESA. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published a positive 90-day finding which stated that the petitioned action may be warranted. In August 2012, the organization that initially submitted the petition filed a lawsuit against USFWS to make complete a status review on American eel and publish a determination on the listing status. American eel are also under consideration for listing under CITES Appendix II. USFWS will publish its recommended species for CITES listing in November.

The Board also reviewed a preliminary draft of Addendum III. The PDT requested additional guidance from the Board on the objectives of the addendum and the extent of management options to include. The PDT will continue developing the addendum and it is anticipated that a draft will be reviewed and considered for public comment by the Board in February 2013.

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

Motions

No motions made.

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATE/FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD (October 23, 2012)

Press Release

ASMFC South Atlantic Board Approves Black Drum FMP for Public Comment

Philadelphia, PA – The Commission's South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board has approved the Draft Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Black Drum for public comment. The Draft FMP solicits comment on a range of issues, including management goals and objectives; recreational and commercial management measures; flexibility to react to new assessment information; *de minimis* levels and exemptions; monitoring requirements and recommendations; and recommended measures for implementation by NOAA Fisheries in federal waters.

The FMP was initiated in response to concern regarding significant increases in harvest in recent years and the fact that the fishery primarily targets juveniles. Further, the lack of consistent coastwide regulations or management goals may negatively impact the black drum population as fishing pressures shifts from other stocks.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft FMP either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft FMP will be available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under *Breaking News* or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. Public comment should be forwarded to Toni Kerns, ISFMP Acting Director, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or tkerns@asmfc.org (Subject line: Black Drum FMP). It is anticipated the majority of South Atlantic states will be conducting hearings in early 2013; the details of those hearings will be released once they are finalized. The FMP is scheduled for final approval during the Commission's 2013 Spring Meeting.

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

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PR12-56

Meeting Summary

The Board reviewed the Draft Black Drum Interstate Fishery Management Plan, including options for including coastwide recreational and commercial management measures. The Board approved the document for public comment and will be working with staff to hold public hearings and prepare public comment for the Spring Meeting. The Board also reviewed a request from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to require all dealers buying Spanish mackerel to hold a federal dealer permit. The Board did not take any action on this request, which would require an addendum to the Spanish Mackerel Fishery Management Plan. Finally, the Board elected Pat Geer, from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, as Vice Chair. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Acting ISFMP Director, at 703.842.0740 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to approve the Black Drum FMP for public comment.

Motion made by Mr. Boyles and second by Mr. Cole. Motion carries unanimously.

Move to nominate Pat Geer as Vice Chair of the South Atlantic Board.

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