

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

American Lobster Management Board

*January 31, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting*

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. McNamee*) 10:00 a.m.
2. Board Consent 10:00 a.m.
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from November 2022
3. Public Comment 10:05 a.m.
4. Review Report from Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team and Progress on Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (*C. Coogan/M. Trego*) 10:15 a.m.
5. Consider Draft Addendum XXVII on Increasing Protection of Spawning Stock Biomass of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Stock for Public Comment (*C. Starks*) **Action** 10:45 a.m.
6. Update from Work Group on Implementation of Addendum XXIX on Electronic Vessel Tracking for Federal Permit Holders (*C. Starks*) 12:00 p.m.
7. Other Business 12:15 p.m.
8. Adjourn 12:45 p.m.

The meeting will be held at The Westin Crystal City (1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA; 703.486.1111) and via webinar; click [here](#) for details

MEETING OVERVIEW

American Lobster Management Board

November 7, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Chair: Dr. Jason McNamee (RI) Assumed Chairmanship: 02/22	Technical Committee Chair: Kathleen Reardon (ME)	Law Enforcement Committee Representative: Rob Beal
Vice Chair: Pat Keliher (ME)	Advisory Panel Chair: Grant Moore (MA)	Previous Board Meeting: November 7, 2022
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NMFS, NEFMC (12 votes)		

2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from November 7, 2022

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Review Report from Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team and Progress on Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (10:15-10:45 a.m.)

Background

- The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) met virtually over six days in November and December 2022. The goal of this meeting was for the ALWTRT to develop recommendations to NMFS for measures in the pot/trap and gillnet fisheries along the Atlantic coast to reduce mortality and serious injury (M/SI) of right whales in US commercial fisheries to below the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This equates to an 88-93% total risk reduction, or an additional 41-46% reduction beyond that accomplished through the Phase 1 measures implemented in 2021. The team reviewed all available data, analyses of various combinations of measures using the decision support tool, and qualitative information to inform the discussion and recommendations.
- The ALWTRT did not produce a consensus recommendation to NMFS during its December 2022 meeting. Rather, a document including key considerations and input from various stakeholder groups was provided to NOAA Fisheries to consider as it develops measures to meet the required risk reduction.

Presentations

- Report from Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team and Progress on Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan by C. Coogan and M. Trego

5. Consider Draft Addendum XXVII on Increasing Protection of Spawning Stock Biomass of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Stock for Public Comment (10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) Action

Background

- Draft Addendum XXVII was initially initiated in 2017 to proactively increase protection of the GOM/GBK stock but stalled due to the prioritization of Atlantic right whale issues. After accepting the 2020 Benchmark Stock Assessment for American lobster, the Board reinitiated work on the draft addendum in February 2021, with a focus on developing a trigger mechanism that would automatically implement management measures to improve protection of the GOM/GBK spawning stock if the trigger is reached.
- The Addendum considers modifications to the management program with the goal of increasing protection of the GOM/GBK spawning stock. Two issues are included in the addendum. Issue 1 addresses the standardization of a subset of management measures within LCMAs and across the GOM/GBK stock. Issue 2 considers applying either a trigger mechanism or a predetermined schedule for implementing biological management measures that are expected to provide increased protection to the spawning stock biomass and increase the resiliency of the stock.
- The Board approved Draft Addendum XXVII for public comment in January 2022, but then paused development of the Draft Addendum to allow time to better understand other challenges facing the fishery. At its November 2022 meeting the Board rescinded the motion to approve the document for public comment in order to make additional changes to the Draft Addendum. Specifically, the Board requested the management options be modified such that only one trigger level that would result in implementation of new gauge sizes, rather than two triggers (**Briefing Materials**).

Presentations

- Overview of Draft Addendum XXVII for Board Consideration for Public Comment by C. Starks

Board Actions for Consideration at the Meeting

- Make further changes to proposed management options, if necessary
- Approve Draft Addendum XXVII for Public Comment

6. Update from Work Group on Implementation of Addendum XXIX on Electronic Vessel Tracking for Federal Permit Holders (12:00-12:15 p.m.)

Background

- In March 2022, the Board approved Addendum XXIX to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for American Lobster and Addendum IV to the Jonah Crab FMP. The Addenda establish electronic tracking requirements for federally-permitted vessels in the American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. The addenda address several challenges facing the fishery, including stock assessment limitations, protected species interactions, marine spatial planning efforts, and enforcement in federal waters.

- The Addenda require federally-permitted American lobster and Jonah crab vessels with commercial trap gear area permits for Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMAs) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and Outer Cape Cod to collect location data via an approved electronic tracking device.
- Since approval of the Addenda, Commission staff formed a Work Group comprised of state and federal partners to develop a request for quotes from vessel tracking device manufacturers. The request for quotes was released in the fall of 2020, and the Work Group received five quotes.
- The Work Group reviewed all five quotes, and has determined that four of them met the criteria required by Addendum XXIX for use in the lobster and Jonah crab fishery and have been sent letters of approval.

Presentations

- Update on Implementation of Addendum XXIX by C. Starks

7. Other Business (12:15-12:45 p.m.)

8. Adjourn