



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0740 • [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)

Joseph Cimino (NJ), Chair

Dan McKiernan (MA), Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

## MEMORANDUM

December 23, 2024

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Menhaden Work Group on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Executive Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; and Spiny Dogfish Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal *REB*  
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Winter Meeting: February 4 – 5, 2025 (TA 25-040)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Winter Meeting will be February 4 – 5, 2025 at **The Westin Crystal City**. This will be a hybrid meeting (both in-person and remote) to allow for participation by Commissioners and interested stakeholders; the details of which will be provided two weeks prior to the meeting. A brief, preliminary agenda and public comment guidelines are included with this memorandum. Materials will be available January 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Commission website at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2025-winter-meeting>.

A block of rooms is being held at The Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. Lisa Carty will make Commissioner/Proxy reservations and will contact you regarding the details of your accommodations. **Please notify Lisa of any changes to your travel plans that will impact your hotel reservations, otherwise you will incur no-show penalties.** We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

For all other attendees, please reserve your room online via our group link at [Book your group rate for Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission ASMFC Meeting February 2025](#) or call Marriott directly at 888.236.2427 as soon as possible and mention the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to obtain the group room rate of \$196 plus tax single/dbl. Please be aware you must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or one night's advance payment. **Hotel reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 8. Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** If you are being reimbursed by ASMFC for your travel, please make your reservation directly with the hotel. Reservations made through travel websites do not apply toward our minimum number of required reservations with the hotel. **Please note, cancellations at The Westin must be made by 4 PM two days before arrival to avoid penalty and an early departure fee of \$196 + tax will apply when checking out before the confirmed date.** If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Lisa Carty at 703.842.0713 or [lcarty@asmfc.org](mailto:lcarty@asmfc.org).

We look forward to seeing you at the Winter Meeting. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740.

Enclosed: Preliminary Agenda, TA 25-040, and Travel Reimbursement Guidelines



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Winter Meeting

February 4 – 5, 2025

**The Westin Crystal City**

Arlington, Virginia

## Public Comment Guidelines

To provide a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board has approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings:

**For issues that are not on the agenda**, management boards will continue to provide opportunities to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will ask members of the public to raise their hands to let the chair know they would like to speak. Depending upon the number of commenters, the board chair will decide how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

**For topics that are on the agenda**, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic. Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comments will not provide additional insight to the board.

**For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment**, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

In addition, the following timeline has been established for the **submission of written comments for issues for which the Commission has NOT established a specific public comment period** (i.e., in response to proposed management action).

1. Comments received three weeks prior to the start of a meeting week (January 13) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5 PM on Tuesday, January 28 will be included in supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by 10 AM on Friday, January 31 will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting.

The submitted comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution. As with other public comment, it will be accepted via mail and email.

## Preliminary Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided below. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

### Tuesday, February 4

#### **9 – 10:30 a.m. American Lobster Management Board**

- Progress Update on American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Jonah Crab Data update
- Lobster Conservation Management Team Reports for Areas 2 and 3 (respond if necessary)

#### **10:45 a.m. – Noon Spiny Dogfish Management Board**

- Consider Draft Addendum VII to Reduce Sturgeon Bycatch for Final Approval
- Set 2025/2026 Specifications

#### **Noon – 1 p.m. Lunch Break**

#### **1 – 2:30 p.m. Horseshoe Crab Management Board**

- Consider for Public Comment Draft Addendum IX on Multi-year Specifications for Male Only Harvest of Delaware Bay-origin Horseshoe Crabs
- Review Adaptive Resource Management Subcommittee Recommendations Regarding Input on Changes to Reward/Utility Functions
- Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership
- Elect Vice-Chair

#### **2:45 – 4:45 p.m. Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

- Discuss Stock Assessment Schedule
  - Review Timing of 2027 Benchmark Stock Assessment and Board Discussion on Whether to Conduct 2026 Assessment Update
- Board Guidance on Scope of Draft Addendum III for 2026 Measures

### Wednesday, February 5

#### **8 – 10 a.m. Executive Committee**

- Review White Paper on Board Voting and Virtual Meeting Standard Operating Practices and Procedures
- Future Annual Meetings

**10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board**

- Review Results of 2025 Commissioner Survey
- Review White Paper on Board Voting and Virtual Meeting Standard Operating Practices and Procedures
- Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary

**11:45 a.m. – Noon Commission Business Session**

- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary

**Noon – 1 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1 – 5 p.m. Atlantic Menhaden Work Group on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay**