



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • www.asmfc.org

Joseph Cimino (NJ), Chair

Dan McKiernan (MA), Vice-Chair


Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

April 17, 2024

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Eel Management Board; American Lobster Management Board; ACCSP Coordinating Council; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Coastal Pelagics Management Board; Coastal Sharks Management Board; Executive Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Sciaenids Management Board; and Spiny Dogfish Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal 
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Spring Meeting: April 29 – May 2, 2024 (TA 24-037)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spring Meeting will be April 29 – May 2, 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 Spring Meeting final agenda and meeting materials are available at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2024-spring-meeting>.

Please note the meeting times on Monday have shifted slightly with 30 minutes added to the American Lobster Management Board and 15 minutes removed from the Horseshoe Crab Management Board; the start times for all other meetings that day reflect the shift in time. 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.

Additionally, due to an email outage, any comments sent to us prior to April 6 have not been included in the meeting materials. Please forward comments to comments@asmfc.org and they will be included in the supplemental materials to be posted to the meeting webpage on April 24; receipt of incoming comments will be confirmed.

Webinar Information

Meeting proceedings will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning Monday, April 29 at 1:30 PM and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be noon) May 2. To register for the webinar, please go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6595956399847660630> (Webinar ID 385-329-571).

If you are joining the webinar but will not be using voice over internet protocol (VoIP), you can may also call in at 415.655.0060, access code 439-781-011. 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.

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 issues), please contact Chris Jacobs at 703.842.0790.

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.

We look forward to seeing you at the Spring 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

Spring Meeting

April 29 – May 2, 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 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 (April 8) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 23 will be included in supplemental materials (to be released April 24).
3. Comments received by 10 AM on Friday, April 26 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, April 29

1:30 – 4 p.m.

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program 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 October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Funding Decision Document and FY2025 Request for Proposals (*J. Simpson*) **Action**
5. Update on Program and Committee Activities (*G. White, J. Simpson*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

Tuesday, April 30

9 – 11:30 a.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

Chair: Keliher

Other Participants: Pugh, Beal

Staff: Starks

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

5. American Lobster Technical Committee Report on Northern Edge Lobster Population and Fishery (*T. Pugh*)
 - Consider Sending Comments to New England Fishery Management Council on Scallop Action **Possible Action**
6. Plan Development Team Report on Conservation Measures for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 2 and 3 (*C. Starks*)
7. Reports from Lobster Conservation Management Teams 2 and 3
8. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
9. Other Business/Adjourn

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Sciaenids Management Board

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

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC

Chair: Haymans

Staff: Bauer

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Haymans*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Spot Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2022 Fishing Year (*T. Bauer*) **Action**
5. Progress Update on Red Drum, Atlantic Croaker, and Spot Benchmark Stock Assessments (*J. Kipp*)
6. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 – 2:45 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

Chair: McManus

Other Participants: Craig, Corbin, Nesslage

Staff: Boyle

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

4. Review Report on Acoustic Survey of Overwintering Atlantic Menhaden Offshore of New Jersey (*G. Nessler*)
5. Updates from State Management Programs
 - Maryland (*L. Fegley*)
 - Virginia (*P. Geer*)
6. Progress Update on 2025 Stock Assessments (*K. Drew*)
 - Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Assessment
 - Atlantic Menhaden Single-Species Assessment Update
7. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
8. Other Business/Adjourn

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, Cassins, Corbin, Couch, Day, Gadowski, Hettenbach, Hodge, Hogan, LaCourte, Mercer, Pearce, Rogers, Sabo, Scott, Snellbaker, Thomas, Walker, Williams

Chair: Snellbaker

Staff: Blanchard

Webinar: <https://meet.goto.com/192713685>

Phone: 408.650.3123; Access Code: 192-713-685

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Snellbaker*)
2. Committee Consent (*J. Snellbaker*)
 - Approval of Agenda
1. Public Comment
2. Introductions
3. Update on Changes to Enforceability Guidelines (*J. Snellbaker*)
4. North American Wildlife Law Enforcement Accreditation NAWLEA (*J. Cobb*)
5. American Eel/Elver Fishery (*R. Beal*)
6. Break
7. Review and Discuss Commission Species
 - Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum II (*E. Franke*)
 - Atlantic Cobia FMP Update (*E. Franke*)
 - Other Species
8. Meeting Recess/Reconvene May 1 at 8 a.m.

3:00 – 5:15 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

Chair: Davis

Other Participants: Walsh, Couch, Rodrigue, Sweka

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Davis*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Consider 2024 Horseshoe Crab Stock Assessment Update (*K. Rodrigue*) **Action**
5. Discuss Horseshoe Crab Bait Demand (*C. Starks*)
 - Possible Impact of State Harvest Regulations on Bait Demand
6. Adaptive Resource Management Subcommittee (ARM) Report (*J. Sweka*)
 - Technical Response to External Review of ARM Framework Revision
7. Update on Horseshoe Crab Management Objectives Workshop (*C. Starks*)
8. Elect Vice-Chair Action
9. Other Business/Adjourn

6 – 7 p.m.

Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

Wednesday, May 1

8 – 10 a.m.

Executive Committee

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

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

Members: Abbott, Burgess, Cimino, Clark, Davis, Dyer, Fegley, Gary, Geer, 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 January 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Review FY25 Budget
5. Legislative Update
6. Future Annual Meetings Update
7. Executive Director Performance Review (Closed Session)
8. Other Business/Adjourn

8 – 11:15 a.m.

Law Enforcement Committee (continued)

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

Webinar: <https://meet.goto.com/192713685>

Phone: 408.650.3123; Access Code: 192-713-685

1. Reconvene
2. Review and Discuss Ongoing Enforcement Activities (Closed Session)
3. Review and Discuss Commission Species (continued)
 - American Lobster FMP/Mitchel Provision (*C. Starks*)
 - Horseshoe Crab FMP (*C. Starks*)
4. State Agency Reports
5. Elect Vice Chair
6. 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 January 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Approval of Atlantic Cobia Draft Addendum II on Recreational Allocation, Harvest Target Evaluation, and Measures Setting for Public Comment (*E. Franke*) **Action**
5. Presentation of Spanish Mackerel White Paper (*E. Franke*)
6. Update from South Atlantic Fishery Management Council on Mackerel Port Meetings (*J. Carmichael*)
7. Other Business/Adjourn

11:45 am. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch Provided for Commissioners, Proxies and Board Members

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Legislative and Governor Appointees Luncheon

1:15 – 2:45 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: Grabowski, Mercer

Staff: Franke

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Ware*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from March 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Revised Addendum II State Implementation Plans **Final Action**
 - Overview of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Potomac River Fisheries Commission Plan Revisions (*K. Kuhn, M. Luisi, I. Braun-Ricks*)
 - Consider Approval of State Implementation Plans
5. Presentation of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Release Mortality Study (*M. Armstrong*)
6. Discuss Recreational Release Mortality Workgroup Task **Potential Action**
 - Overview of Past Board Discussion (*E. Franke*)
 - Consider Tasking for Recreational Release Mortality Workgroup
7. Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership (*T. Berger*) **Action**
8. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
9. Other Business/Adjourn

3 – 5 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, Feigenbaum, Beal

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*K. Kuhn*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from January 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Addendum VI on Maine Glass Eel Quota for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review Options and Public Comment Summary (*C. Starks*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*M. Feigenbaum*)
 - Consider Approval of Addendum VI

5. Consider Addendum VII on Yellow Eel Yellow Eel Coastwide Cap and Monitoring for Final Approval
Final Action
 - Review Options and Public Comment Summary (*C. Starks*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*M. Feigenbaum*)
 - Consider Approval of Addendum VII
6. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

Thursday, May 2

8 – 8:45 a.m.

Coastal Sharks Management Board

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

Other Members: NMFS

Vice-Chair: Luisi

Other Participants: Willey, Thomas

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Luisi*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Progress Update on Ongoing Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan Actions
 (*K. Brewster-Geisz*)
5. Consider Implementing Complementary State Waters Measures to Prohibit Retention of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks (*C. Starks*) **Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

9 – 9:45 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

Chair: Geer

Other Participants: Baker, Newlin, Cisneros

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Geer*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from January 2024
3. Public Comment

4. Review Action by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils (MAFMC and NEFMC) to Reduce Sturgeon Bycatch and Consider Complementary Action **Possible Action**
 - Review MAFMC and NEFMC Final Action (*K. Cisneros*)
 - Review Consistency of Federal and State Management of Spiny Dogfish (*J. Boyle*)
5. Other Business/Adjourn

10 – 11:45 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: Gaichas, Salerno

Chair: Cimino

Staff: Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from January 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Executive Committee Report (*J. Cimino*)
5. 2024 State of the Ecosystem Report (*S. Gaichas*)
6. Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel Progress Report for Industry- Base Survey Pilot Program (*D. Salerno*)
7. Consider Revised Guidelines for Resource Managers on the Enforceability of Fishery Management Measures (*K. Blanchard*) **Final Action**
8. Stock Assessment Updates (*K. Drew*)
9. Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary **Action**
10. Other Business/Adjourn

11:45 a.m. – 12 p.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 January 2024
3. Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary **Final Action**
4. Other Business/Adjourn