



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 17, 2020

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### **ASMFC Spring Meeting Cancelled**

Arlington, VA – The leadership of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has decided to cancel its Spring Meeting (May 4- 7) in Arlington, VA. This action is taken in response to the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to cancel or postpone gatherings of 50 people or more over the next eight weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of the cancellation, our August Meeting may be extended to 4 days (August 3-6) and Commissioners and proxies are being asked to keep their calendars open for May 5 & 6 in order to conduct any necessary Commission or species management board business via webinars/conference calls. The details of any scheduled webinars will be announced as they become available.

The Spring Meeting agenda included a number of important issues. Commission staff, Board Chairs, and Commission leadership will develop plans to address each of the agenda items. It is anticipated that non-urgent items will be postponed until the Summer Meeting, and items that require action prior to August will either be handled through via webinars/conference calls or through email votes, depending on stakeholder interest. Conducting meetings via webinars/conference calls makes public comment somewhat difficult. Therefore, members of the public are encouraged to submit comments in advance of a meeting to be included in briefing materials.

For more information, contact Tina Berger, Director of Communications, at [tberger@asmfc.org](mailto:tberger@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201  
703.842.0740 (phone) 703.842.0741 (fax) [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)