



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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*James J. Gilmore, Jr., (NY), Chair    Patrick C. Keliher, (ME), Vice-Chair    Robert E. Beal, Executive Director*

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

## MEMORANDUM

April 20, 2018

TO: American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council; Atlantic Herring Section; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Bluefish Management Board; Coastal Sharks Management Board; Executive Committee; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Northern Shrimp Section; South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board; Tautog Management Board; Winter Flounder Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal *REB*  
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Spring Meeting: April 30 – May 3, 2018 (TA 18-081)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spring Meeting will be April 30 – May 3, 2018 at **The Westin Crystal City** (Telephone: 703.486.1111), located at 1800 South Eads Street, Arlington, VA. Meeting materials are available on the Commission website at <http://www.asmf.org/home/2018-spring-meeting>. Supplemental materials will be posted to the website on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

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.

**The Shad and River Herring Management Board, previously scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> (11:15 a.m. – Noon), has been cancelled. The Tautog Management Board will be meeting in its place (same date and time).**

Board meeting proceedings will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be 2:15 p.m.) on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The webinar will allow registrants to listen to board/section deliberations and view presentations and motions as they occur. No comments or questions will be accepted via the webinar. Should technical difficulties arise while streaming the broadcast the boards/sections will continue their deliberations without interruption. We will attempt to resume the broadcast as soon as possible. Please go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1945339924799258370> to register.

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.

Enclosures: Final Agenda, Hotel Directions, TA 18-081, and Travel Reimbursement Guidelines



## Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

### Spring Meeting

April 30 – May 3, 2018

The Westin Crystal City

Arlington, Virginia

### Public Comment Guidelines

With the intent of developing policies in the Commission's procedures for public participation that result in 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 opportunity to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will use a speaker sign-up list in deciding 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 comment 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 comment 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 3 weeks prior to the start of a meeting week will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5:00 PM on the Tuesday immediately preceding the scheduled ASMFC Meeting (in this case, the Tuesday deadline will be **April 24, 2018**) will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting and a limited number of copies will be provided at the meeting.
3. Following the Tuesday, **April 24, 2018 5:00 PM deadline**, the commenter will be responsible for distributing the information to the management board prior to the board meeting or providing enough copies for the management board consideration at the meeting (a minimum of 50 copies).

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, fax, and email.

## Final Agenda

The Shad and River Herring Management Board, previously scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> (11:15 a.m. – Noon), has been cancelled. The Tautog Management Board will be meeting in its place (same date and 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.

### **Monday, April 30**

10:00 a.m. – Noon  
& 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

#### **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board Jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

*Member States:* New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

*Other Members:* NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

*Other Participants:* Wojcik, Snellbaker

*ASMFC Chair:* Ballou

*MAFMC Chair:* Luisi

*Staff:* Starks, Rootes-Murdy, Dancy, Beaty, Muffley

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*B. Ballou/Luisi*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from February 2018
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Approval of Summer Flounder Draft Amendment and Public Hearing Document for Public Comment (*K. Dancy, K. Rootes-Murdy*) **Action**
  - Review Management Alternatives
  - Presentation of Management Documents
5. Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management (*J. Beaty, C. Starks*) **Possible Action**
  - Overview of Black Sea Bass Recreational Management Discussion Document
  - Review Draft Alternatives for Framework/Addendum on Recreational Issues
  - Review Preliminary February 2018 Black Sea Bass Recreational Harvest Estimates
6. Other Business/Recess

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

**Bluefish Management Board Jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

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

*Other Members:* NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

*Other Participants:* Celestino

*ASMFC and MAFMC Chair:* Luisi

*Staff:* Starks, Seeley

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Luisi*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from February 2012
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Approval of Draft Scoping and Public Information Document for Allocation Amendment (*M. Seeley, C. Starks*) **Action**
  - Overview of Draft Scoping and Public Information Document
5. Other Business/Adjourn

**Tuesday, May 1**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Coastal Sharks Management Board**

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

*Other Members:* NMFS, USFWS

*Chair:* Miller

*Other Participants:* Belcher, Brewster-Geisz, Garner, Young

*Staff:* Rootes-Murdy

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*R. Miller*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from October 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Review North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Stock Assessment, NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Emergency Rule Measures and Amendment 11 (*K. Brewster-Geisz*)
  - Technical Committee Report (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
  - Discuss Possible Board Comment to HMS on Amendment 11 (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
  - Discuss Potential Management Response (*K. Rootes-Murdy*) **Possible Action**
5. Review SEDAR 54 Sandbar Shark Stock Assessment (*K. Brewster-Geisz*)
  - Technical Committee Report (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
6. Update on Endangered Species Act Status of Oceanic Whitetip Shark (*C. Young*)
  - Technical Committee Report (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
7. Consider Approval of 2016 and 2017 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports (*K. Rootes-Murdy*) **Action**
8. Other Business/Adjourn

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Law Enforcement Committee**

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

*Members:* Anthony, Blanchard, Cloutier, Donovan, Eastman, Frampton, Furlong, Gadowski, Garner, Gordon, Hettenbach, Hogan, Kersey, King, Lauderman, Lynn, Messeck, Moore, Moran, Overturf, Pearce, Santiago, Simmons, Snellbaker

*Other Participants:* Simmons, Summers

*Chair:* Eastman

*Staff:* Robson

1. Social (Open to Commissioners and Staff)
2. Call to Order/Roll Call of the LEC Representatives
3. Approval of Agenda and May 2017 Minutes **Action**
4. Public Comment
5. Review and Comment on Ropeless Fishing Technologies (*Summers*) **Action**
6. Review of 2018 Action Plan Items
7. Review and Discuss ASMFC Species Management Issues
8. Federal Agency Reports
9. State Agency Reports
10. Review and Discuss Ongoing Enforcement Issues **Closed Session**
11. Discuss Use of Drones in Enforcement
12. Review Potential Changes to Atlantic Shortfin Mako Shark Rules
13. Update on Regional and National Enforcement Meetings
14. Update on LEC Orientation Process for New Members (*Robson*)
15. Review LEC Information on ASMFC Website (*Robson*)
16. Discuss NOAA FY19 Budget and Joint Enforcement Agreement Impact
17. New Business
18. Adjourn

11:15 a.m. – Noon

**Tautog Management Board**

*Member States:* Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

*Other Members:* USFWS, NMFS

*Other Participants:* Barry, Snellbaker

*Chair:* McKiernan

*Staff:* Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. McKiernan*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from October 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Review Connecticut Commercial Measures Proposal (*C. Starks*) **Final Action**
  - Technical Committee Report
5. Other Business/Adjourn

Noon – 1:15 p.m.            **Legislators and Governors’ Appointees Luncheon**

1. Introductions
2. General Comments/Discussion
3. Discuss Noncompliance

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:* Armstrong

*Other Participants:* Blanchard, Lengyel

*Staff:* Appelman

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Armstrong*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from February 2018
3. Public Comment
4. Provide Guidance to Stock Assessment Subcommittee Regarding Biological Reference Point Development for the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment **Final Action**
  - Board Guidance Work Group Report (*M. Appelman*)
  - Advisory Panel Report (*M. Appelman*)
  - Provide Guidance to Stock Assessment Subcommittee (*M. Armstrong*)
5. 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment Progress Update (*K. Drew*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

3:00 – 3:45 p.m.            **Atlantic Herring Section**

*Member States:* Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey

*Chair:* Keliher

*Other Participants:* Eastman, Zobel

*Staff:* Ware

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Keliher*)
2. Section Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from February 2018
3. Public Comment
4. Discuss Potential Impact of Possession Limits in the Atlantic Mackerel Fishery on the Atlantic Herring Area 1A Fishery (*M. Ware*)
5. Technical Committee Report on Spawning Fish Sampling Protocols (*R. Zobel*) **Possible Action**
6. Consider Approval of 2018 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance (*M. Ware*) **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Northern Shrimp Section**

*(Meeting will not be available via webinar but interested parties may listen to proceedings via conference call at 1-888-394-8197, Passcode 499811)*

*Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts*

*Chair: Train*

*Other Participants: Eastman*

*Staff: Ware*

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*S. Train*)
2. Section Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Discuss Potential Inclusion of a Second Management Issue in Draft Addendum I to Extend Current Fishing Season Range in the Fishery Management Plan
5. Other Business/Adjourn

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council**

*Members: Aarrestad, Beal, Boyles, Jr., Brust, Carmichael, Cimino*

*Clifford, Cyr, Detlor, Fegley, GA rep., Gary, Geer, Gilmore, Grout, Keliher,*

*King, McCawley, McNamee, Michels, Moore, Murphey, Nies, Pierce, Porch,*

*Risenhoover, Shiels, Stephen, VA rep., White*

*Chair: Fegley*

*Other Participants: Dukes*

*Staff: Cahall*

1. Welcome/Introductions (*L. Fegley*)
2. Public Comment
3. Council Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes from October 2017
4. ACCSP Status Report
  - Program Status (*M. Cahall*)
  - Committee Updates (*A. Dukes*)
5. Review and Consider Approval of FY19 Request for Proposals (*M. Cahall*) **Action**
6. Accountability Standards (*L. Fegley*)
7. Other Business/Adjourn

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Annual Awards of Excellence Reception**

**Wednesday, May 2**

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**Executive Committee**

**Breakfast will be served when you arrive; you may arrive as early as 8:00 a.m.**

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

**Members:** Abbott, Blazer, Brust, Bowman, Boyles, Jr., Clark, Estes, Gilmore, Grout, Haymans, Keliher, McNamee, Miller, Miner, Murphey, Pierce, Shiels

**Chair:** Gilmore

**Staff:** Leach

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Gilmore*)
2. Committee Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Meeting Summary from February 2018
3. Public Comment
4. Report of the Administrative Oversight Committee (*P. Keliher*)
  - Presentation of FY19 Budget **Action**
5. Report on Legal Opinion Regarding Proxies Serving as Officers (*R. Beal*)
6. Discuss Commissioner Conflict of Interest (*R. Beal*)
7. Discuss Appeals Process (*R. Beal*)
8. Discuss Future Scope of MRIP/APAIS Activities (*R. Beal/M. Cahall*)
9. Future Annual Meetings Updates (*L. Leach*)
  - October 21-25, 2018 – New York, New York
  - October 27-31, 2019 – Portsmouth, New Hampshire
  - 2020 – New Jersey
  - 2021 – North Carolina
10. Executive Director Performance Review **Closed Session**
11. Other Business/Adjourn

10:45 a.m. – 12:30 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

**Other Participants:** Ballenger, Simmons

**Chair:** Meserve

**Staff:** Appelman

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*N. Meserve*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from November 2017
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Consider Approval of Terms of Reference for the 2019 Atlantic Menhaden Single Species Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review (*K. Anstead*) **Action**



5. Review and Populate the Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Subcommittee Membership (*K. Anstead*) **Action**
6. Review and Consider Approval of Terms of Reference for the 2019 Atlantic Menhaden Ecosystem-Based Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review (*K. Drew*) **Action**
7. Consider Approval of 2018 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports (*M. Appelman*) **Action**
  - Review State Implementation Plans for Amendment 3
8. Other Business/Adjourn

1:15 – 3:15 p.m.

**American Lobster Management Board**

*Member States:* Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

*Other Members:* NEFMC, NMFS

*Chair:* Train

*Other Participants:* Cloutier, Gwin, Reardon

*Staff:* Ware

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*S. Train*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from February 2018
3. Public Comment
4. Lobster Conservation Management Team (LCMT) Proposals to Reduce Latent Effort **Possible Action**
  - Review Board Task Regarding Latent Effort (*M. Ware*)
  - Review LCMT Proposals
  - Discuss Board Goals and Objectives Regarding Task
  - Consider Board Action in Response to Proposals
5. Law Enforcement Committee Report (*R. Cloutier*)
  - Enforceability of Ropeless Fishing
6. Plan Development Team Update on American Lobster Draft Addendum XXVII (*M. Ware*)
7. Other Business/Adjourn

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

**Winter Flounder Management Board**

*Member States:* Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey

*Other Members:* NMFS, USFWS

*Chair:* Pierce

*Other Participants:* Blanchard, Nitschke

*Staff:* Ware

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Pierce*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from February 2018
3. Public Comment

4. Review and Consider Rhode Island Proposal on Commercial Trip Limits (*M. Ware*) **Final Action**
  - Overview of Rhode Island Proposal
  - Technical Committee Report
  - Consider Approval of Rhode Island's Proposal
5. Other Business/Adjourn

**Thursday, May 3**

8:00 – 10:00 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:* Denit

*Chair:* Gilmore

*Staff:* Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Gilmore*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from February 2018
3. Public Comment
4. Update from the Executive Committee (*J. Gilmore*)
5. Review and Consider Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York Appeal of Addendum XXX to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (*T. Kerns*) **Final Action**
6. Committee Reports
  - Artificial Reef (*L. Havel*)
  - Law Enforcement (*M. Robson*)
7. Marine Recreational Information Program Update on the Transition to the Fishing Effort Survey and the Calibration Process (*K. Denit*)
8. Review Noncompliance Findings, if Necessary **Possible Action**
9. Other Business/Adjourn

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

**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:* Gilmore

*Staff:* Beal

1. Welcome/Introductions (*J. Gilmore*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Review Noncompliance Findings, if Necessary (*J. Gilmore*) **Possible Final Action**
5. Other Business/Adjourn

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

*Member States:* New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

*Other Members:* NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

*Other Participants:* Snellbaker, Wojcik

*Chair:* Ballou

*Staff:* Rootes-Murdy, Starks

1. Reconvene/Call to Order (*R. Ballou*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Consider ISFMP Policy Board Guidance Regarding Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York Addendum XXX Appeal, if Necessary (*T. Kerns*) **Final Action**
5. Other Business/Adjourn

11:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. **South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board**

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

*Other Members:* PRFC, NMFS, SAFMC, USFWS

*Other Participants:* Lynn, McDonough, Poland, Rickabaugh

*Chair:* Geer

*Staff:* Schmidtke

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Geer*)
2. Board Consent
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from February 2018
3. Public Comment
4. Addendum I to the Black Drum Fishery Management Plan for Final Approval (*M. Schmidtke*)  
**Final Action**
  - Review Options and Public Comment Summary
  - Review Committee Reports
  - Consider Final Approval of Addendum I
5. Consider Management Action Based on Technical Committee/Plan Review Team Recommended Updates to the Annual Traffic Light Analyses for Atlantic Croaker and Spot (*M. Schmidtke*) **Possible Action**
6. Updates on SEDAR 58 Cobia Stock Identification Workshop and Board Tasking of Cobia Technical Committee from February 2018 (*M. Schmidtke*)
7. Review Draft Terms of Reference and Schedule for the SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia Stock Assessment (*M. Schmidtke*)
8. Discuss Questions from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Regarding Possible Transfer of the Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia Fishery Management (*M. Schmidtke*)
9. Other Business/Adjourn

12:30 – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch Provided for Commissioners, Proxies and Board Members**