



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Joe Cimino (NJ), Chair

Dan McKiernan (MA), Vice-Chair


Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

January 10, 2024

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Eel Management Board; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Coastal Pelagics Management Board; Executive Committee; ISFMP Policy Board; Shad and River Herring Management Board; Spiny Dogfish Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal 
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Winter Meeting: January 23-25, 2024 (TA 24-017)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Winter Meeting will be January 23-25, 2024 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 room block is now closed; if you need assistance reserving a room, please contact Lisa Carty at lcarty@asmfc.org. The final agenda and meeting materials for the Winter Meeting are now available at <https://www.asmfc.org/home/2024-winter-meeting>.

Webinar Information

Meeting proceedings will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning Tuesday, January 23rd at 12:30 PM and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be 11 AM) on Thursday, January 25th. To register for the webinar, please go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8556735274724277084> (Webinar ID 795-025-635).

If you are joining the webinar but will not be using voice over internet protocol (VoIP) via your computer, you can also call in at 631.992.3221, access code 426-309-773. A PIN will be provided to you after joining the webinar; see webinar instructions for details on how to receive the PIN.

For those who will not be joining the webinar but would like to listen to the audio portion only, press the # key when asked for a PIN.

Meeting Process

Board chairs will ask both in-person and virtual board members if they wish to speak. In-person members can simply raise their hands at the meeting without logging on to the webinar, while virtual members will raise their hands on the webinar. The chair will work with staff to compile the list of speakers, balancing the flow of questions/comments between in-person and virtual attendees. The same process will be used for public comment. 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.

Each day, the webinar will begin 15 minutes prior to the start of the first meeting so that people can troubleshoot any connectivity or audio issues they may encounter. If you are having issues with the webinar (connecting to or audio-related), please contact Chris Jacobs at 703.842.0790.

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.



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Winter Meeting

January 23-25, 2024

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 opportunity 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 comment 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 comment 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 2) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5 PM on Tuesday, January 16 will be included in supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by 10 AM on Friday, January 19 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.

Final Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. 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, January 23

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

American Lobster Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

Other Members: NMFS

Chair: McNamee

Other Participants: Pugh, Truesdale, Beal, Delayne

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. McNamee*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. American Lobster Technical Committee Report (*T. Pugh*)
 - Information on Lobster Resource and Fishery Near the Northern Edge of Georges Bank
5. Jonah Crab Technical Committee Report (*C. Truesdale*)
 - Jonah Crab Stock Indicators
 - Discuss Future Management Tools
6. Consider Pursuing a Management Strategy Evaluation for American Lobster (*J. McNamee*) **Possible Action**
7. Discuss Inconsistencies in Federal and Commission Rules for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 2 and 3 (*C. Starks, A. Murphy*)
8. Progress Update on State Implementation of Addendum XXIX on Federal Vessel Trackers (*J. McNamee*)
9. Progress Update on American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment (*J. Kipp*)
10. Review and Populate Jonah Crab Advisory Panel Membership (*T. Berger*) **Action**
11. Other Business/Adjourn

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

Spiny Dogfish Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

Other Members: NMFS

Chair: Geer

Other Participants: Baker, Newlin, Didden

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Geer*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023

3. Public Comment
4. Review 2023 Management Track Assessment (*J. Didden*)
5. Set Specifications for Up to the Next Three Fishing Years **Final Action**
 - Review Monitoring Committee and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Recommendations for 2024-2026 Fishing Years (*J. Didden*)
6. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

4 – 5:30 p.m.

American Eel Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Chair: Kuhn

Other Participants: Carty, Beal

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*K. Kuhn*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Approval of Draft Addendum VI on Maine’s Glass Eel Quota for Public Comment (*C. Starks*) **Action**
5. Consider Approval of Draft Addendum VII on Yellow Eel Coastwide Cap for Public Comment (*C. Starks*) **Action**
6. Consider Approval of Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2022 Fishing Year (*C. Starks*) **Action**
7. Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership (*T. Berger*) **Action**
8. Other Business/Adjourn

Wednesday, January 24

8 – 10 a.m.

Executive Committee

Breakfast will be available at 7:30 a.m.

(A portion of this meeting may be closed for Committee members and Commissioners only)

Members: Abbott, Burgess, Cimino, Clark, Davis, Dyer, Fegley, Gary, Geer, Keliher, Kuhn, McKiernan, McNamee, Miller, Patterson, Rawls, Woodward

Chair: Cimino

Staff: Leach

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

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Coastal Pelagics Management Board

Member States: Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC, SAFMC

Chair: Woodward

Other Participants: Giuliano, Pearce

Staff: Franke, Tuohy

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*S. Woodward*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Approval of Terms of Reference for the SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review of Atlantic Migratory Group (AMG) Cobia Stock Assessment (*C. Tuohy & A. Giuliano*) **Action**
5. Update from Cobia Plan Development Team on Recreational Reallocation Addendum Scoping (*C. Tuohy*)
6. Consider Approval of Spanish Mackerel Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2022 Fishing Year (*E. Franke*) **Action**
7. Update from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council on Mackerel Port Meetings and Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 13 (*J. Carmichael*)
8. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
9. Other Business/Adjourn

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Lunch Provided for Commissioners & Proxies

12:45 – 1:30 p.m.

Shad and River Herring Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Chair: Fegley

Other Participants: Eakin, Sabo

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*L. Fegley*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment

4. Consider Update to New Hampshire River Herring Sustainable Fishery Management Plan and Proposal to Reopen Fishery (*W. Eakin*) **Final Action**
5. Progress Update on the 2024 River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment (*K. Drew*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

1:45 – 4:45 p.m.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

Other Members: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Chair: Ware

Other Participants: Lengyel Costa, Mercer

Staff: Franke

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Ware*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Draft Addendum II for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review Options and Public Comment Summary (*E. Franke*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*E. Franke*)
 - Law Enforcement Committee Report (*J. Mercer*)
 - Consider Final Approval of Addendum II
5. New Jersey Alternative Management Proposal **Final Action**
 - Review of New Jersey Proposal (*J. Cimino*)
 - Plan Review Team Report (*E. Franke*)
 - Consider Approval of New Jersey’s Conservation Equivalency Proposal
6. Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership (*T. Berger*) **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

Thursday, January 25

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: D. Blacklock

Chair: Cimino

Staff: Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino*)
2. Board Consent (*J. Cimino*)
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023

3. Public Comment
4. Executive Committee Report (*J. Cimino*) **Action**
5. Review and Discuss 2023 Commissioner Survey Results (*A. Law*)
6. Consider Jurisdiction Requests for Species Declared Interest **Final Action**
7. Discuss Aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone (*D. Blacklock*)
8. Review NOAA Fisheries White Paper for an Industry-Based Survey
9. Update on Ongoing Stock Assessments **Action**
10. Review Noncompliance Findings, If Necessary **Action**
11. Other Business/Adjourn

10:30 – 11 a.m.

Commission Business Session

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Chair: Cimino

Staff: Beal

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Approval of Revision to 2024 Action Plan (*T. Kerns*)
 - Addition to Goal 1 to Develop an Action with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council for Summer Flounder Commercial Measures
5. Review and Consider Approval of 2024-2028 Strategic Plan **Final Action**
6. Review Noncompliance Findings, If Necessary **Final Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn