

# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Business Session

*Thursday, May 6, 2021*

*Noon – 12:30 p.m.*

*Webinar*

## Draft Agenda

The order in which these items will be taken is subject to change;  
other items may be added as necessary.

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. Welcome/Introductions ( <i>P. Keliher</i> )    | Noon       |
| 2. Committee Consent                              | 12:05 p.m. |
| • Approval of Agenda                              |            |
| • Approval of Proceedings from October 2020       |            |
| 3. Public Comment                                 | 12:10 p.m. |
| 4. Consider Noncompliance Findings (if Necessary) | 12:15 p.m. |
| 5. Other Business                                 | 12:20 p.m. |
| 6. Adjourn  | 12:30 p.m. |

**DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BUSINESS SESSION**

**Webinar  
October 22, 2020**

These minutes are draft and subject to approval.  
The Board will review the minutes during its next meeting.

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2. **Approval of Proceedings from February 6, 2020** by Consent (Page 1)
3. **Move to approve the 2021 Action Plan** (Page 10). Motion by Bill Anderson; second by Tom Fote. Motion carried (Page 10).
4. **Move to nominate Pat Keliher as Chair of the ASMFC, effective at the end of the Annual Meeting** (Page 11). Motion by Jim Gilmore on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Motion approved by Consent (Page 11).
5. **Move to nominate Spud Woodward as Vice-Chair of the ASMFC, effective at the end of the Annual Meeting** (Page 11). Motion by Jim Gilmore on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Motion approved by Consent (Page 12).
6. **Move to adjourn** by Consent (Page 13).

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Pat Keliher, ME (AA)	Loren Lustig, PA (GA)
Cheri Patterson, NH (AA)	John Clark, DE, proxy for D. Saveikis (AA)
Ritchie White, NH (GA)	Roy Miller, DE (GA)
Dennis Abbott, NH, proxy for Sen. Watters (LA)	Lynn Fegley, MD, proxy for B. Anderson (AA)
Dan McKiernan, MA (AA)	Russell Dize, MD (GA)
Raymond Kane, MA (GA)	Phil Langley, MD, proxy for Del. Stein (LA)
Jason McNamee, RI (AA)	Steve Bowman, VA (AA)
David Borden, RI (GA)	Sen. Monty Mason, VA (LA)
Justin Davis, CT (AA)	Bill Gorham, NC, proxy for Sen. Steinberg (LA)
Bill Hyatt, CT (GA)	Mel Bell, SC, proxy for P. Maier (AA)
Jim Gilmore, NY (AA)	Doug Haymans, GA (AA)
Emerson Hasbrouck, NY (GA)	Spud Woodward, GA (GA)
Joe Cimino, NJ (AA)	Jim Estes, FL, proxy for J. McCawley (AA)
Tom Fote, NJ (GA)	Marty Gary, PRFC
Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Asm. Houghtaling (LA)	Derek Orner, NMFS
Kris Kuhn, PA, proxy for T. Schaeffer (AA)	Sherry White, USFWS

**(AA = Administrative Appointee; GA = Governor Appointee; LA = Legislative Appointee)**

**Staff**

Robert Beal	Laura Leach
Toni Kerns	Savannah Lewis
Kristen Anstead	Sarah Murray
Max Appelman	Joe Myers
Lindsey Aubart	Marisa Powell
Pat Campfield	Mike Rinaldi
Maya Drzewicki	Julie Defilippi Simpson
Dustin Colson Leaning	Caitlin Starks
Chris Jacobs	Deke Tompkins
Jeff Kipp	Geoff White
Heather Konell	

**Guests**

Bill Anderson, MD (AA)	Peter Fallon, Maine Strippers
Pat Augustine, Coram, NY	Cynthia Ferrio, NOAA
Joey Ballenger, SC DNR	Dawn Franco, GA DNR
Chris Batsavage, NC DENR	Tony Friedrich, SGA
Alan Bianchi, NC DENR	Pat Geer, VMRC
Jeff Brust, NJ DEP	Lewis Gillingham, VMRC
Mike Celestino, NJ DEP	Angela Giuliano, MD DNR
Jamie Darrow, NJ DEP	Carol Hoffman, NYS DEC
Jessica Daher, NJ DEP	Mike Luisi, MD DNR
Maureen Davidson, NYS DEC	Dee Lupton, NC DENR

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**Guests (continued)**

Chip Lynch, NOAA  
John Maniscalco, NYS DEC  
Nicola Meserve, MA DMF  
Allison Murphy, NOAA  
Ken Neill  
Gerry O'Neill, CapeSeafoods  
Michael Pierdinock, CPF Charters  
Jeff Rose

Andrew Sinchuk, NYS DEC  
Melissa Smith, ME DMF  
Helen Takade-Heumacher, EDF  
Beth Versak, MD DNR  
Megan Ware, ME DMF  
Chris Wright, NOAA  
Erik Zlokovitz, MD DNR  
Renee Zobel, NH F&G

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The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened via webinar; Thursday, October 22, 2020, and was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Patrick C. Keliher.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR PATRICK C. KELIHER: Welcome everybody to the Annual Meeting's Business Session.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CHAIR KELIHER: I'm going to roll right into the agenda items. First up is Committee consent on Approval of the Agenda. Does anybody have any additions or deletions or questions around the agenda? Seeing no hands, the agenda is approved by consensus.

#### **APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIR KELIHER: Then, the approval of the proceedings from the August 2020 meeting. Does anybody have any questions, additions, deletions for those proceedings? Seeing no hands, they are approved by consensus.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

CHAIR KELIHER: Item Number 3 is Public Comment. Is there any member of the public that has comments for the Business Committee, the full Commission?

Not hearing anybody chime in, no hands.

#### **REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2021 ACTION PLAN**

CHAIR KELIHER: Great, we're going to move right on to Item Number 4, which is Review and Consider the Approval of the 2021 Action Plan. We have a big chunk of time scheduled for this. I want to make sure that we are able to do a good review, but if we could just hit the highlights, and then if we need to get any details somebody can please raise your hand as

the presentations are being made. I'll turn it right over to Bob Beal.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: Thanks, Pat, I think we'll go through our kind of regular format where each staff person will go through their section, and as you said just hit the highlights, and we'll pause after each goal to see if there are any questions, additions, deletions, that sort of thing. Toni Kerns is the first one with Goal 1, Fishery Management Section, if you're ready to go, Pat.

CHAIR KELIHER: Yes, please proceed.

#### **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

MS. TONI KERNS: Maya, if you'll just pull up and do your best to scroll through with me the Action Plan that will be great. We're going to start off. In bold are the new items that are coming through for each of the species, and as you recall we've split the species groupings into high priority and medium low priority, in terms of staff workload and focus for Commissioners.

For American eel we're going to continue on with the American eel benchmark stock assessment and peer review, which will be completed in 2022, as well as monitor the international action on the Convention of International Trade for Endangered Species, through communications with Fish and Wildlife Service. For lobster we will work on management actions to the benchmark stock assessment, as well as the resiliency document for Gulf of Maine. In addition, the Board added a white paper on the use of trackers, in particular for the focus for lobster vessels fishing in federal waters, and we'll need to add that bullet into the document specifically. For Atlantic Herring, we will finalize and implement Addendum III once the Amendment 8 has been finalized. If we need to, we will respond to that Amendment that NOAA Fisheries is working to do a final rule for.

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We'll also follow the work of New England Fishery Management Council for Framework 7, which is spawning protections in Georges Bank and North Nantucket Shoals, as well as Framework 8, which is the specifications and incidental catch limit, and respond if necessary. For Atlantic menhaden, we'll review the Amendment 3 quota allocations and initiate a management action if necessary, as well as initiate the benchmark assessment to be completed in 2022.

For striped bass we will work on Draft Amendment 7, to ensure stock rebuilding and address all of the current fishery management issues as talked about earlier this week, and complete the 2021 stock assessment and address the findings, most likely Amendment 7 if necessary. The Board will need to discuss, once we know what kind of recreational catch estimates we will have to determine if this stock assessment will be completed or not.

For black sea bass, we'll work with the Council on this. Some of the items here will also apply to summer flounder and scup, and I'll know which ones. But we will work with the Mid-Atlantic Council on finalizing an addendum or an amendment for commercial recreational allocation, kicking into our addendum their amendment on the commercial recreational allocation, taking into account calibrated recreational estimates.

We will also develop in coordination with the Council an action to address recreational reform, and this will also apply to summer flounder and scup. We will finalize the commercial state allocations through Addendum XXXIII, and contribute data for the 2021 management track assessment, and the 2022 research track assessment.

For bluefish, we will finalize the amendment that is looking at the commercial and recreational allocation that we are working on with the Mid-Atlantic Council. This includes the calibrated MRIP estimates, and goals and

objectives quota transfers and rebuilding programs. The recreational reform addendum also applies to bluefish. I don't think I said that before.

We will also review the effectiveness of the current fishery independent data requirement and evaluate an optimal range in sample size for age data that is required and necessary for the stock assessment. Bluefish will also undergo a management track assessment in '21, and a research track in 2022. Horseshoe crab will continue the ARM revisions.

For scup both of these actions have already been addressed under the black sea bass, and for summer flounder, the only additional thing that I haven't mentioned is developing in coordination with the Mid-Atlantic Council's management action, a management strategy evaluation regarding the benefits of minimizing discards, and turning discards into landings in the recreational sector. For tautog, we'll work on the 2021 stock assessment update, and consider any management responses if necessary in the fall. Then moving on to the medium-low priority species. For both Atlantic croaker and spot, we'll be implementing the measures triggered from the 2020 traffic light analysis, as outlined in Addendum III, and discussed earlier in this week. Coastal sharks there will be a SEDAR for the blacktip shark stock assessment, and we'll consider management response if necessary, and work closely with HMS for that.

We'll also monitor the activities of HMS, specifically with regards to HMS Amendment 14, which is looking at annual catch limit and accountability measures. If there is anything that we need to respond to for this, we will take those up. For cobia, we'll be implementing the Addendum that got approved today, which is a provision to the allocations and some of the de minimis rule measures.

For Jonah crab we'll be implementing all of the data elements to improve the data collection

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and characterization of the fishery, and continue to work with all of our partners, to make sure that these data elements are incorporated. We will also identify the data that is available, its limitations, the uncertainties around it, and make recommendations for stock assessment approaches for this fishery. We have yet to have a coastwide stock for Jonah crab.

The northern shrimp will conduct a stock assessment update and set specifications. The moratorium that has been in place for the last three years sunsets at the end of 2021. We'll also continue to explore long term management options given the environmental changes in the Gulf of Maine, and it's that shrimp has depleted stock status.

Red drum will continue to work on the simulations for future use of stock assessment models. For shad and river herring we'll continue to move on to the 2020 American shad benchmark stock assessment. Through this response we'll identify improvements to the fishery management plan, with regards to recreational catch.

For recreational management systems with low harvest and high abundance indexes looking at sustainable fishery management plan alternatives, as well as incorporation as assessment information in this SFMP. We'll also work on completing the shad updates to the shad habitat plan. These are just updates, not entire new habitat plans.

For spiny dogfish we'll be contributing data and participating in the 2022 research stock assessment. For winter flounder we'll work cooperatively with the New England Fishery Management Council to respond to the management track assessment. Things that are cross-cutting between multiple departments at the Commission include raising awareness of COVID-19 impacts to MRIPs availability to produce catch estimates.

We'll also raise awareness to MRIPs data standards, and impacts to the Commission's FMP and stock assessments. We'll be working to seek ways within our existing management structure to address the concerns of the recreational community, with regard to Commission managed and jointly managed species.

We'll also be participating in and provide administrative support for scenario planning activities to address changes in stocks and fisheries due to climate and fisheries governance. This is a collaborative effort along the coast with all three of the councils as well as GARFO and the Science Center. Then lastly, we'll evaluate COVID impacts on the 2020 fishery dependent and fishery independent data collection, and develop strategies to mitigate impacts to the stock assessment, as well as the FMP. That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR KELIHER: Thanks, Toni. I see Tom Fote, you have your hand up, Tom.

MR. THOMAS P. FOTE: Yes, just by mistake.

CHAIR KELIHER: Anybody have any questions for Toni? Seeing none, we'll go right on to the next portion.

MS. KERNS: Before you go on. Maya, if there is a way to try to fill the whole screen. I think it's hard for some people to read the text. Maybe one more hit? Perfect, thanks.

MR. PATRICK A. CAMPFIELD: Good morning everyone, this is Pat Campfield. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR KELIHER: Yes, go ahead, Pat.

## SCIENCE

MR. CAMPFIELD: Goal 2 covers all of our fisheries research; surveys and stock assessment activities for 2021. First up under the Scientific Committee activities, we plan to evaluate and pursue expansion of coastwide

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stock assessment capacity through either a new hire, or strengthening capacity at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to work on ASMFC assessments.

The second highlight is to continue incorporating socioeconomic information in the management documents through the work of our CESS Committee on economics and social sciences. Under data collection and the regional surveys. Under SEAMAP, a program that has been in place for almost four years, just one minor change to collaborate with the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Association, to potentially host the SEAMAP South Atlantic Survey data.

Under NEAMAP, a few new additions. The first is to develop common methodology and protocols for NEAMAP surveys, so that we are promoting consistent data collection across the various trawl surveys in the northeast area. In early 2020, before the travel restrictions and the pandemic hit, we conducted our first Maturity Staging Workshop.

If and when travel resumes in 2021, I would hope to build on that success, and host a second Maturity Staging Workshop through the NEAMAP partners. An additional workshop that would be valuable for the NEAMAP trawl survey community is a calibration workshop to develop common methods for how to conduct calibration, if and when changes in vessels are needed.

We have initiated a project to develop a genetic sampling and analysis repository for shad and river herring, in close collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey. We highlight this project, but it's one of many new projects that we have collaborated on with USGS over the past few years, and look to further expand that partnership. Scrolling down to fisheries research, just one quick hit on stock assessment modeling. We just completed the 2020 American lobster stock assessment. One of the major recommendations for future assessments

was to add time-varying thermal habitat affects, and growth to the catch-at-length model. We will continue to work with the group at the University of Maine and our Stock Assessment Subcommittee to develop the model further.

Scrolling down to ecosystem-based management and changing ocean conditions, we'll highlight a task from the Executive Committee to develop criteria for adding or subtracting states for fishery management boards if and when an individual stock's distribution changes. This is something that the Management and Science Committee will take up.

Then finally, under competing ocean uses, we added as task to explore opportunities to characterize the geographic extent of fisheries using trackers as a tool. I will stop there. Those are the highlights for our fisheries science program.

CHAIR KELIHER: Thanks, Pat, does anybody have any questions for Pat? John Clark.

MR. JOHN CLARK: I just want to get back to one of the first comments you made about incorporating the socioeconomic data into assessments. When might we start seeing that? I mean a good example just the other day was the menhaden vote for the issue about changing the TAC there.

We heard a big concern from the Advisory Panel about the economic impacts of lowering the TAC, yet during the material I saw and during the conversation, we didn't have anything concrete about that, as to what lowering the TAC levels would do to the economics of our fishing public here. Just curious as to when we might start seeing more input into these documents from the Economic and Social Sciences Committee.

MR. CAMPFIELD: It's really a multi-pronged approach. The first is through the members of the CESS, the Committee on Economics and

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Social Sciences. Our coordinator, Sarah Murray has done an excellent job of getting the various Committee members assigned to different species. They have had a longstanding goal to participate in PDT meetings, some TC meetings where there are management regulations discussions with socioeconomic aspects.

That is one of the most direct ways to have the socioeconomic experts involved in this Committee and team discussions to provide input and advice. I guess the second aspect is the Risk and Uncertainty Policy that has been in development, and we hope to finalize soon, as was raised earlier this week.

But again, Sarah and the CESS Committee have been working pretty hard on developing criteria and scoring ranges for socioeconomic questions and elements of that Risk and Uncertainty Policy. The intent is to have that be a more formal type of input on socioeconomics for your decision making. The third piece is that the FMPs have had socioeconomic information, but we can probably do a better job of rounding that out.

Often, we're limited by the socioeconomic data that are available coastwide. We've worked closely in the ACCSP to make use of what they have in their databases, but we often run into the hurdle of that type of data being fairly limited. But we are spending a fair amount of time on it through the CESS Committee the last couple of years.

MR. CLARK: Thanks, Pat, but menhaden in particular, to me this was a pretty glaring example where the science that we're using for the single species is excellent for the assessment there. But, here I would say it was more speculative and yet we didn't have any. There could have been, to me, pretty simply done what the cost might be.

You know even just a ballpark range as to what we would be looking at for our, for example our fisheries that use menhaden for bait. What

reducing the TAC to a certain level, how it might impact that. I mean, it doesn't seem like it would be that difficult. If we can manage this species now, and set a TAC based on some fairly speculative science. It seems like we could have some kind of numbers there.

CHAIR KELIHER: Great, thanks, John. Jason McNamee.

DR. JASON McNAMEE: Pat, thanks for the presentation, Pat. The very last thing you brought up. I was just wondering if you could give a little more detail on that. I hadn't heard about at least the tracker one. Just curious as to what that is.

MR. CAMPFIELD: Sure, I think there are a couple of purposes, and Toni alluded to it under Goal 1, and perhaps our Chairman can speak to it too. It was a task that was raised during the initial review of the action plan through the Administrative Oversight Committee. But my understanding is it relates to understanding where lobster fishing is taking place, as it may relate to offshore wind development, and perhaps for other purposes. But that's as much as I can say about it.

DR. McNAMEE: Okay, thanks.

MS. KERNS: I was just going to say, the Board came up with a more specific task and workgroup at the meeting, and so that is why I brought it up under lobster before. Here we were sort of thinking, trying to think towards the future of trackers, and how they could improve in a more timely fashion information related to fisheries that we don't have good data for, Jay.

DR. McNAMEE: Trackers on boats is what they're talking about, I got you, thanks.

MS. KERNS: Yes.

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CHAIR KELIHER: Yes, great. Any other questions for Pat? Seeing no hands, why don't we go on to the next presenter?

### ACCSP

MR. GEOFF WHITE: Thank you, Pat, this is Geoff White covering Goal 3 for ACCSP. The top parts are about the same. The sold item on a continuing basis that we've highlighted there is we've moved it from last year FISMA is the Internet Security Act. We moved it from its own item to moving up to some ongoing activity. Really this is a significant ongoing staff time and cost for software tools, and annual external reviews of our security status. Part of having our FISMA authority connects the six different federal systems that we work with. That is why it's moved up into our continuing items. Under Program Management, these are some updated items here that are not vastly different of things that you've heard before, immigrating with the Commission's communications plan, of course selecting and monitoring that ranked proposal project.

The uptick to the Atlantic recreational implementation plan is really on about a five-year cycle. We're four years in at the moment, and this is to include coastal priorities for projects and direction. It is then used by APAIS in input by the states and the Councils and used by MRIP to address their kind of long-term activities and funding privacy. That is a big item for us, the Rec Tech group and ACCSP (broke up).

Really, we'll continue our support for partner implementation of the tools that we have out there. The middle sector here is really changing the focus from the redesign, prioritizing not as much on the trip aspects of the dealer landings reporting. That is moving the SAFIS management system, the switchboard is a tool that we use to make that more flexible, and updating the end use for tools to be able to have some really visible components of what the SAFIS redesign of the database and props

and samplings are doing for the end users in those flexibility tools.

Electronic dealer reporting will be our focus for improving those tools next year, and also some of the items below support that in terms of the participant and permit data base design, and the trip management system, having a unique by dealers, it's shared and coordinates things such as the actual trip reports, the dealer report, potentially there will be biological information as well.

The title of this one did change, we added the word standards in here, along with distribution and use. In the data warehouse there is continued focus to incorporate these data elements, redesign the user interface there, improve the content on biological data, and recreational estimates. That means better align tools with what MRIP is showing on their website, as well as finding ways to support our partners in the presentation of those data fields.

Under recreational fisheries, the big points there are really to begin evaluating the utility and standards for private angler solitary mobile applications. That is a very wordy bullet item, but focuses on finding out where those private angler apps are best utilized for their data, and what are the common data fields that could be recommended.

That's defining the appropriate uses to guide stakeholder expectations, so are these apps going to provide supplementary information? How might it be used relative to MRIP relative to the assessment process relative to other processes? That is really trying to capture the best guidance there, is what the bullet is about.

Of course, that involves developing the core fields for data collection, the things that would be consistent and useful across the source application. The last item under recreational fisheries is really to continue an ongoing path, which was the ability to more fully incorporate

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for-hire logbooks into the catch statistics. With the additional federal for-hire logbook and HMS regulations, sorry not regulations, important incorporation of some of these tools. How does that factor in to the way the for-hire estimates are being created? That is a methodology that is really part of the implementation plan, it's also part of something that Rec-Tech is developing. With that I will stop, and ask for any questions.

CHAIR KELIHER: Thank you, Geoff, any questions for Geoff? Seeing none, I think you're off the hook, Geoff, so we can move on to Goal 4.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

MS. KERNS: Goal 4 is the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee goal. You'll see that we don't have any folded tasks really for the Law Enforcement Committee. Most of the work that they do is looking at our FMPs and new management measures to those FMPs, and revealing and providing input to the Board on enforcement for those measures.

While those are new every, well we are proposing plans every year, the specifics are unknown until it comes up. We'll continue on with that, and note that the Law Enforcement Committee will continue to engage with the Lobster Board on offshore enforcement activities, as well as engage with real enforcement activities. That's all I've got.

CHAIR KELIHER: Any questions on that goal? Seeing no hands, we'll move on to Goal 5.

#### **HABITAT AND ATLANTIC COASTAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**

MR. CAMPFIELD: Goal 5 covers all the activities for our habitat program, and the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. Just a couple of highlights for 2021. Under the integrate category to complete the fish habitats of concern descriptions to be considered for

integration into the Commission's fishery management plans.

Secondly, under ACFHP, there have been a number of projects since the partnership started over a decade ago, and we want to collect information on the long-term success of ACFHPs on the ground conservation projects, to understand improvements to habitat after the projects are completed. That's all under Goal 5.

CHAIR KELIHER: Great, thank you, Pat, any questions on Goal 5? Seeing no hands, we'll move on to the next goal.

#### **STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC SUPPORT**

MS. TINA L. BERGER: Thanks, Pat, this goal is regarding stakeholder and public support for the Commission, under increasing public understanding support. We are going to be building upon our Fisheries Management 101 webpage, if you all haven't seen it, be sure to check it out under our Fisheries Management Program page.

We'll be turning that into a primer for folks to use and distribute to their stakeholders as needed. We are going to look at a couple of different ways of highlighting our current status of the stocks. We currently have the stock status package, but we'll see if we can refine that a bit more. On our plate as well is to update the Guide to Fisheries Science and Stock Assessments.

That was first developed in 2009, and it's pretty dated in some areas, so we're going to work on bringing that up to speed. For 2021 we identified a couple of issues that we are going to focus increased outreach on, and these include development of the Striped Bass Amendment, implementation of the circle hooks requirement as part of that amendment, or as part of Addendum VI, as well as continue to work on outreach on the use of ERPs. Regarding stock assessments upcoming for 2021, we will put together some outreach materials on the upcoming horseshoe crab ARM

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benchmark assessment, and will do as time allows, do updates and overviews for management track assessments for striped bass, bluefish, black sea bass, and summer flounder.

Under new technologies, we're going to do some upgrading and updating of our website, make it HTTPS compliant, find ways to increase accessibility and user friendliness, and add new pages for ERPs as well as climate change effects on managed species. We're going to continue to focus on using webinars, videos, and story maps to engage and inform the public about current activities for all our programs.

Under media relations and networking, I have been working on an implementation, I've been working on a communications plan to fully integrate all our departments and coordinate outreach activities. Part of that plan will be to develop a baseline, so we will be conducting a survey of all our products and tools, and to get a sense of how effective they are, and where we can make further progress in the future.

The only last thing is we do coordinate this Atlantic Coast Fisheries Communication Group, which is outreach folks from all the states and the Councils and the federal agencies we work with. We hope to have a meeting in 2021 to talk about some shared communications issues, and how we can move forward on joint messaging. That's it for Goal 6.

CHAIR KELIHER: Thank you, Tina, any questions for Tina? John Clark.

MR. CLARK: Thank you, Tina. The Management 101 webpage is really nice. I just was curious as to whether ASMFC has worked with MRIP at all about getting the public to understand the new MRIP better, because there is a ton of dissatisfaction among anglers with the recreational data that is coming in.

You know obviously the new MRIP is supposed to be an improvement, but because of the

impact it's had on several assessments, I think there is a lot of distrust of it in the angling public, and a lot of it comes out of hearings how little people think of MRIP. I'm just curious as to whether you had any plans to explain that data on the ASMFC website.

MS. BERGER: It is in part captured under Goal 1, in terms of increasing awareness on cross-cutting issues regarding MRIP. I know the Mid-Atlantic Council has developed an MRIP page. We haven't discussed it at the staff level, although both Geoff and I and Toni and Bob were all involved in MRIP communications at some level. But that is certainly something we could discuss, and potentially address, if that is the desire of the Board or the Business Session.

CHAIR KELIHER: John, does that answer your question?

MR. CLARK: That's fine. Like I said, I was just curious, and you know as I said, I just think the more avenues to get the information out to the public, hopefully the better understanding and eventual acceptance of it. Like I said, as of right now there is a lot of distrust of that data.

CHAIR KELIHER: Yes, I think those type of conversations is certainly going to play out over time with several species' management boards, but I appreciate that question. Tom Fote.

MR. FOTE: We offered virtual meetings for the last eight months, nine months, and we should basically look at how we could use this tool to better interact with the public. Maybe have like a Commission open house one day, where we have different presentations on different species, and we share things about the species, and have people ask questions and things like that.

Usually when we basically reach out to the public, rather than have a public hearing we're going to have this. Maybe we should have an open house to get acquainted, in a more-

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friendlier atmosphere when we're not cutting back quota or doing something else.

CHAIR KELIHER: Thanks, Tom. John, your hand is still up. Do you have a comment, or is that an old hand? Nope, must have been an old hand. Any other questions for Tina? Seeing none, let's move on to Goal 7.

### LEGISLATIVE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: I'll take that one. Goal 7 is our legislative activities, and it's really most of it is the ongoing activities that Deke and I engage in, you know working with Congressional offices and working with a number of you guys to bring you up to Capitol Hill, and a lot of you do it independently, interacting with your Congressional offices.

There are a couple bullet items, if you scroll down a teeny bit, Maya. The first one is that there is an election coming up, apparently, and we're going to react to that. No one knows the outcome of the election, but we'll see who we need to react to and who we need to start interacting with after that election.

The Legislative Committee has been revamped, and is up and running and doing well this year, and we've got a number of activities there that that group is contemplating working on. The idea is to continue their momentum into 2021. One of the big items that is being talked about is when should we seek reauthorization of the Atlantic Striped Bass Act and Atlantic Coastal Act?

I don't think anyone, I haven't heard of any significant changes that anybody wants to those Acts but they haven't been reauthorized for a while, and the authorization level could be increased, and I think that would benefit the states as we try to seek more funds to support Commission activities. We also want to seek federal appropriations for a number of surveys that are important to the member states in the Commission, as well as the horseshoe crab activities.

Those are the highlights of our legislative activities, and we'll continue to monitor bills and special legislation on Capitol Hill, and share all that information with you. If any one of you want to go up to Capitol Hill, or interact with your state delegations, let us know and we're happy to do that. Happy to answer any questions, Pat.

CHAIR KELIHER: Great, Bob, thanks for that. Tom Fote.

MR. FOTE: After the last Congressional election I asked Bob Beal and Congressman (broke up) to host (broke up) because we had a lot of new delegation. We had, I think it was five members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation. David asked Congressman Small, because the Congress Committee had a big office that could host a whole delegation with resights, Bob Beal, and a few other people on fisheries and how it went. I don't know how Bob felt.

But I thought it was important, that this is how you reach out to the whole delegation like from New Jersey, and we do this with other states. I mean once you figure out the Congressional (broke up) and your state that can basically help somebody like this, and bring all those delegations to at least inform, not just the one person or two persons of fisheries, but all the delegation that you can fit in a room.

CHAIR KELIHER: Thank you, Tom. Ritchie White.

MR. G. RITCHIE WHITE: If the Commission makes the decision that the Commission is in good shape financially, separate from the surveys that need funding. I think that that, and I don't know if that would be something that there would be a decision made for that. My thinking is, when we go to the delegations, we almost always go asking for money.

It would be great to go and say the Commission is okay for now. You know outside the individual issues, surveys that we need money

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for. Anyway, that is my sense. I don't know if there is a decision made that we are in that situation, and if so then I think that is a message we should put forward.

CHAIR KELIHER: I think as we get into late fall early winter, we'll certainly be having more conversations about appropriations, that Council and Commission line has been one that I think all of our individual states have focused on, as far as continuing to support. It certainly helps when you say, we're in pretty good shape on this line.

But we're obviously going to have more areas we're going to have to refocus on, especially considering all of the impacts to the individual state budgets. I think your point is well taken. Any other questions on this topic? Not seeing any other hands, Bob, are there any more goals? Do we have one more to go?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Yes, one more, the Finance Administration. Laura's got it.

CHAIR KELIHER: Laura, you're up.

#### **FINANCE ADMINISTRATION**

MS. LAURA C. LEACH: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will try to make up time, because basically a majority of the goals are tasked under Goal 8 are ongoing, making sure the Commission is run well, runs smoothly. That involves our grants and budgets and all that. The one area that we did put a lot of new tasks in this year was due to the pandemic, and what we're learning from the whole teleworking situation, and where we need to bolster our ability to do that.

I'm not going to read through all of these, because I think you all can read them very well. The thing that I would point out under Human Resources is that I'm going to work on pursuing hiring a Finance Administration Deputy Director next year. I think that the rest of the tasks are pretty clearly outlined. May I answer any questions?

CHAIR KELIHER: Any questions for Laura? Seeing no hands going up, I think the fact that Ritchie brought up the issues around finance and that the Commission continues to be doing very well financially remains a direct link back to you, Laura, and the work that you're doing with your team. It certainly probably reflects the fact that we're not getting a lot of questions. With that I'm going to turn it back over to Toni. This is a final action item, so we will need a **motion to approve the 2021 Action Plan**. Maybe I should be turning it back over to Bob.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: I think, Pat, if anyone is willing to make that motion, we can get it up, and then the group can vote.

**CHAIR KELIHER: Bill Anderson, are you making a motion?**

MR. BILL ANDERSON: I am, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

CHAIR KELIHER: I also got a second from Tom Fote.

MR. FOTE: Yes.

CHAIR KELIHER: We'll let them get it on the screen for everybody. The motion is pretty self-evident here. Is there any discussion on the motion?

MS. KERNS: Pat, I just want to let Maya know that the motion was by Bill Anderson and seconded by Tom Fote.

**CHAIR KELIHER: Seeing no hands going up, is there any objections to the motion? Hearing no objection, the motion passes.** Thank you very much.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

CHAIR KELIHER: The Item Number 5 is the Election of a Chair and a Vice-Chair. I'll turn it over to Bob Beal.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Just a quick reminder. Each year the Commission elects a Chair and Vice-Chair from its member ranks. However, our tradition has been to have Chairs and Vice-Chairs serve two-year terms. We're at the end of the first year for Mr. Keliher as Chair and Mr. Woodward as Vice-Chair, but we do need to go through the election process to verify their second year. There is a Nominations Committee, and Jim Gilmore is the Chair of that Committee, so I will go ahead and call on Jim for nominations for the Chair of the Commission, please.

MR. JAMES J. GILMORE: Just for everyone, the Nomination Committee considered myself, Cheri Patterson, and Jim Estes. Our normal process actually has been to reach out to you the last couple of weeks to see if there were additional nominations. However, I was out of commission the last couple of weeks, so that didn't happen, completely my fault.

But we do want to have an opportunity to see if there are any nominations from the floor. My only comment on my last two weeks is if you haven't gotten the shingles vaccine, do it on the way home today. First essentially, we have good news in that both Pat and Spud are both willing to continue on, so their names are up for nomination. I was thinking, Bob, that we would take these one at a time. I'll offer to the floor anyone who would like to make a nomination for Chairman for the upcoming year. If you want to make a nomination, please raise your hand, and Bob I think can inspect to see if there are any hands raised.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Actually, Toni, are there any hands up?

MS. KERNS: No one has their hand up.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Okay, so Jim, it sounds like there is no additional nominations, so do you want to go ahead and nominate Mr. Keliher for reelection for a second year?

**MR. GILMORE: Yes, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, I nominate Pat Keliher as Chair of the ASMFC, effective at the end of the Annual Meeting.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Thank you, Jim, and since that is on behalf of the Committee there is no need for a second. We'll try to do this the efficient way. Are there any objections to having Mr. Keliher serve a second year as Chair of the ASMFC?

MS. KERNS: No hands are raised.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: No hands. Well, congratulations, Pat! It appears you have been unanimously elected as Chair for a second year.**

CHAIR KELIHER: Thank you very much everybody, appreciate that.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Jim, do you want to follow up to see if there are any other nominations for Vice-Chair, or if not nominate Mr. Woodward for a second term?

MR. GILMORE: Yes, so back to the Board. Are there any additional nominations beyond Spud for Vice-Chairman of the ASMFC for the upcoming year, please raise your hand and let Toni know?

MS. KERNS: I see no additional hands raised, Jim.

**MR. GILMORE: Okay then, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, I nominate Spud Woodward as Vice-Chair of the ASMFC, effective at the end of the Annual Meeting.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Excellent, thank you, and again, it's a motion on behalf of a Committee, therefore no need for a second, and we'll try the same voting technique. Are there any objections to having Mr. Woodward serve as the Vice-Chair for a second year?

MS. KERNS: I see no hands raised.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Excellent, thank you, Toni. **Again, by unanimous vote or unanimous consent, Spud, you are the Vice-Chair for a second term.** It's been really great working with Pat and Spud. There are no two greater leadership guys to go through a pandemic with than both these guys, so thank you for everything. Jim, I hope your shingles, I hope you continue to recover from those. It sounds like it's been a rough grind for you for the last couple weeks. Hang in there, we hope you get better. With that, Mr. Chairman, I think it's all yours.

MR. GILMORE: Well, thank you, Bob.

CHAIR KELIHER: I want to thank everybody again for the vote of confidence for Spud and I. We may have secretly been wishing for a coup, it has been quite a year with the pandemic. Frankly, I think the fact that we're getting together, at least from the Administrative Commissioners perspective, nearly weekly.

It allows us all to kind of have these broader conversations, and help get through this together. Again, I appreciate the vote of support. Let's finalize the Business Session here. Is there any other, I'm sorry, Tom Fote's hand just went up. Tom.

MR. FOTE: Yes, I sent an e-mail to you and Bob. I just wanted to mention that this Sunday we lost one of our past Commissioners. Some of you will remember, it was George Harris, Director of Fish and Wildlife for the state of New Jersey. He basically worked for the Agency for 40 years. George was one of my mentors when I first got involved, as a matter of fact.

One of the reasons I'm here is because he talked me into doing a lot of these jobs. He also pointed out the fact that we need to work with other groups, like in New Jersey the hunters and the fishermen all needed to work together. When he retired at 65, he did not quit. He actually would become president of the Federation and brought all these groups

together, the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen Club and reorganized it.

If you look at deer management and how it's being done nowadays, it was really up to George, because when George was appointed and got involved with managing deer he basically allowed for a doe hunt, back before in the ancient times, you didn't shoot female deer. He changed that in New Jersey, and before he was finished it was all over the country.

He also trained the other directors that you've known from New Jersey, Bob Labelle, Dave Chanda, Matty Lafleur. He's got a long legacy of people he's trained in the Division, and some are still around. I just figured I would let you know, as I said he was one of my mentors also back then.

CHAIR KELIHER: Thank you, Tom, for that. I think we're all following the footsteps of a lot of different people, and many of them before us certainly created some big shoes to fill. Thanks for bringing that forward.

MR. FOTE: One more point, Pat. He was also part of the greatest generation, and it was interesting, because (breaking up) those directors that are going on back there. A lot of them from the federal agencies like Dick ? and Dick ? and ? (broke up) They all served in World War II. George was a marine, right in the beaches in the South Pacific. Pete Mahoney is the other Vice-Chairman of New Jersey; he was a bomber pilot over in England. They learned how to work together, and they kept at it when they basically became directors (broke up). I'll try to get past all the differences and our arguments, and I took direction from him when I was younger.

CHAIR KELIHER: Thanks for that, Tom. We're going to move on. Is there any other business to be brought before the full Commission? I'm not seeing any hands go up. We were to go into recess, and then consider noncompliance

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findings after the Policy Board, but seeing there are thankfully no noncompliance findings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

CHAIR KELIHER: I think a motion to adjourn would be a good thing to hear right now, and then we can move back on to the Policy Board. Doug Haymans, motion to adjourn. Is there a second? Second by Cheri. Any objections to adjourning? Seeing no hands, thank you very much, I appreciate everybody.

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 10:57 on  
October 22, 2020.)