



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
March 26, 2024

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Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (MARCH 26, 2024)	2
<i>Meeting Summary</i>	2
<i>Motions</i>	2

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (MARCH 26, 2024)

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to consider approving state implementation plans for Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Striped Bass. States are required to implement Addendum II measures by May 1, 2024.

The Board received reports from the Technical Committee (TC) and Plan Review Team (PRT) regarding state measures proposed in the plans. The TC noted there were no concerns regarding the area-specific measures required by Addendum II for specific fisheries in New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The PRT noted certain components of state implementation plans were inconsistent with Addendum II requirements. The Board discussed state regulations regarding the Addendum II requirement that limits possession to two fillets per legal fish. Some states clarified that although their regulations do not explicitly state the two fillet per fish requirement, their existing regulations are implemented and enforced with that intent. The Board ultimately decided to approve the proposed recreational filleting regulations for all states. The Board also discussed Pennsylvania's request to delay implementation of its new April-May slot limit and bag limit. Pennsylvania noted the mid-season change would be procedurally burdensome, confusing to anglers, and cause non-compliance issues. However, the Board noted Pennsylvania should try to get the new measures in place by May 1 and did not approve the requested delay.

For the commercial fisheries, the Board discussed the Maryland quota (ocean and Chesapeake Bay), Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) quota, and Virginia quota (Chesapeake Bay) for 2024. These quotas were not reduced by the required 7% due to the fact that commercial tags, based on the previous quota, were already distributed and the 2024 commercial seasons in those jurisdictions began prior to Addendum II approval. The Board noted the Bay jurisdictions would pay back any potential 2024 overage of the Addendum II quota levels, but the Board did not approve Maryland and PRFC's proposed payback timeline of 2026. The Board noted the FMP requires payback of quota overages to occur the following year after the overage (i.e., 2025 payback for 2024 overage).

Pennsylvania will submit a revised implementation plan addressing the implementation timeline for its spring slot fishery, and Maryland and PRFC will submit revised implementation plans addressing the timeline for paying back potential 2024 commercial quota overages. Revised implementation plans are due April 12, 2024, and the Board will consider approval of the revised plans during the 2024 Spring Meeting.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to approve Addendum II state implementation plans as discussed today.

Motion made by Mr. Luisi and seconded by Mr. Train. Motion substituted.

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute to approve Addendum II state implementation plans as discussed today with the following exceptions:

- **CT, MD, VA, NC, PA: not planning to adopt the two-fillet per legal fish possession limit rule for recreational filleting allowances;**

- **PA: not planning to adhere to the May 1 implementation deadline; and**
- **MD, PRFC: not planning to adhere to the commercial quota overage payback provision for deductions to occur in the following year.**

These jurisdictions must submit revised implementation plans by April 12, 2024. The Management Board will review and consider approval of the revised state implementation plans at its May 1, 2024 meeting.

Motion made by Dr. Armstrong and seconded by Mr. Hasbrouck.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend the substitute to remove the first bullet point on recreational filleting rules.

Motion made by Dr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Kuhn. Motion passes (10 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 null). (Roll Call: In favor—RI, CT, NH, DE, ME, VA, DC, MA, PA, NC; Opposed—PRFC, NY, MD; Abstention—NOAA; Null—NJ)

Motion to Substitute as Amended

Move to substitute to approve Addendum II state implementation plans as discussed today with the following exceptions:

- **PA: not planning to adhere to the May 1 implementation deadline; and**
- **MD, PRFC: not planning to adhere to the commercial quota overage payback provision for deductions to occur in the following year.**

These jurisdictions must submit revised implementation plans by April 12, 2024. The Management Board will review and consider approval of the revised state implementation plans at its May 1, 2024 meeting.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend the substitute to remove the first bullet regarding PA adhering to May 1 deadline.

Motion made by Mr. Kuhn and seconded by Mr. Gary. Motion fails (5 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 abstention, 2 null). (Roll Call: In favor—DE, ME, NY, DC, PA; Opposed—RI, NH, PRFC, VA, NJ, MA, NC; Abstention—NOAA; Null—CT, MD)

Motion to Substitute as Amended

Move to substitute to approve Addendum II state implementation plans as discussed today with the following exceptions:

- **PA: not planning to adhere to the May 1 implementation deadline; and**
- **MD, PRFC: not planning to adhere to the commercial quota overage payback provision for deductions to occur in the following year.**

These jurisdictions must submit revised implementation plans by April 12, 2024. The Management Board will review and consider approval of the revised state implementation plans at its May 1, 2024 meeting.

Motion passes (8 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 null). (Roll Call: RI, CT, NH, NY, NJ, DC, MA, NC; Opposed—ME, PRFC, MD, VA, PA; Abstention—NOAA; Null—DE)

Main Motion as Substituted

Move to approve Addendum II state implementation plans as discussed today with the following exceptions:

- **PA: not planning to adhere to the May 1 implementation deadline; and**
- **MD, PRFC: not planning to adhere to the commercial quota overage payback provision for deductions to occur in the following year.**

These jurisdictions must submit revised implementation plans by April 12, 2024. The Management Board will review and consider approval of the revised state implementation plans at its May 1, 2024 meeting.

Motion passes (11 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention). (Roll Call: In favor—RI, CT, NH, DE, ME, NY, VA, NJ, DC, MA, NC; Opposed—PRFC, MD, PA; Abstention—NOAA)