



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2023

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
703.842.0749

ASMFC Schedules ISFMP Policy Board for July 11 from 1-3 PM *Board to Discuss MAFMC Research Set-Aside Program*

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has scheduled a virtual meeting of the Interstate Fisheries Management (ISFMP) Policy Board to discuss and make a recommendation on the future of Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC or Council) Research Set-aside (RSA) Program. The meeting will be held via webinar on July 11 from 1 – 3 PM. The agenda and meeting materials are available at https://asmfc.org/files/Meetings/ISFMP_PolicyBoardWebinarAgenda_Materials_July2023.pdf.

In 2014, the Council suspended the RSA Program due to concerns associated with the Program that included administrative, enforcement, and science issues. The Council is considering the potential redevelopment of the RSA Program. From July 2021 through February 2022, the Research Steering Committee (RSC) held a series of four exploration workshops focusing on the key issues of RSA research, funding mechanisms, enforcement, monitoring, and administration. In addition, the RSC reviewed the input from the workshops and developed a draft framework for a potentially revised RSA Program that would seek to address the issues of the original RSA Program. At its August meeting, Council staff will give a presentation on a potential draft RSA Framework, draft RSA Program elements, and recommendations developed by the RSC for Council consideration. Any potential action considered by the Council through a management document would need to be developed cooperatively with the Commission for jointly managed species to ensure a consistent and compatible RSA Program across fishery management plans. At its July 11 meeting, the ISFMP Policy Board will consider providing a recommendation to the Council on the future of the RSA Program.

The webinar details follow:

Webinar link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4130763363272991324>

Webinar ID: 711-234-515

If you are joining the webinar but will not be using voice over internet protocol, you can may also call in at 415.655.0052, access code 115-483-509. A PIN will be provided to you after joining the webinar; see webinar instructions for details on how to receive the PIN.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Fisheries Policy Director, at tkerns@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.
PR23-17

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.