

PROCEEDINGS  
of the  
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
53RD ANNUAL MEETING  
BUSINESS SESSION

October 20, 1994  
Henlopen Hotel  
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

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The Business Session of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Restaurant of the Henlopen Hotel, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, Wednesday morning, October 20, 1994, and was called to order at 11:55 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Gordon Colvin.

CHAIRMAN GORDON COLVIN: We would like to at this time call to order the Business Session of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

At this time, I will recognize Jack Dunnigan to call the roll.

(Whereupon, the roll call was taken by Executive Director John H. Dunnigan.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: Mr. Chairman,

all 15 states of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission are represented, and we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Thank you, Jack.

At this time, it's appropriate to recognize the new commissioners who are with us this year, many of whom have been able to be with us during this Annual Meeting. As I read the names, those of you who are here, if you would give us a wave, I'd appreciate it.

The new commissioners among the state administrators are John Nelson from New Hampshire; Pete Colangelo from Pennsylvania, who'll be joining us in a moment; Dennis Spitsbergen; and Ed Conklin. New commissioners from the state legislatures: Representative George A. Townsend of Maine; Delegate Harvey Morgan of Virginia; and Representative David Redwine, North Carolina.

MR. DENNIS SPITSBERGEN: Gordon, before you go any further, I've got a little concern here. He's got a red ribbon, and I didn't get one. (Laughter)

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: New commissioners, governors' appointees: Polk Kellam, Jr., Virginia and Dave Cupka from South Carolina.

Could we give a hand to all the new

commissioners, please? (Applause)

At this time we will have the report of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee met yesterday morning with a sunrise service at 7:00 a.m., and I'll report to you the following items of business that took place at the Executive Committee meeting.

Importantly we heard reports on the scheduling of the future Annual Meetings. We will be hosted in 1995 by the State of South Carolina from October 28th to November 2nd in Charleston, and we're all looking very much forward to being there. Dr. Sandifer, I'm sure that the state will welcome us appropriately, and we are very pleased with the venue and much looking forward to being with you.

In 1996, we will be in Massachusetts on Cape Cod; in 1997, in Pennsylvania; and Georgia will be our host in 1998. Commissioner Harris was gracious enough to offer the services of Susan Shipman to host the 1998 meeting.

A couple of other brief items of business that took place on the Executive Committee to report include -- there was a brief report from the Administrative Oversight Committee. The key item on that includes the

development by the staff of the ASMFC Staff Manual. That document is close to completion. A great deal of staff time has been expended on it. We expect to have it approved in final form and implemented by the executive director very soon and put forward to the Executive Committee for approval by the spring meeting.

The executive director reported on a proposal for this year's spring meeting to take place perhaps a little bit earlier than it has in past years, and be conducted in part as a joint meeting with the Pacific and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions in Washington, D. C. Jack will be working further with the executive directors of the other two commissions. The likelihood is that we'll be looking for a meeting in April or perhaps a little bit earlier to accommodate the three commissions. That will be a change from our usual practice, and I think it's worth noting for everyone.

We also heard a report from the Statistics Policy Committee on a resolution that will be presented later this morning by the Resolutions Committee.

That essentially concludes the report of the Executive Committee, and there are no action items

requiring Commission attention at this point.

I will now recognize Jack for the report of the executive director. Mr. Dunnigan.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and in the interest of time, I will be brief. Let me just say to you, as has been noted many times over the last four days, what a difference a year makes. As we gathered at this time 51 weeks ago in Newport, Rhode Island, the Atlantic Coastal Law was still a gleam in our eyes.

And I recall driving home from Newport that Thursday afternoon, wondering what I was going to do with my Friday. I was starting to take the day off and clean up some things around the house and do whatever. But I had to stop by the office first to unload the equipment. And as I was in the office bringing everything in, the telephone rang, and it was Bonnie Dalton from the Senate staff saying did the Commission really want this bill, and in my folly I said yes. She said, "Then you'd better be up here."

And I spent the next four days in her office, resulting in the Senate passing the bill the following Monday night, and the Congress passing the bill



within the next two weeks.

So we have had a lot go on over the last year, and once again I commend all of you for your patience with us, for your patience with each other, for your own commitment and your dedication to making the program work. I think I join all of you in hoping that 1995 is not as hectic as 1994 was, and I think that we'll be able to meet that. We still have a lot of business ahead of us.

It was a real pleasure and an honor on my part to be able to go down to Dallas in July at the annual meeting of the American Sport Fishing Association and accept the award that they gave us for what the Commission has done in striped bass.

At the time, however, the message was clear. There's still a lot that has to be done for everything else. And it's very clear that fishermen, commercial and recreational constituencies, Capitol Hill as well, are going to be keeping their eyes on us and watching.

And I'm looking forward to and expecting a really new era in fisheries management, not just for coastal fisheries, but the representation we've made is that the states are close to the resources, close to the

people and can operate efficiently without a lot of bureaucratic delays that have been seen in other fishery management systems. Now we have the opportunity to show that that is truly the case.

Let me touch on a second item here this morning, and that is once again to say how much I appreciate working with the staff that we have. I had intended to go into a long litany, and I'm not going to because you folks have already said it this week. At virtually every meeting that we have been at, every person on our staff has been singled out to recognize and realize your gratitude for the hard work that they're doing. And I think it's nice for all of us, and I know I speak on their behalf, to hear that directly from you.

I know sometimes we might seem remote to you because we're in Washington, D. C., and maybe we're inside the Beltway, government monoliths. But I think there's a very strong sense of service in the staff. They work very hard, and I think they know that they work for you. And we certainly appreciate very much hearing from you this week and hearing all of the fine comments that you have made in recognition of the hard work that the staff is doing.

Let me also just close on a personal note that all of that goes at least double or triple from me. I continue to feel that it's a pleasure and an honor to be able to work for you. Over the last couple of months, a number of you have gone out of your way to tell me how good a job you think I'm doing. I very much appreciated the discussions with Bill Hogarth and the Executive Committee over my continuing role as the executive director.

I'm a little bit tired by this stage of an Annual Meeting, but I'm still very excited and enthusiastic about the opportunities that I have to be able to serve you and work with you. And I thank you for that personally.

And again, on behalf of the staff, I thank you for all the kind things that you've said for us.

Mr. Chairman, that's all I have. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Thank you, Jack.

At this point, we'll recognize Mike Street for a report of the Management and Science Committee.

MR. MICHAEL STREET: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My report will be brief, and I'm going to time it. The committee met twice this year in July in

Providence, Rhode Island, and Rehoboth Beach on Sunday. The function of the committee is to serve as fishery science advisors to the entire Commission. We reviewed all the Interstate Fishery Management Program plans at our July meeting and have made specific recommendations to the Interstate Fishery Management Program Policy Board.

Committee members are providing monthly articles on accomplishments of each state's sport fish restoration program for inclusion in the Commission's newsletter, "Fisheries Focus." Our most recent report, "Acronyms, Abbreviations and Technical Terms Used in ASMFC Fishery Management Programs," is at the printer and will soon be available.

On behalf of the Commission, we have circulated in recent years a total of 74 proposed state regulatory changes among the committee, generating a number of comments among agencies.

Beginning in 1995, the committee will no longer concentrate on issues of the Interstate Fishery Management Program, such as reviewing fishery management plans. We will widen our focus. We have initiated discussions on several topics, such as the relationship of

the ASMFC and aquaculture of coastal migratory species, protected species, research coordination, in preparation of several reports for the Commission.

And in closing, I would like to leave this august body with one word: Metadata. (Laughter and applause)

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Thank you, Mike.

Our next agenda item is the report of the ISFMP Policy Board. The Policy Board meeting occurred yesterday morning and again this morning, and a number of weighty matters were successfully negotiated at the meeting. It has been one of the more productive Policy Board meetings I've had the privilege of being part of.

Among the significant issues successfully undertaken by the Policy Board that I would like to report to the Commission this morning are the following:

First, we have adopted Standards and Procedures for the implementation of the Interstate Fishery Management Program, which will become Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the ISFMP Charter. This is a major effort that is a requirement of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Fisheries Management Act, and certainly requiring a great deal of

effort and perseverance on the part of our staff, on the part of the Policy Board, and most especially on the part of the Standards and Procedures Working Group that was so ably chaired by Susan Shipman.

Again, on behalf of the whole Commission, I would like to at this time express our appreciation and our admiration for the work of Susan Shipman and her Working Group.

We also tackled the issue of the funding priorities and the development of a funding proposal under the Atlantic Coastal Act, and that effort resulted in the successful adoption of a process and a procedure at this morning's meeting that will be followed by the Commission and its members in seeking and hopefully securing the appropriate funding under that Act.

Again, kudos to the staff for their effort and particularly Jack's effort in helping us negotiate those very, very dangerous waters.

We also adopted a recommendation to forward to the Commission Amendment 2 to the Weakfish Fishery Management Plan, and at the conclusion of this report, I'll recognize the chairman of the Weakfish Board who will

formally put that amendment before the Commission.

Lastly, the Commission will hear in a moment the first recommendations pursuant to the Atlantic Coastal Act of noncompliance. It was a difficult decision that we faced that was successfully undertaken, and we do find ourselves now with business to be taken -- this will be the first occasion under this Act -- assuming that staff can find the motions on the computer.

I'm going to ask the executive director to read the motions that were approved by the Policy Board as recommendations of noncompliance determinations to the Commission. We'll take them one at a time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: Recommendation from the Weakfish Management Board was approved by the ISFMP Policy Board. Moved that the Weakfish Management Board recommend to the ISFMP Policy Board that New Jersey be found out of compliance with the Weakfish Fishery Management Plan at this time for failing to enact regulations which would achieve the 25 percent reduction in exploitation in the commercial and recreation fisheries; and further recommend that to come into compliance, New Jersey establish seasonal closures in the commercial

fishery that make up the 25 percent reduction in exploitation during the current fishing year ending March 31, 1995, and apply measures from Table 5 that make up a 25 percent reduction in exploitation in the recreational fishery during the current fishing year.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: The Policy Board recommends that the Commission make the finding incorporated in the motion just read. That is a motion on behalf of the Policy Board. Is there discussion on the motion? Mr. Freeman.

MR. BRUCE FREEMAN: Yes. I would like to make a brief statement.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Please do.

MR. FREEMAN: I would like to indicate to the full Commission that this is certainly not an enviable position that we're in, that the state is making every effort to bring its regulations into force so that New Jersey will be in compliance with the weakfish fishery and later, as you will hear, other fisheries.

I would like to indicate, however, actions that New Jersey has taken, not to give the impression that we're certainly irresponsible. When the fishery management



plan was adopted in 1985, there was no action necessary. There really was no action required until Amendment Number 1 was approved in 1991. In March of '92, New Jersey implemented regulation called for in Amendment 1, and it was among the first of several states to implement regulations in accordance with the coastwide plan.

And I may remind the audience that this was two years before the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act mandated that states comply with the provisions of the plan. We have now had restrictions in place for three years. And the otter trawl fishery, which accounts for about 80 percent of our harvest, we have reduced this considerably, as well as the gill net recreational fishery and the pound net fishery.

The otter trawl fishery we implemented a minimum mesh size, and we do have 13-inch minimum size for eight months of the year, and 11-inch for the remaining four.

The impact of this regulation essentially has eliminated the pan trout fishery in New Jersey, which had accounted for about two-thirds of the total landings. Pan trout fishery are fish primarily between nine and ten

inches.

We have reduced the fleet from 22 vessels fishing directly on weakfish to six vessels in '92 and presently there are three vessels fishing in New Jersey for weakfish. We have effectively reduced the landings by over 66 percent. This has had tremendous impact.

And most importantly, the minimum size regulation that we have enacted has reduced the mortality of, in our estimation, hundreds of thousands of young-of-year fish. Historically, the fish operated with a two-inch minimum size, and fish of anywhere from five to nine inches by the thousands were essentially culled from the deck and thrown overboard.

This practice has not been in place for the last three years, and in fact New Jersey has seen a resurgence in the availability of weakfish, obviously not true of other coastal areas, but we believe this resurgence, particularly in Delaware Bay, has been through the efforts of our mesh regulation and our minimum size.

In the gill net fishery, we have implemented a 13-inch minimum size, which is one inch larger than required for in the plan. We have a three and a

quarter-inch minimum mesh, and we have a two and a half-month closed season.

The recreational fishery, we have a 13-inch minimum size, which is one inch larger than required in the plan; ten-fish possession limit, which up to this year was two more than required in the plan. And in all these instances, when we've had these regulations in place, although we brought this to the attention of the board and to the Commission, there's no way, practical way of making a measure of this, and we have asked for consideration as to savings we have made in the past, and that has not come to fruition because of the technical difficulties.

But I want to remind the Commission that New Jersey is a responsible state, even have Dick Schaefer as a native son, and Dick Roe to vouch for validity that we are committed to a serious fisheries management, and the impacts on our fishermen in this fishery have been quite severe, and we've heard from them at our public hearings that indeed these regulations we have put in place have had severe and disastrous economic consequence. Nevertheless, we have toed the line and made sure that these regulations remain.

At the present time, these regulations remain in place. We're not in full compliance with reduction. We fall short of that reduction, and we're in the mode of trying to move regulations as quickly as possible so New Jersey will be in compliance with the plan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Thank you, Bruce.

Andy.

MR. ANDREW MANUS: Gordon, would it be appropriate -- I have a letter from Juli Wagner that was delivered to Commissioner Schroeder, who's unable to make it, on this particular issue, he'd like to have entered in the record. I don't want to read it; I just want to make it available.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: By all means.

MR. MANUS: And provide copies to other commissioners.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Thank you. We'll accept it for the record, and copies will be provided to the commissioners.

Mr. Travelstead.

MR. JACK TAVELSTEAD: Point of

clarification. There was a second motion that was made by the Policy Board to inform the Secretary that New Jersey did have a package before their legislature. Will that motion also come before this body?

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: My sense is that the Commission is required to act on the compliance motion. Should it do so, should the motion on the floor be passed, it would be the intent of the Chair to instruct the staff that in communicating that message to the Secretary, that the second motion passed by the Policy Board be a part of that communication. Without objection, that would be how we would proceed.

Is there further discussion on the motion? Seeing none, we will take the question. All in favor, please signify by saying Aye; opposed, same sign. Abstentions.

MR. FREEMAN: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: New Jersey abstains. The motion carries.

I will recognize the executive director for the second motion.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: This is in

relation to Atlantic sturgeon. The motion of the Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board has been forwarded to the Commission by the Policy Board, and that motion reads: Moved that the Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board recommend that New Jersey be found out of compliance with the Atlantic Sturgeon Fishery Management Plan because it has not implemented any of the alternatives contained in the FMP, and that to come into compliance New Jersey must implement one of those alternatives.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: It is the recommendation of the Policy Board that the Commission find New Jersey out of compliance with the Atlantic Sturgeon Plan consistent with the motion of the Policy Board just read. Therefore, on behalf of the Policy Board, that motion is before the Commission. Is there discussion on the motion? Mr. Freeman.

MR. FREEMAN: Yes. Mr. Chairman, if I could address the Commission?

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Please.

MR. FREEMAN: As indicated previously, New Jersey has a regulatory package that we're trying to move as quickly as possible through our administrative

procedures. At the present time, that has not been enacted. When that is enacted, we will be in compliance with the provisions of the plan.

I'd like to point out to the Commission, however, that New Jersey presently is in compliance with all the provisions of the alternative, although not officially enacted. The fishery is a limited entry fishery, which our regulations have required for two years. Only fishermen that had a historical catch can fish for or possess sturgeon.

At the present time, New Jersey in 1994 has taken 83 fish. We are well below the allowable quota. And, as I indicated at the Policy Board, it does not appear that we will reach the quota that is allowed under the alternative under which we have determined we will engage in that fishery.

As I stated earlier, the regulatory package hopefully will be passed soon, and New Jersey will be in compliance with this provision.

The goodwill and cooperation of the fishermen, however, has put us in a position of reporting to you that all the provisions that we would actually enact

have already been adhered to on a voluntary basis. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Is there further discussion on the motion? Seeing none, we'll take the question. All in favor, please signify by saying Aye; opposed, same sign. Abstentions. New Jersey abstains. The motion carries.

Mr. Dunnigan.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: The third motion this morning deals with bluefish. The motion has been passed by the Bluefish Management Board and approved for submission to the Commission by the ISFMP Policy Board. The motion reads, that the Bluefish Fishery Management Board recommend that New Jersey be found out of compliance with the Bluefish Fishery Management Plan because it has failed to implement Item 1 of the Bluefish Fishery Management Plan's Compliance Schedule, and that New Jersey can come into compliance by implementing Item 1, ten-fish bag limit, for the recreational fishery.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Again, the Policy Board offers the motion that the Commission find New Jersey out of compliance based on the motion just read. Discussion on



the motion. Mr. Freeman.

MR. FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And hopefully this will be the last time. As I indicated previously, our regulatory package is going through the administrative process. We intend on having this implemented as quickly as possible. The ten-fish provision is something that we're anxious to get in place.

The only consolation I can indicate is that most fishermen have been informed that New Jersey would implement the ten-fish limit, and many people are under the impression that it actually is law. Most of the fishermen that we've encountered are restricting their catch to ten fish, if they can find bluefish. So thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Is there any further discussion on the motion? Seeing none, we'll take the question. All in favor, please signify by saying Aye; opposed, same sign. Abstentions. Abstention by New Jersey. The motion carries.

To return to the issue that Jack appropriately pointed out, it will be the intent of the Chair that the correspondence which communicates these decisions of the Commission to the Secretary will note the

additional motion passed by the Policy Board that indicated in effect that, as Mr. Freeman indicated, there is a regulatory package in process in the State of New Jersey that is moving forward, that would address the items in each of these three motions needed by the state to bring it back into compliance, and that the Secretary track that process in consideration of the allowance in the Act for the Secretarial action to be extended for a period of up to six months to monitor a state's progress in undertaking legislative or administrative action to bring itself into compliance, and that will be so done.

I think it should be noted for the record that this difficult decision was approved by the Commission without a negative vote in all three cases. We appreciate the difficulty that we're all under here and the weightiness of the situation, and I appreciate how the Commission has handled it, and how the State of New Jersey has responded.

At this time, I'd like to recognize Andy Manus for presentation of Amendment 2 to the Weakfish Plan. You need to move approval of the amendment as adopted, as approved by the ISFMP Policy Board.

MR. MANUS: I would then make a motion that the Amendment 2 to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Fishery Management Plan for Weakfish be adopted by the full Commission as approved by the Policy Board.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Is there a second to the motion?

MR. FREEMAN: Second.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Discussion on the motion.  
Mr. Manus.

MR. MANUS: Just a point of clarification, that the effective date is a date as approved by the full Commission.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: In the event the motion passes, the effective date of the amendment will be today.

Further discussion on the motion. Seeing none, we'll take the question. All in favor, please signify by saying Aye; opposed, No. Abstentions. Motion carries unanimously.

I now recognize Bob Babula for the report of the Law Enforcement Committee.

MR. ROBERT A. BABULA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Law Enforcement Committee met on October

17th and 18th at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. States present were Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Delaware, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, New Hampshire, Connecticut, North Carolina and Virginia. Other members was Washington, D. C. Representatives from the law enforcement branch of the National Marine Fisheries Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife and the United States Coast Guard were present. Members not present were South Carolina and Florida.

This is the largest turnout of member participation in the past several years and is indicative of the interests on the part of law enforcement to contribute to the decision-making process of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The states reported on striped bass enforcement activities in their respective states. Each state reported an abundance of striped bass during the proper season. The promotion and publicity surrounding the success of the Striped Bass Plan and the abundance of fish and fishermen has begun to contribute to a lower level of compliance with a waning interest in conservatin efforts in some states.

It has come to the committee's attention that certain state regulations which have met with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approval create difficult enforcement situation. For example, the lack of a clear delineation of a producer water and a coastal water with different sizes creates an unenforceable regulation of a larger size. Another problem area is the lack of regulations that address fish to be landed whole or a certain fillet length.

Members of the Law Enforcement Committee that have been appointed liaison to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Fishery Management Boards have been in attendance at scheduled meetings to be available to provide insight and advice on law enforcement issues.

New York presented an update of the data base of commercial fishing regulations. A working data base for the Atlantic states should be available by the spring meeting. The National Marine Fisheries has offered their resources to assist New York.

New York presented an update on calculating enforcement personnel needed and the associated cost of enforcing Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

fishery management plans. The United States Coast Guard offered the use of their asset projection model to New York to calculate enforcement personnel needs to enforce fishery management plans. A model example will be presented at the spring meeting using New York's data.

The Law Enforcement Committee strongly supports the new staff position proposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission executive director to have a law enforcement coordinator. The Law Enforcement Committee's view is that such a position is crucial to insure effective implementation of enforcement measures of fishery management plans.

The committee would like to thank the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for its continuing support in recognition of the integral role which law enforcement plays in the effective implementation of fishery management plans.

This concludes our report. Thank you. Are there any questions?

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Questions of Bob? Thank you, Bob. I know you guys have been working hard. You've also been working hard in 714, too, and we appreciate that.

(Laughter)

We'll now recognize Dave Cupka for the report of the Resolutions Committee.

MR. DAVID CUPKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Resolutions Committee this year also included Mr. Bill Brennan from Maine and Mr. John Schroeder from Delaware. We have two resolutions to bring before the Commission for its consideration. The first was distributed over a month ago to all the commissioners and deals with the issue of statistics. It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act mandates that all states from Maine through Florida comply with Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission fishery management plans and charges the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to cooperatively assist the Commission in implementation of the new law; and

WHEREAS, the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act provide authority to the National Marine Fisheries Service and

the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to collect data necessary for fisheries management and to work cooperatively with other fishery management entities; and

WHEREAS, statistics on recreational and commercial fisheries are required by state and federal fisheries management agencies to assess the status of stocks, to allocate fisheries, and to develop and monitor fishery management plans; and

WHEREAS, shared authority and jurisdiction for management of many fishery stocks by state and federal fishery management agencies requires cooperative fisheries statistics data collection and data management programs to improve efficiency, reduce duplication, maximize use of limited funding, reduce the burden on participants in the fisheries, and provide the best available scientific data and access to these data in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, state and federal fisheries management agencies need to develop fisheries statistics data collection programs to support fishery management activities which serve their shared needs,



as well as certain individual responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will work cooperatively with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Regional Fishery Management Councils and other interested parties to implement a cooperative unified Atlantic Coast marine fisheries statistics program among state and federal marine fisheries agencies consistent with the attached Statistics Vision Document and strongly encourage the states and the federal agencies to participate as partners in this effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will work cooperatively with the National Marine Fisheries Services, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Regional Fishery Management Councils to develop an implementation plan for such a cooperative fisheries statistics data collection and data management program which meets the shared needs of both state and federal fisheries management agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission and the Atlantic coastal states from Maine through Florida will work cooperatively with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop funding initiatives to achieve the shared vision of a cooperative fisheries statistics data collection and data management program.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the committee, I would so move.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Second to the motion?

MR. P. COATES: Second.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Discussion on the motion? Seeing none, we'll take the question. All in favor, please signify by saying Aye; opposed, same sign. The motion carries.

MR. CUPKA: The second resolution for the Commission's consideration has to do with our host state.

WHEREAS, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened its 53rd Annual Meeting, October 16th through 20th, 1994 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware; and

WHEREAS, this was the first time that the first state has hosted the Commission's Annual Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Commissioners Andy Manus, John Schroeder and Tim Targett were gracious and accommodating hosts; and

WHEREAS, the weather was excellent, the crab feast was superb, and a good time was had by all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission extends its sincere appreciation to the State of Delaware, to its commissioners and to the staff of the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife.

And on behalf of the committee, I would so move, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Thank you. Would the commissioners signify their approval in the traditional way? (Applause)

Thank you, Dave.

We will now recognize Duane Harris for the report of the Nominating Committee.

MR. DUANE HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Mr. Cantwell and Mr. Coates and myself, and on behalf of the Nominating Committee, I move that the new chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission be Mr. Gordon Colvin of New York.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: The motion of the Nominating Committee is that Gordon Colvin be elected chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for the coming year.

Are there any other nominations from the floor? Seeing none, the Chair will entertain a motion that nominations be closed.

(Motion made and seconded from the floor.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: Without objection, it is so ordered.

And since there's only one nominee, the Chair declares that Gordon Colvin is elected chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

(Applause)

MR. HARRIS: The second item for business is the election of vice-chair, and on behalf of the Nominating Committee I move that Dr. Paul Sandifer, king of the lions,

be elected vice-chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: The motion on behalf of the Nominating Committee is to elect Dr. Sandifer as the vice-chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Are there any other nominations from the floor? Seeing none, the Chair will entertain a motion that nominations be closed.

MR. FREEMAN: So moved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: Is there a second?

MR. EDWIN J. CONKLIN: Second.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: Without objection, it is so ordered. And since there is only one nominee, the Chair declares that Dr. Paul Sandifer's been elected the vice-chairman of the ASMFC. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Thank you, Mr. Harris.

Thank you one and all. It is obviously my great honor to be here as your real chairman and not your acting chairman. And given the success with which we've conducted some extraordinarily complex and difficult

business this week, I just look absolutely forward with the greatest hope and anticipation to continuing to work with all of you and with this great staff to continue the kinds of accomplishments and the conduct of business in the way we've been able to this week. I couldn't be more pleased to be associated with an organization than I am this week with this one.

Now, it says here, "Further Business," and there's a big blank, but I think that must have something to do with these things over here. So without further ado, we'll call Andy Manus to award the Laura Leach Fishing Tournament Awards.

(Presentation of awards)

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Thank you, Andy.

We have one more special award. Mr. Dunnigan.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: It's not an award, it's an auction, since we're all trying to raise money here.

(Auction)

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Mr. Coates.

MR. COATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The

disturbingly low catch per unit of effort in past ASMFC tournaments is causing me great concern, and I'm not sure how we can remedy the situation, except perhaps we make sure that in future meetings we apportion a larger amount of time available for the commissioners to pursue other pursuits other than the business at hand.

So I would recommend that either people get down here the Saturday before the Annual Meeting, or they hang around the week after.

Now next year, aren't we going to a place that requires a salt water fishing license? So just be reminded everybody, because we're going to be surrounded by law enforcement people.

Just a little bit that really bothers me, but as I said, being out on the pier the other night, I can see why it occurs.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Your comment is on the techniques of your counterparts out there.

Earlier this year, the Commission sponsored public information meetings in all of the striped bass states on a scoping document for Amendment 5. One of the questions that we were asked to discuss with fishermen is

how would you address the subject of when striped bass are restored. Yesterday at lunch we suggested a new restoration definition. When some ASMFC commissioner at the Laura Leach Tournament can catch a legal striped bass, then the stock is restored. (Laughter)

Is there any further business to come before the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission? Laura.

MS. LAURA LEACH: I just would like to thank everybody for participating in the tournament. It really is super.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: And for a good cause and one that is growing every year.

MS. LEACH: And our T-shirts were donated this year.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Great! We should mention the sponsor's name again, Laura.

MS. LEACH: Olde Lead Bait and Tackle.

CHAIRMAN COLVIN: Olde Lead Bait and Tackle, to whom we're quite grateful in assisting to make this a successful tournament.

Is there any further business before the Commission? Seeing none, the 53rd Annual Meeting is



declared adjourned. Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 12:57  
o'clock p.m., October 20, 1994.)

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