



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

82nd Annual Meeting

October 21 – 24, 2024

The Westin Annapolis
Annapolis, Maryland

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 (September 30) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5 PM on Tuesday, October 15 will be included in supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by 10 AM on Friday, October 18 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.

Monday, October 21

9 – 9:30 a.m.

Atlantic Herring Management Board

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

Other Members: NEFMC, NMFS

Other Participants: Brown

Chair: Grout

Staff: Franke

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Grout*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Set Specifications for the 2025-2027 Fishing Years (*E. Franke*) **Final Action**
5. Set Quota Period for the 2025 Area 1A Fishery (*E. Franke*) **Final Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

9:45 a.m. – 12:15 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, NEFMC

Other Participants: Beal, Moore, Pugh

Chair: Keliher

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Keliher*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Progress Update on Benchmark Stock Assessment for American Lobster (*T. Pugh*)
5. Consider Annual Data Update of American Lobster Indices (*T. Pugh*)

6. Consider Addendum XXXI on Postponing Implementation of Addendum XXVII Measures for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review Options and Public Comment Summary (*C. Starks*)
 - Review Advisory Panel Report (*C. Starks*)
 - Consider Final Approval of Addendum XXXI
7. Consider Fishery Management Plan Reviews and State Compliance Reports for American Lobster and Jonah Crab for the 2023 Fishing Year (*C. Starks*) **Action**
8. Discuss Vessel Tracking Requirements of Addendum XXIX (*C. Starks*) **Possible Action**
9. Other Business/Adjourn

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Steering Committee

Members: Atwood, Babb, Bolton, Campfield, Chiarella, Coakley, DeLucia, Dippold, Faulkner, Fournier, Greenberg, Groskin, Johnson, Laney, Medders, Moore, Rousseau, Schneider, Thomas-Blate, Tweel

Other Participants: Atkinson, Miller, Olive

Chair: Coakley

Staff: Kaalstad

Webinar Link: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/462557844>

1. Welcome and Introductions (*J. Coakley*)
2. Committee Consent (*J. Coakley*)
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Spring 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - Approval of New England Fishery Management Council Membership
3. Review of 2023-2024 Action Plan
 - Discuss Items for the Next Action Plan (2025-2026)
4. Project Updates (*S. Kaalstad*)
 - Recently Completed and Active On-the-Ground Restoration Projects
 - FY25 Proposed/Approved Projects
5. Outreach and Communications
 - Partner Updates
 - Engaging Tribal Organizations and Underserved Communities
 - Collaborative Opportunities with [Urban Waters Federal Partnership](#) (EPA/USGS)
7. FY26 ACFHP Project Funding (*S. Kaalstad*)
 - RFP Development
 - NFHP Requirements
 - ACE Act Alignment
 - Timelines
 - Review of FY26 Online Application Form
8. Adjourn/Reconvene on October 22

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

**Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)
Coordinating Council**

Partners: ASMFC, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, MAFMC, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, NEFMC, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, NMFS, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, PRFC, Rhode Island, SAFMC, South Carolina, USFWS, Virginia

Chair: McNamee

Staff: White

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. McNamee*)
2. Council Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from April 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider FY2025 Project and Administrative Proposals for Funding (*J. Simpson*) **Action**
5. Program and Committee Updates
6. Elect Vice Chair
7. Other Business/Adjourn

3 – 5 p.m.

Horseshoe Crab Management Board

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

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: Couch, Sweka, Weaver

Chair: Davis

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Davis*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from April 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Stakeholder Workshop Report on Delaware Bay Management Objectives (*K. Weaver*) **Possible Action**
5. Set 2025 Delaware Bay Bait Harvest Specifications **Final Action**
 - Review Horseshoe Crab and Red Knot Abundance Estimates and Model Results from the Adaptive Resource Management Framework (*J. Sweka*)
 - Set 2025 Specifications (*C. Starks*)
6. Consider Approval of Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for 2023 Fishing Year (*C. Starks*) **Action**

7. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
8. Other Business/Adjourn

Tuesday, October 22

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Sciaenids Management Board

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

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC

Other Participants: Ballenger, Fay, Rickabaugh, Rogers, Simpson

Chair: Haymans

Staff: Bauer

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Haymans*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Consider 2024 Red Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report **Action**
 - Presentation of Stock Assessment (*J. Ballenger*)
 - Presentation of Peer Review Panel Report (*G. Fay*)
 - Consider Acceptance of Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report for Management Use
 - Consider Management Response, If Necessary (*D. Haymans*)
5. Discuss Risk and Uncertainty Tool Inputs for Red Drum (*K. Drew*)
6. Consider Annual Update to Black Drum Indicators (*H. Rickabaugh*) **Possible Action**
7. Consider Black Drum and Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Reviews and State Compliance Reports for the 2023 Fishing Year (*T. Bauer*) **Action**
8. Other Business/Adjourn

9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ACFHP Steering Committee (continued)

Webinar Link: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/462557844>

1. Reconvene
2. Updates to State Wildlife Action Plans (*W. Duncan*)
3. National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Updates (*A. Atkinson, J. Olive*)
 - Board Activities & Meetings
 - National Habitat Assessment
 - Stakeholder Engagement
4. Guest Speaker (*USFWS/MD DNR, to be determined*)
5. Science & Data: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) (*E. Schneider & M. Bachman*)
 - Overview: SAV Webinar with Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service and East Coast SAV Collaborative
 - Discussion Restructuring Science and Data Working Group
 - Product Development: Timelines and Funding Opportunities

6. Wrap-up, Overview, Next Steps
7. Adjourn

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1 – 5 p.m.

Law Enforcement Committee

(A portion of this meeting will be closed session for Committee members and the LEC Coordinator only)

Members: Baker, Beal, Brown, Cassin, Cloyd, Corbin, Couch, Daniels, Gadomski, B. Hale, Hettenbach, Hodge, Hogan, LaCourte, Mercer, Moore, Noel, Pearce, Rogers, Sabo, Thomas, Walker, Williams

Other Participants: Brooks, Cunningham, C. Hale, Mitchell

Chair: Pearce

Staff: Blanchard

Webinar link: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/415480742>

Meeting ID: 415480742

1. Welcome/Call to Order *(S. Pearce)*
2. Committee Consent *(S. Pearce)*
 - Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Introductions
5. Final Update on Changes to Enforceability Guidelines *(K. Blanchard)*
6. Global Conservation Law Enforcement Network *(M. Mitchell and K. Brooks)*
7. ASMFC LEC Role and Expectations *(K. Blanchard)*
8. ASMFC Website Upgrade *(T. Berger and K. Cunningham)*
9. US Department of Justice/NOAA Case Study *(C. Hale and J. Cassin)*
10. Review and Discuss Commission Species
 - Winter Flounder - Massachusetts Conservation Equivalency Proposal *(T. Bauer)*
 - Bluefish – Technical Committee Risk and Uncertainty Tool *(C. Tuohy)*
11. Meeting Recess/Reconvene on October 23

12:30 – 2:30 p.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

Other Participants: Freeman, Giuliano, Pearce

Chair: Woodward

Staff: Franke

1. Welcome/Call to Order *(S. Woodward)*

2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Update on SEDAR 95 Stock Assessment for Atlantic Cobia
5. Consider 2025 Atlantic Cobia Regional Recreational Measures **Action**
 - Technical Committee Report (*A. Giuliano*)
 - Consider Options for Northern Region Recreational Measures and Timeline for Selecting and Implementing Final Measures **Action**
6. Atlantic Cobia Technical Committee Report (*A. Giuliano*)
 - Addendum II Confidence Interval Approach
7. Update from South Atlantic Fishery Management Council on Mackerel Port Meetings (*J. Carmichael*)
8. Other Business/Adjourn

2:45 – 4:15 p.m.

Atlantic Menhaden 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: NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: Craig, Corbin

Chair: Clark

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Clark*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Review Update from Work Group on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay (*M. Gary*)
5. Consider Approval of Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2023 Fishing Year (*J. Boyle*) **Action**
6. Progress Update on 2025 Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Stock Assessment (*K. Drew*)
7. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
8. Other Business/Adjourn

4:30 – 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

Other Participants: Beal, Carty, Feigenbaum, Hahn

Chair: Kuhn

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*K. Kuhn*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from May 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Provide Feedback on CITES Actions and Committee Work (*D. Hahn*)
5. Consider Approval of Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for 2023 Fishing Year (*C. Starks*) **Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

Wednesday, October 23

8 – 10 a.m.

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

Executive Committee

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

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

Chair: Cimino

Staff: Leach

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Meeting Summary from August 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Consider Approval of FY24 Audit (*L. Leach*)
5. Legislative Update (*A. Law*)
6. New ASMFC Website Demo, If Time Allows (*T. Berger/K. Cunningham*)
7. Future Annual Meetings Update
8. Other Business/Adjourn

8:30 a.m. – Noon

Law Enforcement Committee (continued)

(A portion of this meeting may be a closed session for LEC Coordinator and Committee members only)

Webinar link: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/415480742>

Meeting ID: 415480742

1. Reconvene
2. Review and Discuss Ongoing Enforcement Activities (**Closed Session**)
3. Review and Discuss Commission Species (continued)
 - Atlantic Cobia – Recreational Management Measures Update (*E. Franke*)
 - Atlantic Striped Bass – Recreational Release Mortality Work Group (*E. Franke*)
 - Other Species
4. State Agency Reports
5. Other Business/Adjourn

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Business Session of the Commission

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 January 2024
3. Consider Approval of 2025 Action Plan **Final Action**
4. Elect Commission Chair and Vice-Chair **Final Action**
5. Other Business
6. Adjourn/Reconvene on October 24

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 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

Other Participants: Eakin, Lyons Gromen, Sabo

Chair: Fegley

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*L. Fegley*)

2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Updates to Shad and River Herring Sustainable Fishery Management Plans (SFMPs) (*W. Eakin*) **Action**
 - New Hampshire River Herring SFMP and Proposal to Reopen Fishery
 - Maine River Herring SFMP
 - Massachusetts American Shad SFMP
 - Connecticut American Shad SFMP
5. Review Advisory Panel Report on 2024 River Herring Benchmark Assessment (*P. Lyons Gromen*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

2:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

1 – 5 p.m.

Habitat Committee

Members: Atwood, Ayvazian, Babb, Bachman, Bolton, Chiarella, Chintala, Coakley, Colarusso, Croom, Dippold, Fournier, Hense, Johnson, Lafrance, Laney, McTigue, Medders, Peabody, Rousseau, Schneider, Sherwood, Smith, Topolski, Vanderbuilt, Wilber, Wilke
Other Participants Kentner, Slacum

Chair: Babb

Staff: Kaalstad

Webinar Link: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/462557844>

1. Welcome and Introductions (*R. Babb*)
2. Committee Consent (*R. Babb*)
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Summer 2024 Meeting Minutes
3. *Habitat Hotline Atlantic* (HHA)
 - Approve Format for 2024 Issue
 - State Updates Questionnaire
 - Discuss Future Direction of HHA
 - Audience Engagement and Outreach
 - Format, Content, Type of Medium, etc.
4. Habitat Management Series: Shell Recycling Programs (*S. Kaalstad*)
 - Review Outline
 - Assign Articles and Develop Timeline
 - Discuss Shell Recycling Program Survey
5. Adjourn/Reconvene on October 24

1:30 – 5 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

Other Participants: Grabowski, Mercer, Nelson

Chair: Ware

Staff: Franke

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Ware*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Review Report from Work Group on Recreational Release Mortality (*C. Batsavage*) **Possible Action**
5. Consider 2024 Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment Update
 - Presentation of Stock Assessment Report (*G. Nelson*)
 - Technical Committee Report on Considerations for 2025 Management Measures (*T. Grabowski*)
 - Consider Management Response (*M. Ware*) **Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

Thursday, October 24

8:30 a.m. – Noon

Habitat Committee (continued)

Webinar Link: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/462557844>

1. Reconvene
2. Habitat Management Series: Shell Recycling Programs (continued)
3. General Business
 - Updates to Fishery Management Plan Habitat Sections
 - Updates to Fish Habitats of Concern
 - Next Steps
4. Guest Speaker: Oyster Recovery Partnership Shell Recycling Program (*W. Slacum*)
5. Guest Speaker: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Fishing Gear Impacts to Essential Fish Habitat Essential Fish Habitat Database (*D. Stevenson, T. Kentner*)
6. Adjourn

9 – 10 a.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

Other Participants: Baker, Newlin

Chair: Geer

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Geer*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Approval of Draft Addendum VII for Public Comment on Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Reduction Measures (*J. Boyle*) **Action**
5. Consider Revising 2024/2025 Fishing Year Quota (*J. Boyle*) **Possible Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

10:15 – 11:15 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: Salerno

Chair: Cimino

Staff: Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Executive Committee Report (*J. Cimino*)
5. Update on the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel Work Regarding Industry-based Trawl Surveys (*D. Salerno*)
6. Committee Reports
 - Law Enforcement (*K. Blanchard*)
 - Habitat (*S. Kaalstad*)
 - Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership (*S. Kaalstad*)
7. Review Non-Compliance Findings, If Necessary **Action**
8. Other Business

11:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Business Session of the Commission (continued)

1. Reconvene (*J. Cimino*)
2. Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, If Necessary **Final Action**
3. Other Business/Adjourn

11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Lunch Provided for Commissioners and Proxies

12 – 2 p.m.

Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board with Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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: MAFMC, Beaty

Chairs: Cimino, Townsend

Staff: Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino, W. Townsend*)
2. Consider Approval of Recreational Measures Setting Process Addenda/Framework for Public Comment (*C. Tuohy, T. Bauer, J. Beaty*) **Action**
3. Other Business/Adjourn

2:15 – 3 p.m.

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board with Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: MAFMC, Dancy, Galvan, Scott

Chairs: Meserve, Townsend

Staff: Tuohy

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*N. Meserve & W. Townsend*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Board Proceedings from February 2024 (Board Only)
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Summer Flounder Commercial Mesh Size Exemptions Addendum XXXV/Framework for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review Options and Public Comment Summary (*C. Tuohy and K. Dancy*)
 - Consider Final Approval of Addendum XXXV and Council Framework Action
5. Other Business/Adjourn