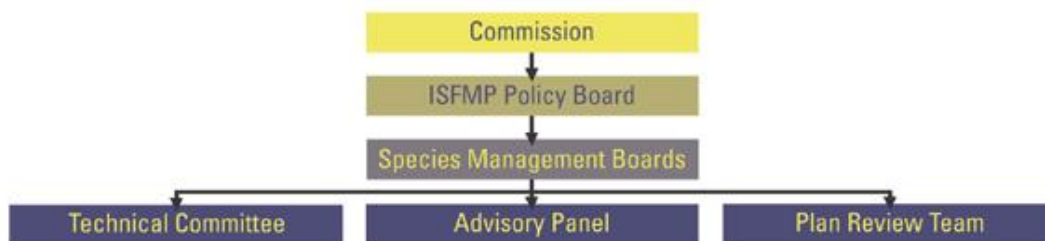


## INTERSTATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The bulk of the Commission's decision making occurs through the Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP), where species management boards determine management strategies that the states implement through fishing regulations. The ISFMP Policy Board is responsible for the overall administration and management of the Commission's fishery management programs and provides direct oversight to the individual species management boards. The Program promotes the conservation of Atlantic coastal fishery resources, is based on the use of sound science, and provides adequate opportunity for public participation.

The ISFMP Policy Board, comprised of the Commissioners from the fifteen member states and representatives of District of Columbia (DC), the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, oversees the program and meets at least bi-annually to establish and monitor the direction of the program.

The species management boards, also comprised of Commissioners and representatives from the federal agencies, DC and the PRFC, consider and approve the development and implementation of fishery management plans, including the integration of scientific information, proposed management measures, and considerations for habitat conservation, and the management of protected species/fishery interactions. Board membership is composed of Commissioners from the states that have declared an interest in the species' management program.



### PROGRAM GOALS

The Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) began in 1981, with the signing of a cooperative agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The ISFMP built upon the experiences of the cooperative State/Federal Fisheries Management Program, which started in 1971, and the regional fishery management council system, which was established under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976. The ISFMP operates according to the standards and procedures contained in its Charter, available upon request from the Commission.

The standards of the ISFMP are:

- Conservation programs and management measures shall be designed to prevent overfishing and maintain over time, abundant, self-sustaining stocks of coastal fishery resources. In cases where stocks have become depleted as a result of overfishing and/or other causes, such programs shall be designed to rebuild, restore, and subsequently maintain such stocks so as to assure their sustained availability in fishable abundance on a long-term basis.
- Conservation programs and management measures shall be based on the best scientific information available.
- Conservation programs and management measures shall be designed to achieve equivalent management results throughout the range of a stock or subgroups of that stock.
- Management measures shall be designed to minimize waste of fishery resources.
- Conservation programs and management measures shall be designed to protect fish habitats.
- Development and implementation of fishery management plans shall provide for public participation and comment, including public hearings.
- Fairness & equity.
  - ✓ An FMP should allow internal flexibility within states to achieve its objectives while implemented and administered by the states; and
  - ✓ Fishery resources shall be fairly and equitably allocated or assigned among the states.

## **SPECIES UNDER MANAGEMENT**

Currently, the ISFMP coordinates the conservation and management of 27 Atlantic coastal fish species or species groups (see below). Detailed descriptions of the individual species management programs immediately follow this section.

American Eel	Bluefish	Shad
American Lobster	Coastal Sharks	Spanish Mackerel
Atlantic Croaker	Cobia	Spiny Dogfish
Atlantic Herring	Horseshoe Crab	Spot
Atlantic Menhaden	Jonah Crab	Spotted Seatrout
Atlantic Striped Bass	Northern Shrimp	Summer Flounder
Atlantic Sturgeon	Red Drum	Tautog
Black Drum	River Herring	Weakfish
Black Sea Bass	Scup	Winter Flounder

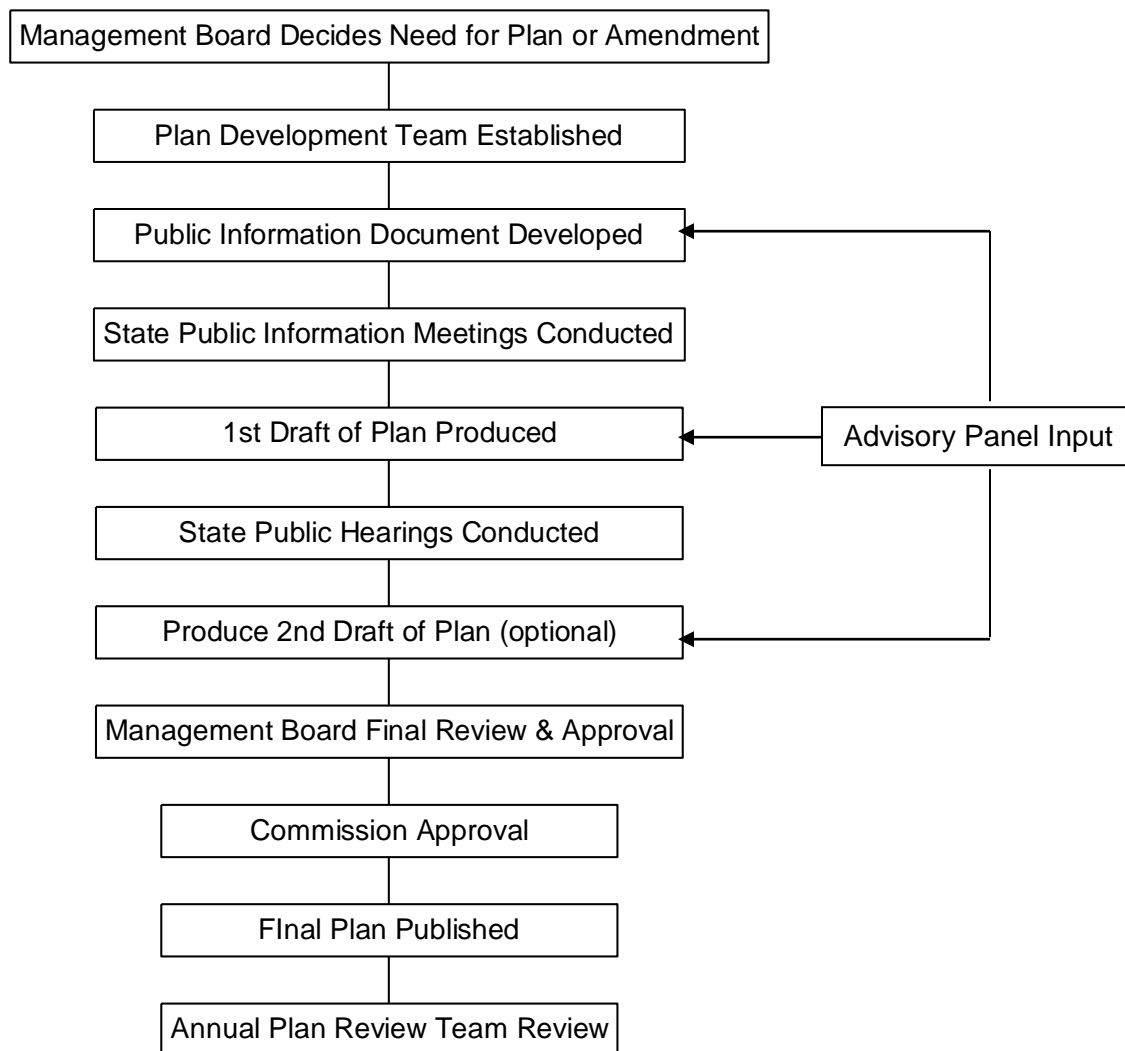
For species that have significant fisheries in both state and federal waters (i.e., Atlantic herring, summer flounder, red drum), the Commission works jointly with the relevant East Coast

regional fishery management council to develop fishery management plans. The Commission also works with the National Marine fisheries Service to develop compatible regulations for the exclusive economic zone.

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS & PUBLIC INPUT**

The accompanying figure traces the path of the Commission's fisheries management planning process from its inception to the final outcome (see Figure below). The public plays an important role in the process, from advisory panel input to general public information meetings and hearings.

Fisheries Management Planning Process



The Advisory Panel process arose in part as a result of the Commission's increasing responsibilities under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. The Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Act mandates, among other things, that the Commission provide adequate

public participation in its fisheries management planning process, including at least four public hearings and procedures for submission of written comments to the Commission.

The waters for public participation were first tested in 1994 with the development of the Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel and the initiation of public hearings for Addendum VI and Draft Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. Since that time, Advisory Panels have been developed to work with the management boards and sections for all of the species managed through the Commission process.

## **2014 - 2018 STRATEGIC PLAN STRATEGIES**

The Commission's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan identifies the following strategies for the ISFMP to work towards.

The next five years, ISFMP will focus on the responsibility of the states to conserve and manage Atlantic coastal fishery resources for sustainable use. Commission members will advocate decisions to achieve the long-term benefits of conservation, while balancing the socio-economic interests and needs of coastal communities. Inherent in this is the recognition that healthy and vibrant resources often means more opportunities for stakeholders. The states are committed to proactive management, with a focus on integrating ecosystem services, socio-economic impacts, habitat issues, bycatch and discard reduction measures, and protected species interactions into well defined fishery management plans. Fishery management plans will also address fair allocation of fishery resources among the states. Understanding global climate change and its impact on fishery productivity and distribution is an elevated priority. Improving cooperation and coordination with federal partners and stakeholders can streamline efficiency, transparency, and, ultimately, success. In the next five years, the Commission is committed to ending overfishing and working to rebuild overfished or depleted Atlantic coast fish stocks, while promoting sustainable harvest of and access to rebuilt fisheries.

### **Strategies to Achieve Goal**

- a. Manage interstate resources that provide for productive, sustainable fisheries using sound science
- b. Strengthen state and federal partnerships to improve comprehensive management of shared fishery resources
- c. Adapt management to address emerging issues
- d. Practice efficient, transparent, and accountable management processes
- e. Evaluate progress towards rebuilding fisheries
- f. Strengthen interactions and input among stakeholders, technical, advisory, and management groups

## ISFMP CHAIRS & VICE-CHAIRS (UPDATES BOLDED; PENDING ELECTIONS HIGHLIGHTED)

**MAY 2021**

<b>Board / Section / Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Assumed office</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>
American Eel Advisory Panel	Mari-Beth DeLucia	5/15	Vacant
American Eel Board	Lynn Fegley	10/19	Phil Edwards
American Eel Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Sheila Eyler	3/20	
American Eel Technical Committee	Troy Tuckey	3/20	Dani Carty
American Lobster Board	Dan McKiernan	2/20	Jason McNamee
American Lobster Advisory Panel	Grant Moore	1/16	
American Lobster Technical Committee	Kathleen Reardon	10/16	Tracy Pugh
American Lobster Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Kim McKown	8/17	
Artificial Reefs Committee	Jordan Byrum	3/19	Chris LaPorta
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership	Kent Smith	2012	Jessica Coakley
Atlantic Croaker Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Vacant		Vacant
Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee	Dawn Franco	11/19	Somers Smott
Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel	Jeff Kaelin	5/12	
Atlantic Herring Board	Cheri Patterson	10/19	Megan Ware
Atlantic Herring Technical Committee	Renee Zobel	1/13	Vacant
Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee	Josh Newhard	11/20	Caitlin Craig
Atlantic Menhaden Advisory Panel	Megan Lapp	11/20	
Atlantic Menhaden Board	Spud Woodward	5/20	Mel Bell
Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Amy Schueller	9/12	
Atlantic Sturgeon Board	Ross Self	10/19	Vacant
Atlantic Sturgeon Technical Committee	Amanda Higgs	2/21	Vacant
Atlantic Sturgeon Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Laura Lee		
Black Drum Technical Committee	Harry Rickabaugh	11/15	
Bluefish Board	Chris Batsavage	12/19	Joe Cimino
Bluefish Advisory Panel	Vacant		Vacant
Bluefish Stock Assessment Committee	Mike Celestino	8/11	Vacant
Bluefish Technical Committee	Mike Celestino	7/14	Sam Truesdell
Coastal Sharks Advisory Panel	Vacant		
Coastal Sharks Management Board	Chris Batsavage	5/19	Mel Bell
Coastal Sharks Technical Committee	Angel Willey	6/18	Vacant

<b>Board / Section / Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Assumed office</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>
Cobia Technical Committee	Angela Giuliano	7/19	Olivia Phillips
Habitat Committee	Marek Topolski	11/18	Jimmy Johnson
Horseshoe Crab Board	Joe Cimino	10/19	Vacant
Horseshoe Crab Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Vacant		
Horseshoe Crab Technical Committee	Jeff Brunson	2/19	Natalie Ameral
Horseshoe Crab Advisory Panel	Brett Hoffmeister	1/21	Vacant
Horseshoe Crab Adaptive Resource Mgmt Subcommittee	John Sweka	9/19	Jim Lyons
Horseshoe Crab Delaware Bay Ecosystem TC	Wendy Walsh	9/19	Henrietta Bellman
ISFMP Policy Board	Pat Keliher	10/19	Spud Woodward
Jonah Crab Advisory Panel	Earl Gwin	8/15	
Jonah Crab Technical Committee	Derek Perry	4/16	Vacant
Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel	Gary Libby	11/12	Spencer Fuller
Northern Shrimp Section	Ray Kane	12/19	Ritchie White
Northern Shrimp Technical Committee	Maggie Hunter	1/18	
Red Drum Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Joey Ballenger	07/20	
Red Drum Technical Committee	Lee Paramore	07/20	Ethan Simpson
Shad & River Herring Advisory Panel	Pam Lyons-Gromen	8/11	Vacant
Shad & River Herring Board	Justin Davis	2/21	Vacant
Shad & River Herring Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Michael Bailey	8/17	Vacant
Shad & River Herring Technical Committee	Brian Neilan	10/20	Wes Eakin
South Atlantic State-Federal Board	Lynn Fegley	2/18	Vacant
South Atlantic Species Advisory Panel	Craig Freeman	11/19	Glenn Skinner
Spiny Dogfish Management Board	Chris Batsavage	10/19	Nichola Meserve
Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee	Scott Newlin	6/13	Vacant
Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel	Vacant		
Spot Technical Committee	Harry Rickabaugh	9/20	Vacant
Striped Bass Board	Dave Borden	2/20	Marty Gary
Striped Bass Advisory Panel	Louis C. Bassano	10/16	
Striped Bass Tagging Subcommittee	Stuart Welsh	9/17	
Striped Bass Technical Committee	Kevin Sullivan	2/20	Jason Boucher
Striped Bass Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Mike Celestino	8/18	Vacant
Summer Flounder, Scup & Black Sea Bass TC	Greg Wojcik	12/16	Alexa Kretsch

<b>Board / Section / Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Assumed office</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>
Summer Flounder, Scup & Black Sea Bass Board	Adam Nowalsky	10/19	Justin Davis
Summer Flounder, Scup & Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel	Vacant		Vacant
Tautog Board	Bill Hyatt	11/19	Mike Luisi
Tautog Advisory Panel	Vacant		
Tautog Technical Committee	Nichole Ares	12/19	Craig Weedon
Weakfish Technical Committee	Erin Levesque	1/17	
Weakfish Board	John Clark	10/19	Doug Haymans
Weakfish Advisory Panel	Vacant		
Weakfish Stock Assessment Subcommittee	Vacant		
Winter Flounder Board	David Borden	10/19	William Hyatt
Winter Flounder Advisory Panel	Bud Brown	8/03	
Winter Flounder Technical Committee	Paul Nitschke	7/15	