

# ***Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission***

## **Business Session**

*February 8, 2018*

*1:15 – 1:30 p.m.*

*Arlington, Virginia*

## **Draft Agenda**

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

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Welcome/Introductions ( <i>J. Gilmore</i> )                        | 1:15 p.m. |
| 2. Committee Consent  | 1:15 p.m. |
| • Approval of Agenda  |           |
| • Approval of Proceedings from October and November 2017              |           |
| 3. Public Comment   | 1:20 p.m. |
| 4. Review Non-Compliance Findings, If Necessary ( <i>J. Gilmore</i> ) | 1:25 p.m. |
| 5. Other Business/Adjourn   | 1:30 p.m. |

The meeting will be held at the Westin Crystal City, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202; 703.486.1111

*Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

**DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BUSINESS SESSION**

**BWI Airport Marriott  
November 14, 2017**

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1. **Approval of Agenda** by consent (Page 1).
2. **On behalf of the Menhaden Board, move the Commission approve Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan as amended today.** (Page 1). Motion by Bob Ballou. Motion carried (Page 2).
3. **On behalf of the South Atlantic Board, move the Commission approve the Cobia Interstate Fishery Management Plan** (Page 2). Motion by Mr. Estes. Motion carried (Page 3).
4. **Move to Adjourn** by consent (Page 3).

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Pat Keliher, ME (AA)	Andy Shiels, PA, proxy for J. Arway (AA)
Steve Train, ME (GA)	John Clark, DE, proxy for D. Saveikis (AA)
Cheri Patterson, NH, proxy for D. Grout (AA)	Craig Pugh, DE, proxy for Rep. Carson (LA)
G. Ritchie White, NH (GA)	Roy Miller, DE (GA)
Dennis Abbott, NH, proxy for Sen. Watters (LA)	Rachel Dean, MD (GA)
Sarah Ferrara, MA, proxy for Rep. Peake (LA)	Dave Blazer, MD (AA)
Raymond Kane, MA (GA)	Allison Colden, MD, proxy for Del. Stein (LA)
Nichola Meserve, MA, proxy for D. Pierce (AA)	Rob O'Reilly, VA, proxy for J. Bull (AA)
Eric Reid, RI, proxy for Sen. Sosnowski (LA)	Cathy Davenport, VA (GA)
Robert Ballou, RI, proxy for J. Coit (AA)	Michelle Duval, NC, proxy for B. Davis (AA)
David Borden, RI (GA)	David Bush, NC, proxy for Rep. Steinburg (LA)
Colleen Giannini, CT, proxy for M. Alexander (AA)	W. Douglas Brady, NC (GA)
Sen. Craig Miner, CT (LA)	Malcolm Rhodes, SC (GA)
Jim Gilmore, NY (AA)	Robert Boyles, Jr., SC (AA)
Emerson Hasbrouck, NY (GA)	Spud Woodward, GA (AA)
John McMurray, NY, proxy for Sen. Boyle (LA)	Jim Estes, FL, proxy for J. McCawley (AA)
Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Asm. Andrzejczak (LA)	Martin Gary, PRFC
Tom Fote, NJ (GA)	Derek Orner, NMFS
Russ Allen, NJ, proxy for L. Herrightly (AA)	Mike Millard, USFWS
Loren Lustig, PA (GA)	

**(AA = Administrative Appointee; GA = Governor Appointee; LA = Legislative Appointee)**

**Ex-Officio Members**

Jason McNamee, Technical Committee Chair

Jeff Kaelin, Advisory Panel Chair

**Staff**

Bob Beal  
Toni Kerns  
Katie Drew

Shanna Madsen  
Megan Ware  
Max Appelman

**Guests**

Fred Akers, Newtonville, NJ  
Julie Akers, Newtonville, NJ  
Lew Armistead, Hollywood, MD  
Dana Austin, CBF  
Amiele Barakey, CBF  
Blair Blanchette, CBF  
John Bello, VA SSA  
F.L. Benson, Lanexa, VA  
Sarah Boynton, CBF

Kathryn Bush, CBF  
Kim Cable, CBF  
Benson Chiles, Chiles Consulting  
Robt Crockett, Richmond, VA  
Colin Crozier, CBF  
Jeff Deem, VMRC  
Monty Deihl, Omega Protein  
Katherine Denel, PEW Trusts  
Mark Driscoll, Richmond, VA

Draft Proceedings of the Business Session November 2017

Butch Eason, Chesapeake, VA  
A.J. Erskine, Lottsburg, VA  
Lynn Fegley, MD DNR  
Christine Fletcher, PEW  
Manley Fuller, FL Wildlife Fed  
Shaun Gehan, Omega Protein  
Rebecca Gagnon, Norfolk, VA  
Joseph Gordon, PEW  
Ken Hastings, Mason Springs  
Marin Hawk, MSC  
D. Heinemann, Marine Mammal  
Peter Himchak, Omega Protein  
Ken Hinman, Wild Oceans  
Rich Hittenger, RI Saltwater Anglers  
Richard Holewinski, CCA MD  
Jerry Hughes, Chesapeake, VA  
Jason Hoffman, *Undercurrent News*  
Deane Horowitz, CBEC  
John Jaackst, Severn, MD  
Chris Johnson, CBF  
Robert Jones, VSSA  
Ron Ketter, Easton, MD  
Robert Kersey, MD NRP  
Jimmy Kellum, Kellum Maritime  
Howard King, Queenstown, MD  
Aaron Kornbluth, PEW  
Ben Landry, Omega Protein  
George Lapointe, Omega Protein, ME  
Ken Lewis, CCA ME  
Ed Liccione, CCA MD  
Bill Lucey, LI Soundkeeper

Paul Erdman, Menhaden Defenders  
Rudy Lukavovic, CBEC  
Janet Mackey, Easton, MD  
William Martin, CCA MD  
John Matson, Hampton, VA  
Drew Minkiewicz, KDW  
David Mussina, Mystic River W  
Thomas Miller, FORVA  
Chris Moore, CBF  
Henry Neville, Ashland, VA  
Christiana Perry CBEC  
Ken Pinkard, UFCW Local 400  
Jamie Pollack, PEW NY  
Drew Robinson, CBF  
Elizabeth Ronson, CBF  
Robert Ruck, Sr., CCA MD  
Jim Seagraves, Portsmouth, VA  
David Sikorski, CCA  
Jonathan Stone, Save the Bay, RI  
Thomas Strachle, Westminster, MD  
Stan Sutliff, Hampton Roads, VA  
Cameron Taggart, PEW  
Jeff Taylor, Mayforth Group  
Jack Travelstead, CCA  
Donna Waddell, UFCW Local 400  
Marvin Wells, Dundale, MD  
Mike Wills, VA Beach, VA  
Michael Wissel, CCA MD  
Liz Worsham, Heathville, VA  
Tom Zolper, CBF

The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in BWI Airport Marriott, Linthicum Heights, Maryland, Tuesday, November 14, 2017, and was called to order around 3:00 o'clock p.m. by Chairman James J. Gilmore.

### CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRMAN JAMES J. GILMORE: Don't anyone leave. We're going to do this in twelve minutes; and it's actually quicker now, because Dennis Abbott stole all my fun for thanking Bob. But I would just like to add my voice to that. I think Bob did a terrific job. There are YouTube videos on how to run ASMFC meetings now that feature Bob. If you want to see them, he's done a great job, so thanks, Bob.

Okay, Business Session, we have a few items. Before, just to add a couple of words very quickly. I think we made sausage once again. The last couple of days everybody got something, everybody lost something. I think that is pretty much our process. We have probably a long way to go; and some people last night I know at the bar, felt that they didn't get what they wanted.

Trust me, from the Commission, from the leadership on down, we are very committed to getting ecosystem-based reference points and moving this forward. That is not going to be a ten-year process if anybody thinks that. We will work hard at making this the first plan that has ecosystem-based management.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: That being said, we'll first go for the approval of the agenda. We only have a couple items on here. Are there any changes to the agenda? Seeing none; we'll adopt those by consensus.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Secondly; Public Comment, wow the public is stampeding out of the room. I didn't get any sign ups, and unless there are any hands up.

Nope, no public comment so let's go to first, something you may remember.

### CONSIDER THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE ATLANTIC MENHADEN AMENDMENT 3

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Consider the final approval of the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment Final Action. I'm assuming we're going to have to do a roll call vote on this, since it's a final action? Oh, sorry, and that motion has to be made on behalf of the Chairman of the Board.

**MR. BOB BALLOU: On behalf of the Menhaden Board; I move to recommend to the Commission the approval of Amendment 3 to the Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan as amended today.**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: I don't believe a second is required; because that was made on behalf of the Board. Is there any discussion on the motion? Seeing none; I believe we're going to have to do a roll call vote on this. Let's just go from Maine on south.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: I will call the roll. Maine.

MR. PATRICK C. KELIHER: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: New Hampshire.

MS. CHERI PATTERSON: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Massachusetts.

MS. NICHOLA MESERVE: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Rhode Island.

MR. ERIC REID: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Connecticut.

MS. COLLEEN GIANINI: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: New York.

MR. EMERSON C. HASBROUCK: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: New Jersey.

MR. RUSS ALLEN: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Pennsylvania.

MR. ANDY SHIELS: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Delaware.

MR. JOHN CLARK: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Maryland.

MR. DAVID BLAZER: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Virginia.

MR. KYLE SCHICK: No.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: North Carolina.

DR. MICHELLE DUVAL: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: South Carolina.

MR. ROBERT H. BOYLES, JR.: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Georgia.

MR. A.G. "SPUD" WOODWARD: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Florida.

MR. JIM ESTES: Yes.

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: **Motion passes; 14 in favor, 1 opposition.** Our next order of business is to **consider final approval of the Cobia Fishery Management Plan**; and it's a final action also. Jim Estes, I believe is Chairman. Jim, if you could give us a motion.

MR. JIM ESTES: Would you like to hear the long story, Mr. Chairman, or would you like me to just read the motion?

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: I think reading the motion would be the pleasure of the Board at this point; but I'll take objections if someone wants to hear the long story.

**MR. ESTES: On behalf of the South Atlantic Board; I move the Commission approve the Cobia Interstate Fishery Management Plan.**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Okay, we're going to do a roll call. First off is there any discussion on the motion? Seeing none; we'll have to take a roll call vote on this, so Bob take it away. We'll go from the south to the north.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: The interested states to the less interested states, maybe? Florida.

MR. ESTES: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Georgia.

MR. WOODWARD: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: South Carolina.

MR. BOYLES: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: North Carolina.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Virginia.

MR. SCHICK: Yes.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Maryland.

MR. BLAZER: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Delaware.

MR. CLARK: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Pennsylvania.

MR. ANDY SHIELS: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: New Jersey.

MR. ALLEN: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: New York.

MR. HASBROUCK: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Connecticut.

MS. GIANINI: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Rhode Island.

MR. REID: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Massachusetts.

MS. MESERVE: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: New Hampshire.

MR. ABBOTT: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: And Maine.

MR. KELIHER: Assuming this includes our allocation; yes.

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: It's unanimous, including Colleen wants to know what a cobia is from the look on her face. Thank you all for that. **That motion is approved unanimously.**

## ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Is there any other business to come before the Business Session? Seeing none; we are adjourned, and you are dismissed to go home early. It's only 3:13: Thank you everyone, we'll see you in February.

(Whereupon the meeting recessed at 3:13 on November 14, 2017.)

Draft Proceedings of the Business Session October 2017

**DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BUSINESS SESSION**

**The Marriott Norfolk Waterside  
Norfolk, Virginia  
October 17, 2017**

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Business Session  
The Board will review the minutes during its next meeting

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**October 18, 2017**

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**October 19, 2017**

**Call to Order, Chairman James L. Gilmore ..... 15**

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**INDEX OF MOTIONS**

1. **Approval of Agenda** by consent (Page 1).
2. **Move to approve the 2018 Action Plan on behalf of the Administrative Oversight Committee** (Page 12). Motion by Jim Gilmore. Motion approved by consent (Page 12).
3. **Move the Commission approve Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Interstate Fishery Management Plan** (Page 15). Motion by Doug Grout; second by Eric Reid. Motion is approved by unanimous consent (Page 15).
4. **Move the Commission send a letter to NOAA Fisheries and the New England Fishery Management Council regarding the requirements for size-sorting grates in Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan** (Page 15). Motion by Doug Grout; second by John Clark. Motion carries by unanimous consent (Page 15).
5. **On behalf of the Tautog Management Board, move the Commission approve Amendment 1 to the Tautog Interstate Fishery Management Plan** (Page 15). Motion by Doug Grout; second by John Clark. Motion carries by unanimous consent (Page 15).
6. **Move to Adjourn** by consent (Page 17).

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Pat Keliher, ME (AA)	John Clark, DE, proxy for D. Saveikis (AA)
Dennis Abbott, NH, proxy for Sen. Watters (LA)	Craig Pugh, DE, proxy for Rep. Carson (LA)
Doug Grout, NH (AA)	David Blazer, MD (AA)
Ritchie White, NH (GA)	Rachel Dean, MD (GA)
Raymond Kane, MA (GA)	Ed O'Brien, MD, proxy for Del. Stein (LA)
David Pierce, MA (AA)	John Bull, VA (AA)
Eric Reid, RI, proxy for Sen. Sosnowski (LA)	Rob O'Reilly, VA, Administrative proxy
Jason McNamee, RI, proxy for J. Coit (AA)	Chris Batsavage, NC, proxy for B. Davis (AA)
David Borden, RI (GA)	David Bush, NC, proxy for Rep. Steinburg (LA)
Mark Alexander, CT (AA)	Robert Boyles, SC (AA)
James Gilmore, NY (AA)	Malcolm Rhodes, SC (GA)
Russ Allen, NJ, proxy for L. Herrighty (AA)	Spud Woodward, GA (AA)
Tom Fote, NJ (GA)	Pat Geer, GA, proxy for Rep. Nimmer (LA)
Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Asm. Andrzejczak (LA)	Jim Estes, FL, proxy for J. McCawley (AA)
Andy Shiels, PA, proxy for J. Arway (AA)	Sherry White, USFWS
Roy Miller, DE (GA)	Lindsay Fullenkamp, NMFS

**(AA = Administrative Appointee; GA = Governor Appointee; LA = Legislative Appointee)**

**Ex-Officio Members**

**Staff**

Bob Beal	Mark Robson
Toni Kerns	

**Guests**

Heather Corbett, NJ DFW	Jack McGovern, NMFS
Dan Crear, VIMS	Brandon Muffley, MAFMC
Michelle Duval, NC DMF	Derek Orner, NOAA
Lynn Fegley, MD DNR	Chris Wright, NMFS
Ryan Jiorle, VMRC	

The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Hampton Roads Ballroom V of the Marriott Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, October 18, 2017, and was called to order at 1:25 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Douglas E. Grout.

**CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIRMAN DOUGLAS E. GROUT: Good afternoon everybody, welcome to the Business Session; if you all could take your seat. Before we get into the agenda, John Bullard, the GARFO Regional Administrator, who as you know is retiring shortly; and this may be his last meeting, would like to say a few things to the Commission. John, I'll turn it over to you.

MR. JOHN K. BULLARD: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, I just have one page here. Hello all you all. Bless your heart. Five years ago I attended this meeting to introduce myself; so at this meeting it's time to say goodbye. The ASMFC has made incredible progress; thanks to Commissioner John Bull just in the last year.

You have found ways to introduce heat into the rooms in which we meet, and so people can make motions without having to wear gloves to do so. I've learned an awful lot. I think the first meeting I learned at high volume from Dr. Daniel about the shortcomings on our sturgeon policy; still don't have an eardrum.

But we have as we learned this morning, made an awful lot of progress in sturgeon, and progress in a lot of other areas as well. I really do value a lot of lessons that I've learned from attendance at these meetings. You all have made some very tough decisions around these tables. There was one; I think it was in Baltimore on menhaden.

But those tough decisions are necessary to rebuild fisheries. You've done that. Not just with menhaden. From my vantage point in the audience, I can listen to the debate and I can

see the looks around the table. I can see how you hold yourselves accountable, how you help each other resist the pressures that you have all felt at one time or another.

I see how you support each other to do what is right. It's a very valuable lesson for me and for all of us. I've enjoyed our partnership in this effort, working with you on tough issues like for example southern New England lobster with my grade school schoolmate David Borden, who lives across the river from me as we try to transition that industry from lobster to Jonah crab.

That's just one example of the partnership that we have with you. I've seen this partnership, this very important partnership get very sorely tested with summer flounder. My remarks in the Boston Globe several months ago got me in hot water with my bosses, so I don't think I should comment any more on that. You can go read it if you want. But Chairman Grout's comments last night at dinner, I think your remarks Mr. Chairman were right on the money. I'm glad you have a meeting set up with Secretary Ross. I fervently hope that this is a one-time occurrence, and everyone here will work to make that breakdown a singular exception. Because we face many challenges that will require our wonderful, decentralized system of managing fisheries work, we have a lot of challenges.

You all know them as well or better than I do. There are still issues with summer flounder, black sea bass, and other fisheries. There is the issue of climate change, which you have helped educate us, and the regional fishery management councils on. It's causing havoc in so many ways. The issue of allocations has to be faced.

The issue of forage fish has been mentioned here. Just this morning Bob Beal mentioned competing ocean uses. There are of course others. This partnership that we have is very

important. There are some “thank-you’s” that I want to offer, Mr. Chairman. It could take all day and I don’t want to.

But I do want to mention in particular on state directors. It was at a meeting we had with state directors out in San Diego that Paul Diodati, who was deservedly honored at lunch, said to leadership at NOAA Fisheries that we aren’t partners with state directors, state directors are our allies. That is a very good use of that term.

I’ve certainly felt that we are in the trenches with state directors. I’ve felt that and I’ve enjoyed the relationships that I’ve had with the state directors confronting problems in my region. As I’ve done that with each and every one of you, I’ve developed profound respect and become friends, maybe possible exception Commissioner Martin, bless his heart.

But in all seriousness, Russ, come on. I can’t start laughing now, Russ. The respect I have for you is so high for the jobs you do, the difficult jobs you do. Secondly, the staff at ASMFC, Bob, Toni and all of the team under ASMFC, wow, it’s every time it seems that we have a problem at NOAA Fisheries, where we need something done.

You know I pick up the phone and call Bob. You know if it’s distribution of disaster assistance; if it’s reimbursement for at-sea monitoring, if it’s help with fishery dependent data visioning with the partnership that we both have with ACCSP and Mike and his team. The professionalism, the dedication, the expertise, the passion, you know they’re an extension of our team.

It’s so wonderful to work with, you know this Mr. Chairman, but I want to tell you we know it too. It’s just a great team to work with, the staff here. Lastly, I want to say our team here at NOAA that I have the honor of working with. I was going to serve two years at NOAA Fisheries. If I were a carton of milk, I would be something you would stay very far away from,

well past my expiration date. But I’ve stayed because my staff is so fantastic.

The two Mikes, Mike Petney, Mike Ruccio, I’m going to leave people out but Peter Burns, Ali, Chip, Kelly, Lindsay, Lynn, Derrick, others who have been at this microphone. You’ve gotten to know them well, and I’m sorry that I’ve left some out. But there have been so many who’ve shown you their dedication and their passion for this job; their expertise, their knowledge. I never cease to be amazed. I go home every night my brain hurts just trying to keep up with them. I can’t possibly do that. But it is an honor for me to work alongside them. When I look up above me, at people like Sam Rauch, and the leaders there, I feel lucky to work for them. I think you’re in good hands as I look around the administration at our political leadership. Chris Oliver, you know we’ve drawn the long straw in a lot of people. Chris Oliver knows fisheries for decades and decades in both the Gulf of Mexico and in Alaska.

Admiral Gallaudet, who just started work this week, is going to be very, very good at NOAA. I think you’ll take the measure of Secretary Ross when you meet with him. But I think he’s a numbers guy, and we’re a numbers agency. I think he’s strong. I think we’ve got a strong team. I think we can hold our end of the partnership up.

With that Mr. Chairman, I do hope occasionally I’ll run into you all again. It’s been a real pleasure and an honor to work with you. We have such an important mission. I come from a seaport, New Bedford. I know the stakes and the difficulty, and the importance of our work; and I wish you the best as you carry on that most important mission. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Thank you very much, John. (Applause) John, I just want to recognize you and thank you for all that you have done to promote and support the partnership that we

have between the Commission and GARFO. I've seen many, many things that you've done over the years that you have supported our work, you've supported our communication, you've supported our co-management, and you have been an ally as we have tried to be an ally in your work. Thank you very much, John and good luck in your retirement. (Applause)

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Okay, we now have an agenda before you. Are there any changes to the Business Agenda? Seeing none; are there any objections to approving the agenda? It is approved by unanimous consent.

#### **APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: We also have proceedings from our May meeting. Are there any changes or edits to that May meeting minutes? Seeing none; is there any objection to approving the minutes? They are approved by unanimous consent.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: We also have an opportunity here for public comment for things that are not on the agenda. Is there anybody in the public or the audience that would like to speak on things not on the agenda?

#### **REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2018 ACTION PLAN**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Seeing none; we'll move into Review and Consider Approval of the 2018 Action Plan. Bob.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: Just all the staff up here we'll go through the individual sections. But a lot of times we present a budget associated with this action plan, and we don't have that together this year. But we have done the rough analysis, and it looks like we can afford everything that's in here. That is the good news.

The bad news is, if you want to add things in here, we probably need to do some horse trading and swap some things out. As the staff is running through it, if there are significant financial expenditures that need to be added, we're going to need to think about that a little bit how we can cover those expenses. With that I think Toni can go through Goal 1, if that's okay, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Sounds good, Toni.

MS. TONI KERNS: What I'm going to do is go through the bolded actions, and I think that's what all of us up here will be doing today. These are new items that we're going to be taking on. Other work is stuff that we have either started or is something that is consistent from year to year within the plan. I'll go to Goal 1, which is our ISFMP goal, and starting with American eel. We'll consider a management response to the 2017 assessment findings, which the Board heard earlier this week, and look to do a management document on allocations and quotas specific to the yellow and glass eel fisheries.

We'll also have the Technical Committee or some folks from the Technical Committee, not the full, evaluate the monitoring efforts to identify gaps and the value of existing surveys for assessment and management use. The American Lobster Board will finalize and implement Addendum XXVI; which is looking to improve harvester reporting and biological data collection in state and federal waters.

This will also apply to the Jonah crab fishery as well. We'll look at Addendum XXVII, which considers standardization of the management measures in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank stock, and develop a strategy for management of the southern New England stock that considers the record low abundance of the stock, and preserves a function of a portion of the fishery, acknowledging the



effects of climate change on the lobster resource.

The TC will initiate the 2020 benchmark stock assessment. While it's not in this document for Atlantic herring, we did task the TC to look into the efficacy of all of the management goals and objectives of the spawning closures, using the GSI forecasting system. For Atlantic menhaden, we will be initiating the 2019 benchmark stock assessment. For Atlantic sturgeon, we will monitor the state and federal activities in response to the Endangered Species Act listing of the Atlantic sturgeon, including the five-year-review status, which we heard about this morning.

In bluefish, we'll be collaborating with the Mid-Atlantic Council to initiate the development of an amendment that would address allocation in the bluefish fishery, as well as collaborate with the Council and the Science Center to complete an operational stock assessment pending the availability of the new MRIP program estimates, and then consider a management response to the assessment findings in conjunction with the Council.

For coastal sharks, we'll monitor the stock assessment results for sandbar and mako sharks, and provide a Technical Committee recommendation to those assessments, and then do a management response if we need some complementary management actions with HMS. Under shad and river herring, we'll be initiating the 2019 American shad benchmark stock assessment; and we'll be monitoring the activities of the ESA review of river herring.

We'll also review and update the American shad habitat plans as required by Amendment 3. For both Atlantic croaker and spot, we will be conducting the analysis to explore and potentially update the traffic-light analysis, which includes additional indices or age-

composition information as a possibility for inclusion.

Cobia, we will implement the cobia FMP and work with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, as well as NOAA Fisheries, to ensure complementary regulations between state and federal waters, if the Board approves a cobia FMP this week. We'll also collaborate with the SEDAR to conduct a stock identification workshop, in preparation for the 2019 benchmark stock assessment, which we will also initiate. For scup we will collaborate with NOAA Fisheries and the Science Center to finalize the 2018 operational assessment pending the availability of updated MRIP information, and then consider a management response as necessary. The same for black sea bass, and we will also, if made a priority by the Mid-Atlantic Council (and this will be discussed at the December meeting), collaborate with the Council to initiate a black sea bass amendment that would consider management of the entire fishery. Then for weakfish, I have a correction. It should say initiate the development of the 2019 stock assessment update.

We're going to do an update this year, but due to the MRIP data coming out in either the late summer or fall of this year, and because that assessment has such a reliance on recreational CPUE, we thought it best that we wait and get that information first and then do the update. For winter flounder, the Board will review the 2018 GARM stock assessment results for inshore winter flounder, and consider management response in coordination with the New England Fishery Management Council, as well as GARFO.

Then scrolling down into Section 1.2, we'll collaborate with NOAA Fisheries and the Secretary of Commerce, to ensure transparency and the integrity of the Atlantic Coastal Fishery Cooperative Management Act as provisions are preserved, including seeking opportunities to collaborate with NOAA Fisheries as it conducts

the ESA status reviews for sturgeon and river herring.

We will also take the next steps in response to the Commission's climate change white paper to address fisheries impacted by climate change; and we'll be discussing that later this week at the Policy Board. We will also work with NOAA leadership to better understand the impacts to state management programs; given the movement towards increased recreational flexibility.

We'll be seeking ways to address the concerns of the recreational community with regards to Commission managed and jointly managed species. As a part of this the Commission will assist in conducting and participate in the NOAA Fisheries 2018 National Recreational Summit. We will also respond to the new MRIP estimates as needed across all of our Commission managed species; and I will pass it off to Pat for Goal 2, Science. I'll take questions first.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Pat.

MR. PATRICK C. KELIHER: Toni, you made note of the herring issue from a budgetary perspective. If there was a need for an addendum are we going to be okay?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Pat, if it's only three hearings up in your neck of the woods that's not a real great expense; one trip up, a couple nights in a hotel. We can probably accommodate that no problem.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any other questions for Toni on Goal 1? Seeing none; Pat.

MR. PAT CAMPFIELD: Goal 2 covers the fisheries science research and stock assessment activities of the Commission. New activities include a collection of more spot age data; as well as pursuing improved sturgeon bycatch monitoring in state waters. Those were both

research recommendations that came out of stock assessments completed this year.

In terms of the overall stock assessment workload, it looks pretty heavy for 2018; including benchmark assessments for sea herring, horseshoe crab, northern shrimp, striped bass, and summer flounder as well as initiating a benchmark assessment for American shad. We will also conduct assessment updates for spiny dogfish, and initiate an update for weakfish. Tied to a few of those benchmarks, the Commission will organize and conduct peer reviews for the horseshoe crab, northern shrimp, and possibly the striped bass stock assessment.

We need to figure out if that's going to be an ASMFC or SARC review. Another new task is to develop a long term vision for scientific initiatives within the Commission's next five-year-strategic plan; and that is a task that will be spearheaded by the Management and Science Committee, and the Assessment Science Committee.

Moving down to Task 2.18, consult with the Assessment Science Committee on a red drum stock assessment guidance, and develop a road map for improving data collection and future assessment for the South Atlantic Board. Also, monitor the progress of cobia research projects, and contribute to the Stock ID workshop in preparation for that assessment in 2019.

We've also added a task to partner more closely with the U.S. geological survey; to identify shared priorities and opportunities for enhanced scientific support to the Commission. Much of the activities under NEMAP and SEAMAP are the same. Under fish aging activities, it's not bolded in this copy, but we will hold an aging workshop for American eel in 2018.

Under the Committee on Economics and Social Sciences, they will continue their work to

develop new ACCSP socioeconomic data standards, and that's already underway. We have also added a task to track progress and distribute information on Citizen Science initiatives, including through the South Atlantic Council, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, and other entities. Finally, under the Commission's Stock Assessment Training Program, we will hold trainings both at the introductory level and advanced stock assessment training in 2018.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any questions for Pat on Goal 2? David, thank you.

DR. DAVID PIERCE: Just a clarification on Task 2.3.4, track the progress and distribute information on Citizen Science Initiatives through those different groups. What is the thinking regarding these specific initiatives? Citizen Science Initiatives are something new that we're going to entertain? Explain a little bit as to why this task is in it if you would.

MR. CAMPFIELD: A couple of examples include, with GMRI they have a Snap a striper program, which is something that we've highlighted in Fisheries Focus. It's simply not for the Commission to initiate these fairly local programs, but to be a centralized place to understand what's going on up and down the coast, and explore their utility, either for technical processes, or to advise fishery management.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: John.

MR. JOHN CLARK: Pat, could you just expound a little bit on what the ACCSP Socioeconomic Data Standards are, and how those will be used in the upcoming addendums and amendments?

MR. CAMPFIELD: For starters, the program, and Mike feel free to jump in, but ACCSP has a very short list of standards that they developed way back in the late '90s, and although it continues to be a program priority, there are some socioeconomic data that have come into ACCSP,

but it's not at the same level as the catch and effort bycatch data. In order to promote more socioeconomic data coming in from the states and federal partners, we need to develop standards, and that's something that Shanna Madsen as our SESS Coordinator has worked with ACCSP to get that ball rolling this year. We hope to finish it this year; and part of the objective is to provide that baseline information to fishery management plans on different socioeconomic indicators. That's part of the longer goal.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any other questions on Goal 2; Goal 3, Toni?

MS. KERNS: Goal 3 is our promoting compliance within our fishery management plans, so Goal 3 looks at Activities of our Law Enforcement Committee, and there are fewer bolded tasks here, but still lots of great work going on from the Law Enforcement Committee, especially in response to any items that will come out of management boards.

But they will be evaluating the effectiveness of the commercial tagging programs and systems, and user compliance in particular with tautog. We won't initiate that tagging program until 2019, but we'll still be working with Law Enforcement to make sure that the program that we put together does not have any enforcement loopholes. I'll be reviewing and providing input on enforcement issues associated with the American eel or any other aquaculture programs and proposals; and that is it.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Questions on the Goal 3. Seeing none; Goal 4, Fish Habitat.

MS. KERNS: I'm going to tag team this with Pat. He'll cover the ACFHP portions of the habitat goal and I will do the Commission's Habitat Program. Habitat is actually currently meeting right now, and they will be publishing a Habitat

Management Series. They are still determining what that topic will be.

We will fill this in once they have made that decision later today. We will also be developing outreach materials on the benefits of habitat to fish productivity, for nontechnical audiences; and this is geared at stakeholders, the media, and the general public to be handed out at tradeshows and such. I'll pass it over to Pat.

MR. CAMPFIELD: Quickly on the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, just a few new activities. One to update their website, the second very large task, to conduct habitat mapping projects both in the Southeast and Northeast Regions. Finally, to take their species habitat matrix, this was currently in a journal publication format, and moved that to an online searchable format.

MS. KERNS: Then we'll be also identifying important fish habitats for Commission managed species, including information on a 2018 Habitat Management Series document that's called Important Fish Habitats. This is sort of taking all of what we currently call habitat areas of concern, HAPCs, in which the Habitat Committee is developing new language to address that topic, as directed by the Policy Board. Then we're going to put all of those, whatever the new term is, into one document for easy reference. That is all.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any questions on Goal 4? Seeing none; Goal 5, is that you, Tina?

MS. TINA BERGER: Goal 5 addresses our stakeholder and public support for the Commission and specifically our outreach initiatives. You'll see much of the content remains from last year as ongoing activities. New to this year is a focus on collaborating with NOAA Fisheries MRIP staff and communicating improvements and changes to the MRIP.

We will be publishing our 2017 Annual Report, continue to work with the science staff on

preparing and distributing assessment overviews and focal species for next year are herring, striped bass, horseshoe crab, northern shrimp, and summer flounder. We're going to explore this year doing some quarterly, topic driven webinars, to engage and inform the public about our current activities.

We'll focus each quarterly webinar in a different aspect of Commission programs for management, science, habitat, and data collection. I'll be working with the Commission staff to further improve our messaging and communication skills with media; as well as strengthening our ability to provide a written content that is accessible for nontechnical audiences. We will be updating our website early in the year to just improve functionality, and include new content on ACCSP, cobia, as well as a Fisheries Management 101 Page, and that's it for outreach.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Questions on Goal 5? Loren.

MR. LOREN W. LUSTIG: Thank you very much for the information just relayed to us about how we relate to the public; and how we can help them to understand more, ideally, what we are actually doing and why we're doing it. I was especially interested in the consideration regarding webinars.

I participated in some of those in Pennsylvania, with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and other agencies. I'm wondering if there is an opportunity here for us to reach out to high school or college science like classes, so that they can get a grasp on our role in changing environment.

For example, there is a program in Maryland called Grasses in Classes, where kids get involved in the production and planting of submerged aquatic vegetation. There is a program in Pennsylvania that encourages science students to raise trout; and release

them in our streams. Is there anything that we can do that would be similar to those two programs?

MR. BERGER: We do make an effort to go to various graduate and undergraduate programs and talk about the Commission and fisheries management in general. We have also increased our outreach to sportfishing clubs. In terms of reaching out to high school or science classes, specifically in terms of hands on stuff, we have not. But we could certainly talk about it at the staff level, and see where we could involve ourselves in those activities to a greater extent.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Other questions on this goal? David.

MR. DAVID E. BUSH, JR.: This relates to Goal 5, but may also be like 3.11 or 12. It has to do with specifically cohiba in this particular instance. But you're getting a lot more stakeholders that are doing their homework. They're hitting the books. They've trying to understand what's going on. Some of them may or may not be able to join the different committees and panels, and feel like you know they've done their homework and might have a different opinion. I know we can't chase every rabbit down every hole. But in instances where they've put substantial effort forth to do some research and would like some return answers on why or why not information may or may not be included. I think a good way to maybe strengthen that support, you know where we're going back home to our constituents or our stakeholders and they're like, well I sent it in and I didn't hear anything back.

It's now in public record and it may or may not go away. Is there a mechanism in which we could possibly, at least somewhat address what they're sending in, and make that visible to the folks around the table as well? A lot of the things that they've brought forward you may or may not have merit, and I wouldn't know that.

It would be probably a technical committee of some sort, or science committee that would be looking at it and seeing that okay this applies, this doesn't and here is why. But again, I'm just looking if there is a mechanism in place already that I'm not aware of that would help to answer those questions, and maybe put some of the ideas to rest that they have or say that they have merit and include them.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: David, if we get specifically asked something from a member of the public, you know we try to respond to that. I think it's almost a volume issue that we wrestle with in that we have tens of thousands or at least 10,000 comments on menhaden already. I don't know where Megan is; she's probably summarizing menhaden comments. But during public comment periods, I don't think we have the sort of bandwidth to respond to all the different things that come in, and those different comments.

But the sort of one-off letters that we get that asks us for specific actions or brings forward specific information. We try to respond to those as well as we can. The Technical folks don't necessarily have time to run each of those letters by a technical committee and those sorts of things. But we can definitely make as much of an effort as possible to respond to those letters; just we can't keep up with everything.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Toni.

MS. KERNS: In addition to that David, for assessments we do put an open call out to the public on providing data or working papers, and those do get addressed by the Committee, whether or not they get included and why they do or do not get included. That is another process, especially where a response will come back for someone that's done a lot of research and done their homework.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Further questions on this goal? Goal 6, is that you, Bob?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: I'll give it a shot. Goal 6 is the Legislative work that we do, Capitol Hill work that Deke and I handle with the assistance of many of your folks. A lot of it is ongoing activities that we do every year with reaching out to the Hill and then creating those relationships.

But there are a few specific new tasks this year, the first of which is Gulf of Maine lobster. There is some budget language in there, and some report language that does include some funds for Gulf of Maine lobster; look at some of the impacts and environmental changes. We've worked with Pat Keliher on that. We'll engage the Commissioners in the formulation of the Commission positions on legislative policies, including the Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization documents. There are a few versions out there right now on the House side. If there is a need, we can reach out to you all and then just solidify an ASMFC position if there is one. It's probably a little bit scattered up and down the coast.

Moving on to Task 6.4.3, the next suite of new tasks are reacting and responding to the Atlantic Coastal Act Provisions, and ensuring that transparency is maintained, and then the policy and funding issues. Obviously we communicate the funding priorities for the states, and it goes on to develop relationships with the Secretary of Commerce and Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

Meeting with the Secretary to talk Atlantic Coastal Act, which we're doing next week, and also talking again about the priorities for the Commission and the funding, including horseshoe crab survey that we've been able to fund the last couple of years, so that's good news. The bad news is it's not permanently part of the budget, so we have to go out there and make sure the dollars are available every year for the Horseshoe Crab Survey. Those are the highlights of our Capital Hill outreach

activities. I can answer any questions if there are any, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Malcolm.

DR. MALCOLM RHODES: Just one question. The Delaware Bay, is that specifically the Virginia Tech Survey?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Yes.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Tom Fote.

MR. THOMAS P. FOTE: It was always helpful when I went to a Congressional office to have as much information as I could; and the last year I was able and I went through and actually even state legislators. When Southwick's did the breakdown of recreational fishing by numbers, and every Congressional District, which they did in every state, it was very helpful to walk in with that economic breakdown.

I wish I had it for the commercial fishery, because it would have been really important, especially in New Jersey. But when you find out you've got 66,000 anglers in your district, even though you're in the middle of a state that's not even near the water, and made a big point. The old books we used to put together with all the fishery plans in it, the information on the species and things like that always made a nice presentation to give into the office with those types of sheets.

It would be nice if we had the same thing on the commercial side as we have on the recreational, because those numbers mean money to the Congressional Districts, but we also use it for the state legislature, because they know which congressional district they're in, they can see the breakdown of money to do that. That would be helpful also.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Tom, we can pull those together for you, you know any specific meetings you have let us know. We can pull

some information together. Deke and I usually bring sort of the state level economic impact data with us when we go up to the Hill; you know talking recreational impact, commercial impact. A number of jobs on the commercial side, a number of trips on the recreational side, those sorts of things, we haven't broken it down to individual districts. We usually have been talking at the state level. But we can break it down further if it's available.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Follow up, Tom?

MR. FOTE: Yes, it's already broken down. Southwick's put that all together, so they have it all over for all the states up and down the coast. I can get you that information if you need it.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Great, thank you.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Dave Pierce.

DR. PIERCE: Task 6.3.5, Engage Commissioners in the formulation of the Commission's position on federal legislative policy, including pending MSA Reauthorization legislation. When might that engagement occur? I mean there are some bills out there now being considered. Maybe we'll get something this time around.

There certainly is one notable suggestion regarding how to deal with recreational fisheries. The New England Council, maybe the other Council is taking a position on MRIP and how effective it is for monitoring recreational fisheries catch. I just suggest that our leadership needs to decide when we should weigh in on that particular legislation.

I suggest in particular when we should weigh in on that aspect of possible changes in the Magnuson Act, specific to how we manage recreational fisheries, because let's face it, when it comes to how they're managed, it really falls into the lap of ASMFC. The council's tend to be rather broad brushed. What should

be done in federal waters, and it's really what happens in state waters for the most part.

This has great implications. This particular legislation, this particular bill on recreational fisheries, potentially has some rather significant implications for how we do our business. Again, when the leadership, you feel it's necessary to weigh in, please take the initiative to have us do so.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Yes, I think we're getting close to that point, David. Like I said there are a few house versions that are swirling around right now. In talking with some of the staffers on the House side, it sounds like they're going to try to merge those different drafts into a single draft. I think once you get to that point it is probably a good opportunity for the Commission to chime in on what's there, so we can reach out to you once we see that.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any other questions on this goal? Seeing none; who is going to do finance? Okay, Bob.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Goal 7 is the Finance and Administration of the Commission. Most of these are things that we do every year. Not to say it's not a lot of work, it is a lot of work. But they are just the care and feeding to keep this whole business going. There are a couple new tasks buried in here. We're going to focus training for new staff on how to use some of our electronic tools, such as new data bases and software packages and other things that we have at the Commission, to make sure everybody is up to speed on those. We're looking at software packages to help digitize some of our accounting procedures and billing processes, and contracts database to track all the details of the multiple contracts.

As we have more and more of these cooperative agreements with NOAA Fisheries, we end up with more and more projects and tracking all those is getting more and more

cumbersome each year. We're going to develop a database to make that much more efficient. We're going to do a training workshop for staff on meeting facilitation to help enhance committee productivity and performance.

We're considering engaging an outside consultant to work on staff culture, and looking at better ways to do performance reviews and feedback to staff throughout the year. We do once a year performance reviews right now, and a lot of businesses and agencies are getting away from that and doing different ways to evaluate performance.

We're going to look into that and see if there is a better way to do that for the Commission, and then at the very end 7.6 is a new strategic plan. Our current plan goes through the end of next calendar year, so during next calendar year we need to develop the next five-year plan. It would be 2019 to 2023.

The Executive Committee talked about this briefly this morning, and the course that they are suggesting that you take is have a couple hours at the February meeting to have all the Commissioners brainstorm on where we are with our current strategic plan. Do we need to just trash what we have and start all over and blow the things up; or is it just some minor course corrections and tweaks that we need?

I think the major tasks that we've already talked about so far are fundamental to what we do, fish management, fish science outreach and Congressional outreach, habitat, Law Enforcement, et cetera. I think those pieces of the strategic plan are set, but what other things do the Commissioners want to change and we'll explore that in a workshop in February, and then based on the outcome of that workshop, we'll decide what the course is for the remainder of the year for the strategic plan. That's Goal 7, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Jim Gilmore.

MR. JAMES J. GILMORE: Robert Boyles had a good suggestion this morning for our meeting efficiency, and maybe bringing our parliamentarian back in to give us some education. Is that going to be on the budget for 2018, or are we going to have to kick that down the road until 2019?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: We can probably afford to bring Colette in for a half day or something. A refresher for Commissioners on meeting efficiency, I guess is what you guys were looking for this morning. We can probably do that. Some of this budget is a little bit uncertain. We don't know exactly what we're going to get from Congress, and we're going to have some rollover dollars from this year to next. The one thing I should have said at the outset about the budget is we adjusted the overhead rate for the Atlantic Coastal Act. We actually reduced the overhead taken out by the Commission. Our ability to afford to conduct all these activities does relate back to the fact that we reduced overhead and we had a few more dollars available for programmatic activities than we have in the past. Everything keeps getting more expensive, but we've been able to keep it going so far.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any other questions on Goal 7? Okay we'll move to Goal 8, Mike.

MR. MIKE CAHALL: Here I am. Good afternoon.

The ACCSP Action Plan is actually based on the ACCSP Strategic Plan. Coincidentally it expires at the same time that the Commission's plan does, and I believe our intention is to integrate the plans together as part of the upcoming strategic planning process.

Thus, this plan is slightly different in its depth than the Commission's plan was. But essentially it's a status quo plan. There aren't



any significant new efforts, in the sense that we're going to go out and discover something new or build something new. However, I want to bring just a couple of things to your attention.

In terms of our data warehousing, we're going to continue to improve on our data query interface, which you all will see shortly, and try to bring in additional, especially biological datasets. The Coordinating Council approved an additional FTE for us that should help to facilitate that process.

We're going to continue to work with our program partners to keep our standards current. As we've worked with them to bring in additional data, especially in the trip reporting arena, we've had to make some adjustments to the data standards, specifically to our coding schemes, to be able to better identify gears and those kinds of things.

We also will be working really hard. I think the single biggest focus of the program probably for the next year is going to be implementing for-hire reporting. We are working with the Mid-Atlantic and the South Atlantic Councils to complete modifications to our trip tool, in order to be able to accommodate their requirements.

As most of you are aware, the new reporting requirements for Mid-Atlantic go into effect in March of next year. Our expectation is that sometime after that the reporting requirements for the South Atlantic will go into effect. They are still very much involved in a planning process there, so we really don't have an effective date. Nonetheless, my expectation is that our system will be used to do the majority of the data collection in for-hire fisheries.

We'll be working to make sure that we're ready; that we have adequate infrastructure and information systems resources, and that our help desk is stood up and managed so that other systems can be adequately supported.

Beyond that ACCSP is going to continue pretty much status quo. We're about to give you a presentation that will give you a great deal more information about exactly what we're up to.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Thank you, Mike, any questions on Goal 8? Okay seeing none; I'm going to turn it over to our AOC Chair, to bring forward a motion that we made regarding the Action Plan.

**MR. GILMORE: I would like to move that we approve the 2018 Action Plan.**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: **It does not need a second, because it's a Committee motion. Is there any discussion on the motion? Seeing none; is there any objection to approving the motion? The motion is approved by unanimous consent.**

#### **ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Thank you very much to all of you for putting that together; and now I'm going to turn over the business session to our Executive Director, Bob Beal to conduct our elections.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: There is a little extra something in Doug's voice there turning over to a new election for a new Chair and Vice-Chair. The way we'll conduct the elections is, in a moment I'll call on Roy Miller, who's the Chair of the Nominating Committee to give the report from the Nominating Committee.

But just as a refresher, we will hand out ballots based on Roy's report, and it's on the ballot there is the individual that Roy is going to bring forward as nominee for Chair and for Vice-Chair, two separate ballots. There is a space for write-ins. That's part of the procedure that the Commission agreed on a number of years ago that we always have the opportunity for

members of the Commission to write in other candidates or other nominees if they so choose.

One vote per state, so each state will get a ballot. Please write your state's name and either the write-in vote or check the box for the individual that is being nominated by the Nominating Committee. With that Mr. Miller, would you provide the Nominating Committee report?

MR. ROY W. MILLER: It would be my pleasure. **On behalf of the Nominating Committee, which consisted of Robert Boyles, David Borden and myself.** I should note that both Robert and David are distinguished past Commission Chairs, so I feel we had an able-bodied committee. We polled the Commission members in our three respective regions, **and we have a name to recommend to you for Chairman of the Commission, and that is Jim Gilmore of New York.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Great thank you. Toni is passing out the ballots now for voting for; this is just for the Chairmanship. Toni collated them, so this is throwing her off. Just hand them both out. Let's hand them both out and we'll make it through. Make sure you fill out the Chairman one for the Chair, and the Vice-Chair for the Vice-Chair.

Pat is going to come around and follow Toni around and pick up the votes for Chairman at this time, and then Roy will count the ballots. If you're ready, he'll move along. Has everyone turned in the ballots for Chairman? Florida is absent. Mr. Miller, do you mind reporting the vote?

**MR. MILLER: It would be my pleasure. The vote was 14 in favor of Jim Gilmore. (Applause)**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Congratulations, Jim. Roy, are you willing to provide the nominating report for Vice Chair?

**MR. MILLER: I am. Once again it is my pleasure to recommend for your nomination Pat Keliher of Maine as Vice-Chair.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Thank you, Roy so same drill. You've got your ballots, please fill those out and hand them. Toni is collecting them and we'll have Roy count those up. Mr. Miller, can you present the results of the vote, please?

MR. MILLER: **We are, and I'm happy to report it is 14 to 0 for Pat Keliher.** Congratulations, Pat. (Applause)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Thank you and I look forward to working with both of you. It's not too early to start sucking up to the new bosses, so. Tom, one more and I'll get to you in a second. Doug, do you mind coming back up for a moment? On behalf of all the Commissioners and all the staff, Doug, we've got a crystal clock to thank you for your two years of leadership, actually four years if you include the Vice-Chair.

I personally loved working with you. You were always available, always provided great advice. We needed a lot of advice over the last couple years. Doug, I just want to thank you on behalf of everybody here for your two years of service. Thank you. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GROUT: All I want to say is I want to thank all of you for our support that you provided for Jim and I over these past two years. It has been a difficult couple of years, but we've moved through it and we are, I believe firmly that we are stronger for this, and will continue to move forward under the great leadership of Jim Gilmore. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Tom Fote, do you have a comment?

MR. FOTE: Yes, I found the procedure a little strange, and I would just like an explanation.

Usually when the Nominating Committee gives their recommendation, and then we basically accept the recommendation. Then we say is there any nominations from the floor. Now there is never any nomination from the floor, but I think procedurally that is the way I'm used to going through the years going on.

It just seems very strange the way we did it this time. Maybe just being me, but that's the way I've seen every election go in every other board and it's been previously the way it was done here. Nobody is going to volunteer from the floor, nobody ever does. But it should have been a format and usually the Treasurer casts the ballot.

The other thing that concerns me, and I looked and we've got three people from the north, and usually we used to alternate, trying north, south. I don't know the reason behind. Maybe I missed the meeting of the Executive Committee where you discussed this. I'm just curious what was going on. Maybe the other Commissioners that weren't at the Executive Committee have to know the reasons what's going on with this. I haven't been reached out to, and I think some of us haven't been reached out to find out what's going on.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Procedurally, this is the procedure that the Commission agreed to in 2009, so do the ballots, and have the write-in opportunity. The north/south rotation, I don't know if other folks will want to comment on it. But in the same procedures it's noted that the goal is to rotate north/south/mid, and we try to keep that as available as possible. But when the Nominating Committee talked to all the Commissioners up and down the coast, it appeared the best candidates were the ones that they brought forward this time. Dr. Rhodes.

DR. RHODES: Tom, to that point. The same, we've had that discussion, but we almost feel like there are three areas, and so we feel like

there is New England, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic, and we do have a Mid-Atlantic and a New England representative right now, so we've got two of the three areas, which is just the way it's going to work out. I think administratively with the Commissioners in the south. But we still feel like being from the south we don't feel like we are underrepresented, and that's speaking for myself, but I think it's a sentiment across the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: The other thing, Tom, is the Executive Committee did talk about elections this morning and the nominating process a little bit, as well as sort of who's eligible to become Vice-Chair and Chair of the Commission? Is it proxies, permanent proxies, ongoing proxies, just actual Commissioners, who is it? The Executive Committee is going to open up that process and look at the election. Stay tuned for that.

MR. FOTE: Yes, I mean the last time we had a Governors Appointee as a Vice-Chair was Bonnie Brown, and that's got to be 15 or 20 years ago. There are 45 Commissioners also.

#### RECESS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: That's a fair point. Is there anything else before the Business Session? All right seeing none the Business Session will be in recess until later tomorrow morning. I forget the time, eleven o'clock or so. We stand in recess right now.

(Whereupon the meeting recessed at 2:32 o'clock p.m. on October 18, 2017)

**ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES  
COMMISSION  
BUSINESS SESSION**

**Marriott Hotel Norfolk, Virginia**

**OCTOBER 19, 2017  
THURSDAY SESSION**

The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission reconvened in the Hampton Roads Ballroom V of the Marriott Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, October 19, 2017, and was called to order at 11:56 o'clock a.m. by Chairman James J. Gilmore.

**CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIRMAN JAMES J. GILMORE: Okay we're going to move right along, I'm going to invoke my George Lapointe and see if we can do this very quickly.

**CONSIDER FINAL APPROVAL OF NORTHERN  
SHRIMP AND TAUTOG AMENDMENTS**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: **We've got a couple of final approvals on amendments that were discussed and approved this week by the boards.** The first one is for northern shrimp, and the next one is for tautog. Do we have a motion for northern shrimp? Doug.

MR. DOUGLAS E. GROUT: **As soon as the motions are up on the board, I will make it for the Shrimp Section. The first motion is to move the Commission approve Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Interstate Fishery Management Plan.**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Okay, we have a motion by Doug Grout, is there a second to that motion? Eric Reid seconds the motion. Is there any discussion on the motion? **Is there any objection to the motion? Seeing none; the motion is approved by unanimous consent.**

MR. GROUT: Then I have a second motion that they will bring up, and this will need a second. **My motion is to move the Commission send a letter to NOAA Fisheries and the New England Fisheries Management Council regarding the requirement for size-sorting grates in Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan, and if I get a second I'll provide some justification.**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Do we have a second for that motion? John Clark. Okay Doug, the floor is yours.

MR. GROUT: The justification is that in our Amendment 3 we have additional size selection grates that are not currently in the groundfish plan. The northern shrimp fishery is allowed to occur under a groundfish plan exemption, which allows for a Nordmore Grate that helps get rid of bycatch of groundfish, get rid of it eliminate bycatch of groundfish species.

We're proposing new designs that could be used that would not only get rid of the bycatch of groundfish species, but also reduce the amount of juvenile shrimp that are caught in the shrimp net. That's going to take a change by NOAA Fisheries and the Council to their groundfish management plan to allow those.

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: **Any questions on that or discussion on that motion? Seeing none; is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; we will adopt that by unanimous consent.** Okay now we need a motion on the tautog amendment. Adam Nowalsky.

MR. ADAM NOWALSKY: **Prepared to make that motion on behalf of the Board, so we should not need a second. On behalf of the Tautog Management Board, move the Commission approve Amendment 1 to the Tautog Interstate Fishery Management Plan.**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Is there any discussion on this motion? **Is there any objection to this**

**motion? Seeing none; we will adopt that by unanimous consent.**

**REPORT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Okay moving right along, the next action item we have is from the Resolutions Committee, and we're going to have a report from Jay McNamee. Jay.

MR. JASON McNAMEE: Good afternoon everyone. We've developed a resolution for you to consider. But first I would like to thank the Resolution Committee. This resolution was a team effort between me, Pat Geer, Representative Sarah Peake, Tina helped us edit, and gave us some good comments.

We also had a special guest contribution from Dennis Abbott, who gave us some great language to include. We tried to capture some of the spirit and funny anecdotes from this past week, and we also wanted to make sure someone who is not able to be with us this week knows that we were thinking of her. With that I would like to offer a resolution for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Please proceed.

MR. McNAMEE: Whereas the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission celebrated its 76th Annual Meeting in beautiful downtown Norfolk, Virginia, which provided a wonderful setting for the Commissioners, Law Enforcement Officers, Commission staff, and Habitat Scientists to deliberate and discuss fisheries issues of mutual concern.

And whereas the opening plenary session was honored to have guest speaker, Dr. Roger Mann of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, present a talk titled Fishery Management and Moving Baselines; a stark, eye-opening look at climate change and its role in fisheries management, which reminded Commissioners and guests of the dynamic, exciting, and

challenging field that we have all chosen as our life's work, and that this field will be a work in progress for years to come, leading some of our colleagues to immediately leave the session to either phone their retirement boards or therapists.

And whereas Commissioners, staff and guests were warmly welcomed at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center reception; and treated to numerous local seafood dishes from the Chesapeake Bay, while being serenaded by whale songs and the relaxing visions of the live exhibits.

And whereas Jeff Beal received the Melissa Laser Award for his work and dedication to Florida's habitat restoration efforts, and whereas Commissioner and host, John Bull, took several opportunities at the podium to make comparisons of the Commonwealth to other states, bless his heart.

And whereas the Annual Dinner was held at the Half Moon Center, offering spectacular views of the Elizabeth River at sunset, while Commissioners and guests drank, ate and were merry to the wonderful sounds of a steel drum band, and whereas the 27th Annual David Hart Award recognized Paul Diodati, retired Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, for his long commitment to the Commission and his many accomplishments in the field of fisheries management both in Massachusetts and all along the Atlantic Coast.

And whereas 25 brave souls battled the ocean elements 15 miles off Virginia Beach on Sunday, to participate in the 26th Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament, guided by the able staff at VMRC and our host and sponsor Rudy Tours, Commissioners, staff and guest dropped their lines but held their lunches to retrieve a myriad of species such as black sea bass, triggerfish, summer flounder, at least one monster toadfish, and even a conger eel.

And whereas, speaking of our friend and colleague Laura Leach, who for the first time in 36 years was unable to attend the meeting, and whose absence was both duly noted and deeply felt by all participants. And whereas, her efforts along with her team at ASMFC, who picked up the ball and ran with it when their friend and colleague needed it most, contributed to another wonderful and successful meeting week.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission expresses its deep appreciation to the Virginia Commissioners, John Bull, Catherine Davenport, Senator Richard Stewart, their proxies, Kyle Schick, Joe Cimino, and Rob O'Reilly to the VMRC and Commission staff for their outstanding support and assistance in making the 76th Annual Meeting a great success, in that we the Commissioners wish Laura a continued successful recovery and we look forward to greeting her with a big hug when we meet again in Arlington, Virginia during the 2018 winter meeting.

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Thank you, Jay, very well said, and on behalf without objection I'll take that and a round of applause for our host. I've already asked John if he will help us plan next year when New York hosts, since he is such a great guy and very entertaining; so you did a wonderful job. I believe that's our last, unless there is other business before. Malcolm Rhodes.

DR. RHODES: I just had one quick question. We're having a South Atlantic Board after lunch today, or after this meeting. We'll probably be bringing forward an amendment for cobia. Since the Business Session will not meet, is there any way to address that prior to the winter meeting?

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Toni has an answer for you, Malcolm.

MS. KERNS: Well luck would have it, the Atlantic Menhaden Board will be meeting in November, and it's a coastwide Board with this full group of folks, so we can convene into a Business Session after that amendment goes through, fingers crossed, and both the menhaden amendment as well as the cobia amendment can be considered there.

DR. RHODES: Thank you.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Any other thing to come up before the Business Session? Seeing none; a motion to adjourn, by everyone. Thank you.

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 12:07 o'clock p.m. on October 19, 2017)

Draft Proceedings of the Business Session October 2017

**DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BUSINESS SESSION**

**The Marriott Norfolk Waterside  
Norfolk, Virginia  
October 17, 2017**

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Business Session  
The Board will review the minutes during its next meeting

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3. **Move the Commission approve Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Interstate Fishery Management Plan** (Page 15). Motion by Doug Grout; second by Eric Reid. Motion is approved by unanimous consent (Page 15).
4. **Move the Commission send a letter to NOAA Fisheries and the New England Fishery Management Council regarding the requirements for size-sorting grates in Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan** (Page 15). Motion by Doug Grout; second by John Clark. Motion carries by unanimous consent (Page 15).
5. **On behalf of the Tautog Management Board, move the Commission approve Amendment 1 to the Tautog Interstate Fishery Management Plan** (Page 15). Motion by Doug Grout; second by John Clark. Motion carries by unanimous consent (Page 15).
6. **Move to Adjourn** by consent (Page 17).

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Pat Keliher, ME (AA)	John Clark, DE, proxy for D. Saveikis (AA)
Dennis Abbott, NH, proxy for Sen. Watters (LA)	Craig Pugh, DE, proxy for Rep. Carson (LA)
Doug Grout, NH (AA)	David Blazer, MD (AA)
Ritchie White, NH (GA)	Rachel Dean, MD (GA)
Raymond Kane, MA (GA)	Ed O'Brien, MD, proxy for Del. Stein (LA)
David Pierce, MA (AA)	John Bull, VA (AA)
Eric Reid, RI, proxy for Sen. Sosnowski (LA)	Rob O'Reilly, VA, Administrative proxy
Jason McNamee, RI, proxy for J. Coit (AA)	Chris Batsavage, NC, proxy for B. Davis (AA)
David Borden, RI (GA)	David Bush, NC, proxy for Rep. Steinburg (LA)
Mark Alexander, CT (AA)	Robert Boyles, SC (AA)
James Gilmore, NY (AA)	Malcolm Rhodes, SC (GA)
Russ Allen, NJ, proxy for L. Herrighty (AA)	Spud Woodward, GA (AA)
Tom Fote, NJ (GA)	Pat Geer, GA, proxy for Rep. Nimmer (LA)
Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Asm. Andrzejczak (LA)	Jim Estes, FL, proxy for J. McCawley (AA)
Andy Shiels, PA, proxy for J. Arway (AA)	Sherry White, USFWS
Roy Miller, DE (GA)	Lindsay Fullenkamp, NMFS

**(AA = Administrative Appointee; GA = Governor Appointee; LA = Legislative Appointee)**

**Ex-Officio Members**

**Staff**

Bob Beal	Mark Robson
Toni Kerns	

**Guests**

Heather Corbett, NJ DFW	Jack McGovern, NMFS
Dan Crear, VIMS	Brandon Muffley, MAFMC
Michelle Duval, NC DMF	Derek Orner, NOAA
Lynn Fegley, MD DNR	Chris Wright, NMFS
Ryan Jiorle, VMRC	

The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Hampton Roads Ballroom V of the Marriott Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, October 18, 2017, and was called to order at 1:25 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Douglas E. Grout.

**CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIRMAN DOUGLAS E. GROUT: Good afternoon everybody, welcome to the Business Session; if you all could take your seat. Before we get into the agenda, John Bullard, the GARFO Regional Administrator, who as you know is retiring shortly; and this may be his last meeting, would like to say a few things to the Commission. John, I'll turn it over to you.

MR. JOHN K. BULLARD: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, I just have one page here. Hello all you all. Bless your heart. Five years ago I attended this meeting to introduce myself; so at this meeting it's time to say goodbye. The ASMFC has made incredible progress; thanks to Commissioner John Bull just in the last year.

You have found ways to introduce heat into the rooms in which we meet, and so people can make motions without having to wear gloves to do so. I've learned an awful lot. I think the first meeting I learned at high volume from Dr. Daniel about the shortcomings on our sturgeon policy; still don't have an eardrum.

But we have as we learned this morning, made an awful lot of progress in sturgeon, and progress in a lot of other areas as well. I really do value a lot of lessons that I've learned from attendance at these meetings. You all have made some very tough decisions around these tables. There was one; I think it was in Baltimore on menhaden.

But those tough decisions are necessary to rebuild fisheries. You've done that. Not just with menhaden. From my vantage point in the audience, I can listen to the debate and I can

see the looks around the table. I can see how you hold yourselves accountable, how you help each other resist the pressures that you have all felt at one time or another.

I see how you support each other to do what is right. It's a very valuable lesson for me and for all of us. I've enjoyed our partnership in this effort, working with you on tough issues like for example southern New England lobster with my grade school schoolmate David Borden, who lives across the river from me as we try to transition that industry from lobster to Jonah crab.

That's just one example of the partnership that we have with you. I've seen this partnership, this very important partnership get very sorely tested with summer flounder. My remarks in the Boston Globe several months ago got me in hot water with my bosses, so I don't think I should comment any more on that. You can go read it if you want. But Chairman Grout's comments last night at dinner, I think your remarks Mr. Chairman were right on the money. I'm glad you have a meeting set up with Secretary Ross. I fervently hope that this is a one-time occurrence, and everyone here will work to make that breakdown a singular exception. Because we face many challenges that will require our wonderful, decentralized system of managing fisheries work, we have a lot of challenges.

You all know them as well or better than I do. There are still issues with summer flounder, black sea bass, and other fisheries. There is the issue of climate change, which you have helped educate us, and the regional fishery management councils on. It's causing havoc in so many ways. The issue of allocations has to be faced.

The issue of forage fish has been mentioned here. Just this morning Bob Beal mentioned competing ocean uses. There are of course others. This partnership that we have is very

important. There are some “thank-you’s” that I want to offer, Mr. Chairman. It could take all day and I don’t want to.

But I do want to mention in particular on state directors. It was at a meeting we had with state directors out in San Diego that Paul Diodati, who was deservedly honored at lunch, said to leadership at NOAA Fisheries that we aren’t partners with state directors, state directors are our allies. That is a very good use of that term.

I’ve certainly felt that we are in the trenches with state directors. I’ve felt that and I’ve enjoyed the relationships that I’ve had with the state directors confronting problems in my region. As I’ve done that with each and every one of you, I’ve developed profound respect and become friends, maybe possible exception Commissioner Martin, bless his heart.

But in all seriousness, Russ, come on. I can’t start laughing now, Russ. The respect I have for you is so high for the jobs you do, the difficult jobs you do. Secondly, the staff at ASMFC, Bob, Toni and all of the team under ASMFC, wow, it’s every time it seems that we have a problem at NOAA Fisheries, where we need something done.

You know I pick up the phone and call Bob. You know if it’s distribution of disaster assistance; if it’s reimbursement for at-sea monitoring, if it’s help with fishery dependent data visioning with the partnership that we both have with ACCSP and Mike and his team. The professionalism, the dedication, the expertise, the passion, you know they’re an extension of our team.

It’s so wonderful to work with, you know this Mr. Chairman, but I want to tell you we know it too. It’s just a great team to work with, the staff here. Lastly, I want to say our team here at NOAA that I have the honor of working with. I was going to serve two years at NOAA Fisheries. If I were a carton of milk, I would be something you would stay very far away from,

well past my expiration date. But I’ve stayed because my staff is so fantastic.

The two Mikes, Mike Petney, Mike Ruccio, I’m going to leave people out but Peter Burns, Ali, Chip, Kelly, Lindsay, Lynn, Derrick, others who have been at this microphone. You’ve gotten to know them well, and I’m sorry that I’ve left some out. But there have been so many who’ve shown you their dedication and their passion for this job; their expertise, their knowledge. I never cease to be amazed. I go home every night my brain hurts just trying to keep up with them. I can’t possibly do that. But it is an honor for me to work alongside them. When I look up above me, at people like Sam Rauch, and the leaders there, I feel lucky to work for them. I think you’re in good hands as I look around the administration at our political leadership. Chris Oliver, you know we’ve drawn the long straw in a lot of people. Chris Oliver knows fisheries for decades and decades in both the Gulf of Mexico and in Alaska.

Admiral Gallaudet, who just started work this week, is going to be very, very good at NOAA. I think you’ll take the measure of Secretary Ross when you meet with him. But I think he’s a numbers guy, and we’re a numbers agency. I think he’s strong. I think we’ve got a strong team. I think we can hold our end of the partnership up.

With that Mr. Chairman, I do hope occasionally I’ll run into you all again. It’s been a real pleasure and an honor to work with you. We have such an important mission. I come from a seaport, New Bedford. I know the stakes and the difficulty, and the importance of our work; and I wish you the best as you carry on that most important mission. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Thank you very much, John. (Applause) John, I just want to recognize you and thank you for all that you have done to promote and support the partnership that we

have between the Commission and GARFO. I've seen many, many things that you've done over the years that you have supported our work, you've supported our communication, you've supported our co-management, and you have been an ally as we have tried to be an ally in your work. Thank you very much, John and good luck in your retirement. (Applause)

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Okay, we now have an agenda before you. Are there any changes to the Business Agenda? Seeing none; are there any objections to approving the agenda? It is approved by unanimous consent.

#### **APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: We also have proceedings from our May meeting. Are there any changes or edits to that May meeting minutes? Seeing none; is there any objection to approving the minutes? They are approved by unanimous consent.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: We also have an opportunity here for public comment for things that are not on the agenda. Is there anybody in the public or the audience that would like to speak on things not on the agenda?

#### **REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2018 ACTION PLAN**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Seeing none; we'll move into Review and Consider Approval of the 2018 Action Plan. Bob.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: Just all the staff up here we'll go through the individual sections. But a lot of times we present a budget associated with this action plan, and we don't have that together this year. But we have done the rough analysis, and it looks like we can afford everything that's in here. That is the good news.

The bad news is, if you want to add things in here, we probably need to do some horse trading and swap some things out. As the staff is running through it, if there are significant financial expenditures that need to be added, we're going to need to think about that a little bit how we can cover those expenses. With that I think Toni can go through Goal 1, if that's okay, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Sounds good, Toni.

MS. TONI KERNS: What I'm going to do is go through the bolded actions, and I think that's what all of us up here will be doing today. These are new items that we're going to be taking on. Other work is stuff that we have either started or is something that is consistent from year to year within the plan. I'll go to Goal 1, which is our ISFMP goal, and starting with American eel. We'll consider a management response to the 2017 assessment findings, which the Board heard earlier this week, and look to do a management document on allocations and quotas specific to the yellow and glass eel fisheries.

We'll also have the Technical Committee or some folks from the Technical Committee, not the full, evaluate the monitoring efforts to identify gaps and the value of existing surveys for assessment and management use. The American Lobster Board will finalize and implement Addendum XXVI; which is looking to improve harvester reporting and biological data collection in state and federal waters.

This will also apply to the Jonah crab fishery as well. We'll look at Addendum XXVII, which considers standardization of the management measures in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank stock, and develop a strategy for management of the southern New England stock that considers the record low abundance of the stock, and preserves a function of a portion of the fishery, acknowledging the

effects of climate change on the lobster resource.

The TC will initiate the 2020 benchmark stock assessment. While it's not in this document for Atlantic herring, we did task the TC to look into the efficacy of all of the management goals and objectives of the spawning closures, using the GSI forecasting system. For Atlantic menhaden, we will be initiating the 2019 benchmark stock assessment. For Atlantic sturgeon, we will monitor the state and federal activities in response to the Endangered Species Act listing of the Atlantic sturgeon, including the five-year-review status, which we heard about this morning.

In bluefish, we'll be collaborating with the Mid-Atlantic Council to initiate the development of an amendment that would address allocation in the bluefish fishery, as well as collaborate with the Council and the Science Center to complete an operational stock assessment pending the availability of the new MRIP program estimates, and then consider a management response to the assessment findings in conjunction with the Council.

For coastal sharks, we'll monitor the stock assessment results for sandbar and mako sharks, and provide a Technical Committee recommendation to those assessments, and then do a management response if we need some complementary management actions with HMS. Under shad and river herring, we'll be initiating the 2019 American shad benchmark stock assessment; and we'll be monitoring the activities of the ESA review of river herring.

We'll also review and update the American shad habitat plans as required by Amendment 3. For both Atlantic croaker and spot, we will be conducting the analysis to explore and potentially update the traffic-light analysis, which includes additional indices or age-

composition information as a possibility for inclusion.

Cobia, we will implement the cobia FMP and work with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, as well as NOAA Fisheries, to ensure complementary regulations between state and federal waters, if the Board approves a cobia FMP this week. We'll also collaborate with the SEDAR to conduct a stock identification workshop, in preparation for the 2019 benchmark stock assessment, which we will also initiate. For scup we will collaborate with NOAA Fisheries and the Science Center to finalize the 2018 operational assessment pending the availability of updated MRIP information, and then consider a management response as necessary. The same for black sea bass, and we will also, if made a priority by the Mid-Atlantic Council (and this will be discussed at the December meeting), collaborate with the Council to initiate a black sea bass amendment that would consider management of the entire fishery. Then for weakfish, I have a correction. It should say initiate the development of the 2019 stock assessment update.

We're going to do an update this year, but due to the MRIP data coming out in either the late summer or fall of this year, and because that assessment has such a reliance on recreational CPUE, we thought it best that we wait and get that information first and then do the update. For winter flounder, the Board will review the 2018 GARM stock assessment results for inshore winter flounder, and consider management response in coordination with the New England Fishery Management Council, as well as GARFO.

Then scrolling down into Section 1.2, we'll collaborate with NOAA Fisheries and the Secretary of Commerce, to ensure transparency and the integrity of the Atlantic Coastal Fishery Cooperative Management Act as provisions are preserved, including seeking opportunities to collaborate with NOAA Fisheries as it conducts

the ESA status reviews for sturgeon and river herring.

We will also take the next steps in response to the Commission's climate change white paper to address fisheries impacted by climate change; and we'll be discussing that later this week at the Policy Board. We will also work with NOAA leadership to better understand the impacts to state management programs; given the movement towards increased recreational flexibility.

We'll be seeking ways to address the concerns of the recreational community with regards to Commission managed and jointly managed species. As a part of this the Commission will assist in conducting and participate in the NOAA Fisheries 2018 National Recreational Summit. We will also respond to the new MRIP estimates as needed across all of our Commission managed species; and I will pass it off to Pat for Goal 2, Science. I'll take questions first.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Pat.

MR. PATRICK C. KELIHER: Toni, you made note of the herring issue from a budgetary perspective. If there was a need for an addendum are we going to be okay?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Pat, if it's only three hearings up in your neck of the woods that's not a real great expense; one trip up, a couple nights in a hotel. We can probably accommodate that no problem.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any other questions for Toni on Goal 1? Seeing none; Pat.

MR. PAT CAMPFIELD: Goal 2 covers the fisheries science research and stock assessment activities of the Commission. New activities include a collection of more spot age data; as well as pursuing improved sturgeon bycatch monitoring in state waters. Those were both

research recommendations that came out of stock assessments completed this year.

In terms of the overall stock assessment workload, it looks pretty heavy for 2018; including benchmark assessments for sea herring, horseshoe crab, northern shrimp, striped bass, and summer flounder as well as initiating a benchmark assessment for American shad. We will also conduct assessment updates for spiny dogfish, and initiate an update for weakfish. Tied to a few of those benchmarks, the Commission will organize and conduct peer reviews for the horseshoe crab, northern shrimp, and possibly the striped bass stock assessment.

We need to figure out if that's going to be an ASMFC or SARC review. Another new task is to develop a long term vision for scientific initiatives within the Commission's next five-year-strategic plan; and that is a task that will be spearheaded by the Management and Science Committee, and the Assessment Science Committee.

Moving down to Task 2.18, consult with the Assessment Science Committee on a red drum stock assessment guidance, and develop a road map for improving data collection and future assessment for the South Atlantic Board. Also, monitor the progress of cobia research projects, and contribute to the Stock ID workshop in preparation for that assessment in 2019.

We've also added a task to partner more closely with the U.S. geological survey; to identify shared priorities and opportunities for enhanced scientific support to the Commission. Much of the activities under NEMAP and SEAMAP are the same. Under fish aging activities, it's not bolded in this copy, but we will hold an aging workshop for American eel in 2018.

Under the Committee on Economics and Social Sciences, they will continue their work to

develop new ACCSP socioeconomic data standards, and that's already underway. We have also added a task to track progress and distribute information on Citizen Science initiatives, including through the South Atlantic Council, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, and other entities. Finally, under the Commission's Stock Assessment Training Program, we will hold trainings both at the introductory level and advanced stock assessment training in 2018.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any questions for Pat on Goal 2? David, thank you.

DR. DAVID PIERCE: Just a clarification on Task 2.3.4, track the progress and distribute information on Citizen Science Initiatives through those different groups. What is the thinking regarding these specific initiatives? Citizen Science Initiatives are something new that we're going to entertain? Explain a little bit as to why this task is in it if you would.

MR. CAMPFIELD: A couple of examples include, with GMRI they have a Snap a striper program, which is something that we've highlighted in Fisheries Focus. It's simply not for the Commission to initiate these fairly local programs, but to be a centralized place to understand what's going on up and down the coast, and explore their utility, either for technical processes, or to advise fishery management.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: John.

MR. JOHN CLARK: Pat, could you just expound a little bit on what the ACCSP Socioeconomic Data Standards are, and how those will be used in the upcoming addendums and amendments?

MR. CAMPFIELD: For starters, the program, and Mike feel free to jump in, but ACCSP has a very short list of standards that they developed way back in the late '90s, and although it continues to be a program priority, there are some socioeconomic data that have come into ACCSP,

but it's not at the same level as the catch and effort bycatch data. In order to promote more socioeconomic data coming in from the states and federal partners, we need to develop standards, and that's something that Shanna Madsen as our SESS Coordinator has worked with ACCSP to get that ball rolling this year. We hope to finish it this year; and part of the objective is to provide that baseline information to fishery management plans on different socioeconomic indicators. That's part of the longer goal.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any other questions on Goal 2; Goal 3, Toni?

MS. KERNS: Goal 3 is our promoting compliance within our fishery management plans, so Goal 3 looks at Activities of our Law Enforcement Committee, and there are fewer bolded tasks here, but still lots of great work going on from the Law Enforcement Committee, especially in response to any items that will come out of management boards.

But they will be evaluating the effectiveness of the commercial tagging programs and systems, and user compliance in particular with tautog. We won't initiate that tagging program until 2019, but we'll still be working with Law Enforcement to make sure that the program that we put together does not have any enforcement loopholes. I'll be reviewing and providing input on enforcement issues associated with the American eel or any other aquaculture programs and proposals; and that is it.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Questions on the Goal 3. Seeing none; Goal 4, Fish Habitat.

MS. KERNS: I'm going to tag team this with Pat. He'll cover the ACFHP portions of the habitat goal and I will do the Commission's Habitat Program. Habitat is actually currently meeting right now, and they will be publishing a Habitat



Management Series. They are still determining what that topic will be.

We will fill this in once they have made that decision later today. We will also be developing outreach materials on the benefits of habitat to fish productivity, for nontechnical audiences; and this is geared at stakeholders, the media, and the general public to be handed out at tradeshows and such. I'll pass it over to Pat.

MR. CAMPFIELD: Quickly on the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, just a few new activities. One to update their website, the second very large task, to conduct habitat mapping projects both in the Southeast and Northeast Regions. Finally, to take their species habitat matrix, this was currently in a journal publication format, and moved that to an online searchable format.

MS. KERNS: Then we'll be also identifying important fish habitats for Commission managed species, including information on a 2018 Habitat Management Series document that's called Important Fish Habitats. This is sort of taking all of what we currently call habitat areas of concern, HAPCs, in which the Habitat Committee is developing new language to address that topic, as directed by the Policy Board. Then we're going to put all of those, whatever the new term is, into one document for easy reference. That is all.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any questions on Goal 4? Seeing none; Goal 5, is that you, Tina?

MS. TINA BERGER: Goal 5 addresses our stakeholder and public support for the Commission and specifically our outreach initiatives. You'll see much of the content remains from last year as ongoing activities. New to this year is a focus on collaborating with NOAA Fisheries MRIP staff and communicating improvements and changes to the MRIP.

We will be publishing our 2017 Annual Report, continue to work with the science staff on

preparing and distributing assessment overviews and focal species for next year are herring, striped bass, horseshoe crab, northern shrimp, and summer flounder. We're going to explore this year doing some quarterly, topic driven webinars, to engage and inform the public about our current activities.

We'll focus each quarterly webinar in a different aspect of Commission programs for management, science, habitat, and data collection. I'll be working with the Commission staff to further improve our messaging and communication skills with media; as well as strengthening our ability to provide a written content that is accessible for nontechnical audiences. We will be updating our website early in the year to just improve functionality, and include new content on ACCSP, cobia, as well as a Fisheries Management 101 Page, and that's it for outreach.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Questions on Goal 5? Loren.

MR. LOREN W. LUSTIG: Thank you very much for the information just relayed to us about how we relate to the public; and how we can help them to understand more, ideally, what we are actually doing and why we're doing it. I was especially interested in the consideration regarding webinars.

I participated in some of those in Pennsylvania, with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and other agencies. I'm wondering if there is an opportunity here for us to reach out to high school or college science like classes, so that they can get a grasp on our role in changing environment.

For example, there is a program in Maryland called Grasses in Classes, where kids get involved in the production and planting of submerged aquatic vegetation. There is a program in Pennsylvania that encourages science students to raise trout; and release

them in our streams. Is there anything that we can do that would be similar to those two programs?

MR. BERGER: We do make an effort to go to various graduate and undergraduate programs and talk about the Commission and fisheries management in general. We have also increased our outreach to sportfishing clubs. In terms of reaching out to high school or science classes, specifically in terms of hands on stuff, we have not. But we could certainly talk about it at the staff level, and see where we could involve ourselves in those activities to a greater extent.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Other questions on this goal? David.

MR. DAVID E. BUSH, JR.: This relates to Goal 5, but may also be like 3.11 or 12. It has to do with specifically cohiba in this particular instance. But you're getting a lot more stakeholders that are doing their homework. They're hitting the books. They've trying to understand what's going on. Some of them may or may not be able to join the different committees and panels, and feel like you know they've done their homework and might have a different opinion. I know we can't chase every rabbit down every hole. But in instances where they've put substantial effort forth to do some research and would like some return answers on why or why not information may or may not be included. I think a good way to maybe strengthen that support, you know where we're going back home to our constituents or our stakeholders and they're like, well I sent it in and I didn't hear anything back.

It's now in public record and it may or may not go away. Is there a mechanism in which we could possibly, at least somewhat address what they're sending in, and make that visible to the folks around the table as well? A lot of the things that they've brought forward you may or may not have merit, and I wouldn't know that.

It would be probably a technical committee of some sort, or science committee that would be looking at it and seeing that okay this applies, this doesn't and here is why. But again, I'm just looking if there is a mechanism in place already that I'm not aware of that would help to answer those questions, and maybe put some of the ideas to rest that they have or say that they have merit and include them.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: David, if we get specifically asked something from a member of the public, you know we try to respond to that. I think it's almost a volume issue that we wrestle with in that we have tens of thousands or at least 10,000 comments on menhaden already. I don't know where Megan is; she's probably summarizing menhaden comments. But during public comment periods, I don't think we have the sort of bandwidth to respond to all the different things that come in, and those different comments.

But the sort of one-off letters that we get that asks us for specific actions or brings forward specific information. We try to respond to those as well as we can. The Technical folks don't necessarily have time to run each of those letters by a technical committee and those sorts of things. But we can definitely make as much of an effort as possible to respond to those letters; just we can't keep up with everything.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Toni.

MS. KERNS: In addition to that David, for assessments we do put an open call out to the public on providing data or working papers, and those do get addressed by the Committee, whether or not they get included and why they do or do not get included. That is another process, especially where a response will come back for someone that's done a lot of research and done their homework.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Further questions on this goal? Goal 6, is that you, Bob?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: I'll give it a shot. Goal 6 is the Legislative work that we do, Capitol Hill work that Deke and I handle with the assistance of many of your folks. A lot of it is ongoing activities that we do every year with reaching out to the Hill and then creating those relationships.

But there are a few specific new tasks this year, the first of which is Gulf of Maine lobster. There is some budget language in there, and some report language that does include some funds for Gulf of Maine lobster; look at some of the impacts and environmental changes. We've worked with Pat Keliher on that. We'll engage the Commissioners in the formulation of the Commission positions on legislative policies, including the Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization documents. There are a few versions out there right now on the House side. If there is a need, we can reach out to you all and then just solidify an ASMFC position if there is one. It's probably a little bit scattered up and down the coast.

Moving on to Task 6.4.3, the next suite of new tasks are reacting and responding to the Atlantic Coastal Act Provisions, and ensuring that transparency is maintained, and then the policy and funding issues. Obviously we communicate the funding priorities for the states, and it goes on to develop relationships with the Secretary of Commerce and Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

Meeting with the Secretary to talk Atlantic Coastal Act, which we're doing next week, and also talking again about the priorities for the Commission and the funding, including horseshoe crab survey that we've been able to fund the last couple of years, so that's good news. The bad news is it's not permanently part of the budget, so we have to go out there and make sure the dollars are available every year for the Horseshoe Crab Survey. Those are the highlights of our Capital Hill outreach

activities. I can answer any questions if there are any, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Malcolm.

DR. MALCOLM RHODES: Just one question. The Delaware Bay, is that specifically the Virginia Tech Survey?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Yes.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Tom Fote.

MR. THOMAS P. FOTE: It was always helpful when I went to a Congressional office to have as much information as I could; and the last year I was able and I went through and actually even state legislators. When Southwick's did the breakdown of recreational fishing by numbers, and every Congressional District, which they did in every state, it was very helpful to walk in with that economic breakdown.

I wish I had it for the commercial fishery, because it would have been really important, especially in New Jersey. But when you find out you've got 66,000 anglers in your district, even though you're in the middle of a state that's not even near the water, and made a big point. The old books we used to put together with all the fishery plans in it, the information on the species and things like that always made a nice presentation to give into the office with those types of sheets.

It would be nice if we had the same thing on the commercial side as we have on the recreational, because those numbers mean money to the Congressional Districts, but we also use it for the state legislature, because they know which congressional district they're in, they can see the breakdown of money to do that. That would be helpful also.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Tom, we can pull those together for you, you know any specific meetings you have let us know. We can pull

some information together. Deke and I usually bring sort of the state level economic impact data with us when we go up to the Hill; you know talking recreational impact, commercial impact. A number of jobs on the commercial side, a number of trips on the recreational side, those sorts of things, we haven't broken it down to individual districts. We usually have been talking at the state level. But we can break it down further if it's available.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Follow up, Tom?

MR. FOTE: Yes, it's already broken down. Southwick's put that all together, so they have it all over for all the states up and down the coast. I can get you that information if you need it.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Great, thank you.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Dave Pierce.

DR. PIERCE: Task 6.3.5, Engage Commissioners in the formulation of the Commission's position on federal legislative policy, including pending MSA Reauthorization legislation. When might that engagement occur? I mean there are some bills out there now being considered. Maybe we'll get something this time around.

There certainly is one notable suggestion regarding how to deal with recreational fisheries. The New England Council, maybe the other Council is taking a position on MRIP and how effective it is for monitoring recreational fisheries catch. I just suggest that our leadership needs to decide when we should weigh in on that particular legislation.

I suggest in particular when we should weigh in on that aspect of possible changes in the Magnuson Act, specific to how we manage recreational fisheries, because let's face it, when it comes to how they're managed, it really falls into the lap of ASMFC. The council's tend to be rather broad brushed. What should

be done in federal waters, and it's really what happens in state waters for the most part.

This has great implications. This particular legislation, this particular bill on recreational fisheries, potentially has some rather significant implications for how we do our business. Again, when the leadership, you feel it's necessary to weigh in, please take the initiative to have us do so.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Yes, I think we're getting close to that point, David. Like I said there are a few house versions that are swirling around right now. In talking with some of the staffers on the House side, it sounds like they're going to try to merge those different drafts into a single draft. I think once you get to that point it is probably a good opportunity for the Commission to chime in on what's there, so we can reach out to you once we see that.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any other questions on this goal? Seeing none; who is going to do finance? Okay, Bob.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Goal 7 is the Finance and Administration of the Commission. Most of these are things that we do every year. Not to say it's not a lot of work, it is a lot of work. But they are just the care and feeding to keep this whole business going. There are a couple new tasks buried in here. We're going to focus training for new staff on how to use some of our electronic tools, such as new data bases and software packages and other things that we have at the Commission, to make sure everybody is up to speed on those. We're looking at software packages to help digitize some of our accounting procedures and billing processes, and contracts database to track all the details of the multiple contracts.

As we have more and more of these cooperative agreements with NOAA Fisheries, we end up with more and more projects and tracking all those is getting more and more

cumbersome each year. We're going to develop a database to make that much more efficient. We're going to do a training workshop for staff on meeting facilitation to help enhance committee productivity and performance.

We're considering engaging an outside consultant to work on staff culture, and looking at better ways to do performance reviews and feedback to staff throughout the year. We do once a year performance reviews right now, and a lot of businesses and agencies are getting away from that and doing different ways to evaluate performance.

We're going to look into that and see if there is a better way to do that for the Commission, and then at the very end 7.6 is a new strategic plan. Our current plan goes through the end of next calendar year, so during next calendar year we need to develop the next five-year plan. It would be 2019 to 2023.

The Executive Committee talked about this briefly this morning, and the course that they are suggesting that you take is have a couple hours at the February meeting to have all the Commissioners brainstorm on where we are with our current strategic plan. Do we need to just trash what we have and start all over and blow the things up; or is it just some minor course corrections and tweaks that we need?

I think the major tasks that we've already talked about so far are fundamental to what we do, fish management, fish science outreach and Congressional outreach, habitat, Law Enforcement, et cetera. I think those pieces of the strategic plan are set, but what other things do the Commissioners want to change and we'll explore that in a workshop in February, and then based on the outcome of that workshop, we'll decide what the course is for the remainder of the year for the strategic plan. That's Goal 7, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Jim Gilmore.

MR. JAMES J. GILMORE: Robert Boyles had a good suggestion this morning for our meeting efficiency, and maybe bringing our parliamentarian back in to give us some education. Is that going to be on the budget for 2018, or are we going to have to kick that down the road until 2019?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: We can probably afford to bring Colette in for a half day or something. A refresher for Commissioners on meeting efficiency, I guess is what you guys were looking for this morning. We can probably do that. Some of this budget is a little bit uncertain. We don't know exactly what we're going to get from Congress, and we're going to have some rollover dollars from this year to next. The one thing I should have said at the outset about the budget is we adjusted the overhead rate for the Atlantic Coastal Act. We actually reduced the overhead taken out by the Commission. Our ability to afford to conduct all these activities does relate back to the fact that we reduced overhead and we had a few more dollars available for programmatic activities than we have in the past. Everything keeps getting more expensive, but we've been able to keep it going so far.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Are there any other questions on Goal 7? Okay we'll move to Goal 8, Mike.

MR. MIKE CAHALL: Here I am. Good afternoon.

The ACCSP Action Plan is actually based on the ACCSP Strategic Plan. Coincidentally it expires at the same time that the Commission's plan does, and I believe our intention is to integrate the plans together as part of the upcoming strategic planning process.

Thus, this plan is slightly different in its depth than the Commission's plan was. But essentially it's a status quo plan. There aren't

any significant new efforts, in the sense that we're going to go out and discover something new or build something new. However, I want to bring just a couple of things to your attention.

In terms of our data warehousing, we're going to continue to improve on our data query interface, which you all will see shortly, and try to bring in additional, especially biological datasets. The Coordinating Council approved an additional FTE for us that should help to facilitate that process.

We're going to continue to work with our program partners to keep our standards current. As we've worked with them to bring in additional data, especially in the trip reporting arena, we've had to make some adjustments to the data standards, specifically to our coding schemes, to be able to better identify gears and those kinds of things.

We also will be working really hard. I think the single biggest focus of the program probably for the next year is going to be implementing for-hire reporting. We are working with the Mid-Atlantic and the South Atlantic Councils to complete modifications to our trip tool, in order to be able to accommodate their requirements.

As most of you are aware, the new reporting requirements for Mid-Atlantic go into effect in March of next year. Our expectation is that sometime after that the reporting requirements for the South Atlantic will go into effect. They are still very much involved in a planning process there, so we really don't have an effective date. Nonetheless, my expectation is that our system will be used to do the majority of the data collection in for-hire fisheries.

We'll be working to make sure that we're ready; that we have adequate infrastructure and information systems resources, and that our help desk is stood up and managed so that other systems can be adequately supported.

Beyond that ACCSP is going to continue pretty much status quo. We're about to give you a presentation that will give you a great deal more information about exactly what we're up to.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Thank you, Mike, any questions on Goal 8? Okay seeing none; I'm going to turn it over to our AOC Chair, to bring forward a motion that we made regarding the Action Plan.

**MR. GILMORE: I would like to move that we approve the 2018 Action Plan.**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: **It does not need a second, because it's a Committee motion. Is there any discussion on the motion? Seeing none; is there any objection to approving the motion? The motion is approved by unanimous consent.**

#### **ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Thank you very much to all of you for putting that together; and now I'm going to turn over the business session to our Executive Director, Bob Beal to conduct our elections.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: There is a little extra something in Doug's voice there turning over to a new election for a new Chair and Vice-Chair. The way we'll conduct the elections is, in a moment I'll call on Roy Miller, who's the Chair of the Nominating Committee to give the report from the Nominating Committee.

But just as a refresher, we will hand out ballots based on Roy's report, and it's on the ballot there is the individual that Roy is going to bring forward as nominee for Chair and for Vice-Chair, two separate ballots. There is a space for write-ins. That's part of the procedure that the Commission agreed on a number of years ago that we always have the opportunity for

members of the Commission to write in other candidates or other nominees if they so choose.

One vote per state, so each state will get a ballot. Please write your state's name and either the write-in vote or check the box for the individual that is being nominated by the Nominating Committee. With that Mr. Miller, would you provide the Nominating Committee report?

MR. ROY W. MILLER: It would be my pleasure. **On behalf of the Nominating Committee, which consisted of Robert Boyles, David Borden and myself.** I should note that both Robert and David are distinguished past Commission Chairs, so I feel we had an able-bodied committee. We polled the Commission members in our three respective regions, **and we have a name to recommend to you for Chairman of the Commission, and that is Jim Gilmore of New York.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Great thank you. Toni is passing out the ballots now for voting for; this is just for the Chairmanship. Toni collated them, so this is throwing her off. Just hand them both out. Let's hand them both out and we'll make it through. Make sure you fill out the Chairman one for the Chair, and the Vice-Chair for the Vice-Chair.

Pat is going to come around and follow Toni around and pick up the votes for Chairman at this time, and then Roy will count the ballots. If you're ready, he'll move along. Has everyone turned in the ballots for Chairman? Florida is absent. Mr. Miller, do you mind reporting the vote?

**MR. MILLER: It would be my pleasure. The vote was 14 in favor of Jim Gilmore. (Applause)**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Congratulations, Jim. Roy, are you willing to provide the nominating report for Vice Chair?

**MR. MILLER: I am. Once again it is my pleasure to recommend for your nomination Pat Keliher of Maine as Vice-Chair.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Thank you, Roy so same drill. You've got your ballots, please fill those out and hand them. Toni is collecting them and we'll have Roy count those up. Mr. Miller, can you present the results of the vote, please?

MR. MILLER: **We are, and I'm happy to report it is 14 to 0 for Pat Keliher.** Congratulations, Pat. (Applause)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Thank you and I look forward to working with both of you. It's not too early to start sucking up to the new bosses, so. Tom, one more and I'll get to you in a second. Doug, do you mind coming back up for a moment? On behalf of all the Commissioners and all the staff, Doug, we've got a crystal clock to thank you for your two years of leadership, actually four years if you include the Vice-Chair.

I personally loved working with you. You were always available, always provided great advice. We needed a lot of advice over the last couple years. Doug, I just want to thank you on behalf of everybody here for your two years of service. Thank you. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GROUT: All I want to say is I want to thank all of you for our support that you provided for Jim and I over these past two years. It has been a difficult couple of years, but we've moved through it and we are, I believe firmly that we are stronger for this, and will continue to move forward under the great leadership of Jim Gilmore. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Tom Fote, do you have a comment?

MR. FOTE: Yes, I found the procedure a little strange, and I would just like an explanation.

Usually when the Nominating Committee gives their recommendation, and then we basically accept the recommendation. Then we say is there any nominations from the floor. Now there is never any nomination from the floor, but I think procedurally that is the way I'm used to going through the years going on.

It just seems very strange the way we did it this time. Maybe just being me, but that's the way I've seen every election go in every other board and it's been previously the way it was done here. Nobody is going to volunteer from the floor, nobody ever does. But it should have been a format and usually the Treasurer casts the ballot.

The other thing that concerns me, and I looked and we've got three people from the north, and usually we used to alternate, trying north, south. I don't know the reason behind. Maybe I missed the meeting of the Executive Committee where you discussed this. I'm just curious what was going on. Maybe the other Commissioners that weren't at the Executive Committee have to know the reasons what's going on with this. I haven't been reached out to, and I think some of us haven't been reached out to find out what's going on.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Procedurally, this is the procedure that the Commission agreed to in 2009, so do the ballots, and have the write-in opportunity. The north/south rotation, I don't know if other folks will want to comment on it. But in the same procedures it's noted that the goal is to rotate north/south/mid, and we try to keep that as available as possible. But when the Nominating Committee talked to all the Commissioners up and down the coast, it appeared the best candidates were the ones that they brought forward this time. Dr. Rhodes.

DR. RHODES: Tom, to that point. The same, we've had that discussion, but we almost feel like there are three areas, and so we feel like

there is New England, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic, and we do have a Mid-Atlantic and a New England representative right now, so we've got two of the three areas, which is just the way it's going to work out. I think administratively with the Commissioners in the south. But we still feel like being from the south we don't feel like we are underrepresented, and that's speaking for myself, but I think it's a sentiment across the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: The other thing, Tom, is the Executive Committee did talk about elections this morning and the nominating process a little bit, as well as sort of who's eligible to become Vice-Chair and Chair of the Commission? Is it proxies, permanent proxies, ongoing proxies, just actual Commissioners, who is it? The Executive Committee is going to open up that process and look at the election. Stay tuned for that.

MR. FOTE: Yes, I mean the last time we had a Governors Appointee as a Vice-Chair was Bonnie Brown, and that's got to be 15 or 20 years ago. There are 45 Commissioners also.

#### RECESS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: That's a fair point. Is there anything else before the Business Session? All right seeing none the Business Session will be in recess until later tomorrow morning. I forget the time, eleven o'clock or so. We stand in recess right now.

(Whereupon the meeting recessed at 2:32 o'clock p.m. on October 18, 2017)



**ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES  
COMMISSION  
BUSINESS SESSION**

**Marriott Hotel Norfolk, Virginia**

**OCTOBER 19, 2017  
THURSDAY SESSION**

The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission reconvened in the Hampton Roads Ballroom V of the Marriott Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, October 19, 2017, and was called to order at 11:56 o'clock a.m. by Chairman James J. Gilmore.

**CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIRMAN JAMES J. GILMORE: Okay we're going to move right along, I'm going to invoke my George Lapointe and see if we can do this very quickly.

**CONSIDER FINAL APPROVAL OF NORTHERN SHRIMP AND TAUTOG AMENDMENTS**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: **We've got a couple of final approvals on amendments that were discussed and approved this week by the boards.** The first one is for northern shrimp, and the next one is for tautog. Do we have a motion for northern shrimp? Doug.

MR. DOUGLAS E. GROUT: **As soon as the motions are up on the board, I will make it for the Shrimp Section. The first motion is to move the Commission approve Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Interstate Fishery Management Plan.**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Okay, we have a motion by Doug Grout, is there a second to that motion? Eric Reid seconds the motion. Is there any discussion on the motion? **Is there any objection to the motion? Seeing none; the motion is approved by unanimous consent.**

MR. GROUT: Then I have a second motion that they will bring up, and this will need a second. **My motion is to move the Commission send a letter to NOAA Fisheries and the New England Fisheries Management Council regarding the requirement for size-sorting grates in Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan, and if I get a second I'll provide some justification.**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Do we have a second for that motion? John Clark. Okay Doug, the floor is yours.

MR. GROUT: The justification is that in our Amendment 3 we have additional size selection grates that are not currently in the groundfish plan. The northern shrimp fishery is allowed to occur under a groundfish plan exemption, which allows for a Nordmore Grate that helps get rid of bycatch of groundfish, get rid of it eliminate bycatch of groundfish species.

We're proposing new designs that could be used that would not only get rid of the bycatch of groundfish species, but also reduce the amount of juvenile shrimp that are caught in the shrimp net. That's going to take a change by NOAA Fisheries and the Council to their groundfish management plan to allow those.

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: **Any questions on that or discussion on that motion? Seeing none; is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; we will adopt that by unanimous consent.** Okay now we need a motion on the tautog amendment. Adam Nowalsky.

MR. ADAM NOWALSKY: **Prepared to make that motion on behalf of the Board, so we should not need a second. On behalf of the Tautog Management Board, move the Commission approve Amendment 1 to the Tautog Interstate Fishery Management Plan.**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Is there any discussion on this motion? **Is there any objection to this**

**motion? Seeing none; we will adopt that by unanimous consent.**

**REPORT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Okay moving right along, the next action item we have is from the Resolutions Committee, and we're going to have a report from Jay McNamee. Jay.

MR. JASON McNAMEE: Good afternoon everyone. We've developed a resolution for you to consider. But first I would like to thank the Resolution Committee. This resolution was a team effort between me, Pat Geer, Representative Sarah Peake, Tina helped us edit, and gave us some good comments.

We also had a special guest contribution from Dennis Abbott, who gave us some great language to include. We tried to capture some of the spirit and funny anecdotes from this past week, and we also wanted to make sure someone who is not able to be with us this week knows that we were thinking of her. With that I would like to offer a resolution for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Please proceed.

MR. McNAMEE: Whereas the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission celebrated its 76th Annual Meeting in beautiful downtown Norfolk, Virginia, which provided a wonderful setting for the Commissioners, Law Enforcement Officers, Commission staff, and Habitat Scientists to deliberate and discuss fisheries issues of mutual concern.

And whereas the opening plenary session was honored to have guest speaker, Dr. Roger Mann of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, present a talk titled Fishery Management and Moving Baselines; a stark, eye-opening look at climate change and its role in fisheries management, which reminded Commissioners and guests of the dynamic, exciting, and

challenging field that we have all chosen as our life's work, and that this field will be a work in progress for years to come, leading some of our colleagues to immediately leave the session to either phone their retirement boards or therapists.

And whereas Commissioners, staff and guests were warmly welcomed at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center reception; and treated to numerous local seafood dishes from the Chesapeake Bay, while being serenaded by whale songs and the relaxing visions of the live exhibits.

And whereas Jeff Beal received the Melissa Laser Award for his work and dedication to Florida's habitat restoration efforts, and whereas Commissioner and host, John Bull, took several opportunities at the podium to make comparisons of the Commonwealth to other states, bless his heart.

And whereas the Annual Dinner was held at the Half Moon Center, offering spectacular views of the Elizabeth River at sunset, while Commissioners and guests drank, ate and were merry to the wonderful sounds of a steel drum band, and whereas the 27th Annual David Hart Award recognized Paul Diodati, retired Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, for his long commitment to the Commission and his many accomplishments in the field of fisheries management both in Massachusetts and all along the Atlantic Coast.

And whereas 25 brave souls battled the ocean elements 15 miles off Virginia Beach on Sunday, to participate in the 26th Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament, guided by the able staff at VMRC and our host and sponsor Rudy Tours, Commissioners, staff and guest dropped their lines but held their lunches to retrieve a myriad of species such as black sea bass, triggerfish, summer flounder, at least one monster toadfish, and even a conger eel.

And whereas, speaking of our friend and colleague Laura Leach, who for the first time in 36 years was unable to attend the meeting, and whose absence was both duly noted and deeply felt by all participants. And whereas, her efforts along with her team at ASMFC, who picked up the ball and ran with it when their friend and colleague needed it most, contributed to another wonderful and successful meeting week.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission expresses its deep appreciation to the Virginia Commissioners, John Bull, Catherine Davenport, Senator Richard Stewart, their proxies, Kyle Schick, Joe Cimino, and Rob O'Reilly to the VMRC and Commission staff for their outstanding support and assistance in making the 76th Annual Meeting a great success, in that we the Commissioners wish Laura a continued successful recovery and we look forward to greeting her with a big hug when we meet again in Arlington, Virginia during the 2018 winter meeting.

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Thank you, Jay, very well said, and on behalf without objection I'll take that and a round of applause for our host. I've already asked John if he will help us plan next year when New York hosts, since he is such a great guy and very entertaining; so you did a wonderful job. I believe that's our last, unless there is other business before. Malcolm Rhodes.

DR. RHODES: I just had one quick question. We're having a South Atlantic Board after lunch today, or after this meeting. We'll probably be bringing forward an amendment for cobia. Since the Business Session will not meet, is there any way to address that prior to the winter meeting?

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Toni has an answer for you, Malcolm.

MS. KERNS: Well luck would have it, the Atlantic Menhaden Board will be meeting in November, and it's a coastwide Board with this full group of folks, so we can convene into a Business Session after that amendment goes through, fingers crossed, and both the menhaden amendment as well as the cobia amendment can be considered there.

DR. RHODES: Thank you.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

CHAIRMAN GILMORE: Any other thing to come up before the Business Session? Seeing none; a motion to adjourn, by everyone. Thank you.

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 12:07 o'clock p.m. on October 19, 2017)