



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Joseph Cimino (NJ), Chair

Dan McKiernan (MA), Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

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*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

## MEMORANDUM

January 22, 2025

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Executive Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; Sciaenids Management Board and Spiny Dogfish Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal *REB*  
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Winter Meeting: February 4 – 5, 2025 (TA 25-040)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Winter Meeting will be February 4 – 5, 2025 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](mailto:lcarty@asmfc.org).

The final agenda and meeting materials for the Winter Meeting are now available at <https://www.asmfc.org/home/2025-winter-meeting>; click on the relevant Board/Committee name to access the documents for that Board/Committee. For ease of access, all boards have been combined into one document - <https://asmfc.org/files/2025WinterMeeting/2025WinterMeetingMaterialsCombined.pdf>. Supplemental materials will be posted to the website on Wednesday, January 29.

Please note the Atlantic Menhaden Work Group on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay meeting scheduled for February 5 (1 – 5 p.m.) is a separate meeting from the Commission's Winter Meeting, and will not be live-streamed through the Winter Meeting webinar link. Information on the meeting can be found at <https://asmfc.org/calendar/2/2025/Atlantic-Menhaden-Work-Group-on-Precautionary-Management-in-Chesapeake-Bay-/2493>. This is not an Atlantic Menhaden Management Board meeting, but a working meeting of the Work Group. Board members and the public are welcome to listen in, but there will be limited opportunity to provide comments during the meeting. For transparency, if you intend to record the meeting, you should let staff know prior to the meeting.

Additionally, a meeting of the Sciaenids Management Board has been added to the agenda on February 4 from 2:15 – 2:45 p.m. Some meetings on February 4 have shifted slightly.

The following pages contain the final agenda and public comment guidelines. Be advised the agenda's schedule is subject to change; the order in which the agenda items are listed is subject to change, and other agenda items or meetings may be added as necessary.

## **Webinar Information**

Meeting proceedings will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning Tuesday, February 4, at 9 AM and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be Noon on Wednesday, February 5). To register for the webinar, please go to:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1665035982583617623> (Webinar ID 606-647-923).

If you are joining the webinar but will not be using VoIP, you can may also call in at +1.562.247.8422, access code 709-788-873. A PIN will be provided to you after joining the webinar.

For those who will not be joining the webinar but would like to listen in 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 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 Winter Meeting. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740.

Enclosed: Final Agenda, Revised TA 25-040



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Winter Meeting

February 4 – 5, 2025

**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 (January 13) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5 PM on Tuesday, January 28, will be included in supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by 10 AM on Friday, January 31, 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 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, February 4

9 – 10:30 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

*Other Participants:* Beal, Pugh, Truesdale

*Chair:* Keliher

*Staff:* Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Keliher*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Progress Update on Benchmark Stock Assessment for American Lobster (*J. Kipp*)
5. Consider Annual Data Update of Jonah Crab Indices
  - Jonah Crab Offshore Southern New England Indices (*C. Truesdale*)
6. Consider Lobster Conservation Management Team Reports
  - Area 2 Lobster Conservation Management Team Report (*C. Truesdale*)
7. Update from Maine on Lobster Conservation Management Area 1 Gauge Increase (*P. Keliher*)  
**Possible Action**
8. Other Business/Adjourn

10:45 – 11:45 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

*Other Participants:* Newlin, Scott

*Chair:* Geer

*Staff:* Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Geer*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Addendum VII on Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Reduction for Final Approval (*J. Boyle*)  
**Final Action**

- Review Public Comment Summary
  - Review Advisory Panel Report
  - Consider Final Approval of Addendum VII
5. Revise Specifications for the 2025/2026 Fishing Year (*J. Boyle*) **Final Action**
  6. Other Business/Adjourn

**11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.      Lunch Break Provided for Commissioners and Proxies**

**12:30 – 2 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, Simpson

*Chair:* Reid

*Staff:* Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*E. Reid*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Approval of Draft Addendum IX on Multi-year Specifications for Male Only Harvest of Delaware Bay-origin Horseshoe Crabs for Public Comment (*C. Starks*) **Action**
5. Discuss Advisory Panel Composition
6. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

**2:15 – 2:45 p.m.                      Sciaenids Management Board**

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

*Other Members:* NMFS, PRFC

*Other Participants:* Rickabaugh, Rogers, Simpson

*Chair:* Haymans

*Staff:* Bauer

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Haymans*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Update on Board Tasks to Red Drum Technical Committee (*J. Kipp*)
5. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

3 – 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

*Chair:* Ware

*Staff:* Franke

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Ware*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from December 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Consider Stock Assessment Schedule
  - Review Timeline for 2027 Benchmark Stock Assessment and Technical Committee Recommendation on Assessment Schedule (*K. Drew*)
  - Consider Whether to Conduct 2026 Stock Assessment Update **Possible Action**
5. Discuss Scope of Draft Addendum III for 2026 Measures
  - Review Timeline and Initial Scope (*E. Franke*)
  - Provide Guidance to Plan Development Team
6. Other Business/Adjourn

### Wednesday, February 5

8 – 10 a.m.

#### Executive Committee

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

*(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 October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. NOAA Grants Management/CARES Update (*R. Beal*)
5. Review White Paper on Board Voting and Virtual Meeting Standard Operating Practices and Procedures (*R. Beal*)
6. Legislative Update (*A. Law*)
7. Future Annual Meetings Update (*L. Leach*)
8. Other Business/Adjourn

**10:15 – 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:* Salerno

*Chair:* Cimino

*Staff:* Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino*)
2. Board Consent (*J. Cimino*)
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Executive Committee Report (*J. Cimino*)
5. Review and Discuss 2024 Commissioner Survey Results (*A. Law*)
6. Discuss White Paper on Board Voting and Virtual Meeting Standard Operating Practices and Procedures (*R. Beal*)
7. Update on Ongoing Stock Assessments **Action**
8. Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary **Action**
9. Other Business/Adjourn

**11:45 a.m. – Noon**

**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 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary **Final Action**
5. Other Business/Adjourn