

# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Executive Committee

*Wednesday, January 24, 2024*

*8 - 10 a.m.*

*Hybrid Meeting*

## Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary. A portion of this meeting may be closed for Committee members and Commissioners only.

1. Welcome/Introductions (*J. Cimino*)
2. Committee Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Meeting Summary from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Legislative Update (*A. Law*)
5. Tasking for the Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (*J. Patel*)
6. Commission Officer Election Procedures (*R. Beal*)
7. Review 2024-2028 Strategic Plan (*R. Beal*)
8. Discuss Future Meeting Week Format; In-Person vs. Virtual (*R. Beal*)
9. Other Business/Adjourn

The meeting will be held at The Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA; 703.486.1111, and via webinar; click [here](#) for details.

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY OF THE  
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Beaufort Hotel  
Beaufort, NC**

**October 18, 2023**

*For Review and Action by the Executive Committee January 24, 2024*

## **INDEX OF MOTIONS**

- 1.** On behalf of the Administrative Oversight Committee, move acceptance of the FY23 Audit. Motion by Joe Cimino on behalf of the AOC. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2.** Move the Commission approve a 30% increase to the per diem allowance which will come from G&A, not federal funds. Motion made by Mr. Abbott; seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion passed 14-1-1.
- 3.** Adjourn by Consent (Page 2).

## ATTENDANCE

### Committee Members

Pat Keliher, ME  
Cheri Patterson, NH  
Dennis Abbott, NH (LA Chair)  
Dan McKiernan, MA  
Jason McNamee, RI  
Justin Davis, CT  
Marty Gary, NY  
Joe Cimino, NJ, Vice Chair  
Kris Kuhn, PA

Roy Miller, DE (GA Chair)  
John Clark, DE  
Lynn Fegley, MD  
Pat Geer, proxy for Jamie Green, VA  
Chris Batsavage, proxy for Kathy Rawls, NC  
Ben Dyer, proxy for Mel Bell, SC  
Spud Woodward, GA, Chair  
Erika Burgess, FL

### Other Commissioners/Proxies

David Borden, RI GA  
Phil Edwards, RIDEM  
Jamie Green, VMRC  
Emerson Hasbrouck, NY GA  
Doug Haymans, GA AA  
Jesse Hornstein, NY DEC  
Bill Hyatt, CT GA  
Jeff Kaelin, NJ GA

Ray Kane, MA GA  
John Maniscalco, NY DEC  
Connor McManus, RI DEM  
Nichola Meserve, MA DMF  
Kathy Rawls, NCDMF  
Eric Reid, RI LA Proxy  
Steve Train, ME GA  
Ritchie White, NH

### Staff

Bob Beal  
Tina Berger  
Lisa Carty

Emilie Franke  
Laura Leach  
Alexander Law

### Guests

Max Appelman, NOAA  
Colleen Bouffard, CT  
Jeff Brust, NJ DEP  
Julie Evans, East Hampton Fisheries  
Angela Giuliano, MDDNR  
Beth Govoni, NCDMF

Joe Grist, VMRC  
Rick Jacobson, USFWS  
Ronald Owens, PRFC  
Chip Lynch, NOAA  
Brandon Muffley, MAFMC  
Chris Wright, NOAA

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Executive Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened October 18, 2023 in the Rachel Carson Ballroom at The Beaufort Hotel in Beaufort, North Carolina. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Chair Spud Woodward.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as modified.

**APPROVAL OF SUMMARY**

The summary minutes from the August 2, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**FY23 AUDIT**

The FY23 Audit was reviewed by the Administrative Oversight Committee and forwarded to the Executive Committee with a recommendation for approval. "On behalf of the Administrative Oversight Committee, move acceptance of the FY23 Audit." Motion by Joe Cimino on behalf of the AOC. Motion passed unanimously.

**PER DIEM RATES**

Mr. Beal presented a report on the potential for an increase in Per Diem rates for Commission meetings. The increase would be from Commission General and Administrative (G&A) funds, not federal funds. Staff presented an analysis of the impact this increase would have on the Commission budget and it was determined to be less than \$15,000 annually. "Move the Commission approve a 30% increase to the per diem allowance which will come from G&A, not federal funds." Motion made by Mr. Abbott; seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion passed 14-1-1.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Law presented a legislative update per the recommendation of the Legislative Committee. Topics included: the speakership battle and its potential impacts on the budget, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, the FISHERIES Act, unconfirmed upcoming priorities for Congress, and updates on internal Commission planning documents.

**CARES & CAA UPDATE**

Mrs. Leach gave an update on the CARES and CAA activities. The CARES program funds are completely disbursed. This award has been extended until January 31, 2024 to allow for final close-out procedures to be completed. CAA has approximately \$7 million remaining, and the states are expected to disburse it all by the completion date of July 31, 2024.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Keliher presented an overview of the American Unagi aquaculture facility in Hancock County, Maine. The facility is highly effective in growing out glass eels to supply the domestic unagi market.

**ADJOURN**

The Executive Committee adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

## Commission Leadership Election Process

December 7, 2023

OFFICERS. The Commission's Rules and Regulations require an annual election ~~elects from among the Commissioners of~~ a Chair and a Vice Chair, ~~each of whom serves a one-year term~~. Officers can succeed themselves. In the absence or disability of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall have all the power and authority of the Chair.

The following guidelines, detailing the Commission's nomination and election process for Chair and Vice-Chair, were adopted by the Commission at its 2009 Summer Meeting. At the 2024 Winter Meeting, the process language was clarified, but the underlying election process was not substantively modified. This process was used for the nomination and election of Commission leadership at the 2009 Annual Meeting and will be continued in future years unless modified by the Commission.

TERM LIMITS. While officers are elected annually, the Commission's tradition is to have the Chair and Vice Chair serve two one-year terms. This requires officers to be re-elected after completion of their first one-year term. The current annual election process and practice of a two-year term should be maintained where possible. The two-year ~~tenure~~ term could be extended or shortened to accommodate circumstances with the leadership and Commission membership.

REGIONAL ROTATION OF LEADERSHIP. The practice of having the Chair and Vice-Chair rotate between the North, Mid-Atlantic, and South should be ~~maintained~~ encouraged where possible. However, this practice should not be followed at the expense of electing the most qualified leadership.

MEMBERSHIP OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The current three-member Nominating Committee will be maintained. The membership will generally consist of one Commissioner from the North, Mid-Atlantic, and South and will be appointed annually by the Chair.

ROLE OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRIOR TO ELECTION.

- A member of the Nominating Committee shall contact the Administrative Commissioner from each state, and request they communicate with the States' L/GA Commissioners to solicit recommendations for nominees.
- Follow-up on Commissioner recommendations to gauge the individual's interest in being included as a nominee.
- Develop separate ballots for Chair and Vice-Chair based on input from Commissioners. A ballot will be prepared even if there is only one nominee in order to provide the opportunity to write-in a candidate.

## ELECTION PROCESS.

- Ballots will be distributed to state delegations at the Commission Business Session when the election is held (usually at the Annual Meeting).
- Each state delegation will receive one ballot and cast one vote based on the result of the Commissioner caucus from that state.
- State delegations may identify a write-in candidate. States should verify the interest of their candidate before submitting his or her name on the ballot.
- In the event that more than two candidates receive votes for either Chair or Vice-Chair, a run-off will be conducted between the two candidates that received the most votes.
- In the event of a tie, a vote will be retaken until there is a majority winner.
- The Nominations Committee will tally the votes and report the results to the Commission after each vote. substantially