

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Business Session

*October 24, 2012
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Draft Agenda

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

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Welcome; Introductions (<i>P. Diodati</i>) | 5:00 pm |
| 2. | Board Consent (<i>P. Diodati</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of Agenda• Approval of Proceedings from May 2012 | 5:00 pm |
| 3. | Public Comment | 5:05 pm |
| 5. | Review and Consider Approval of the 2012 ASMFC Action Plan
Action | 5:10 pm |
| 6. | Elect Commission Chair Action | 5:45 pm |
| 7. | Elect Commission Vice-Chair Action | 5:55 pm |
| 8. | Other Business/Adjourn | 6:00 pm |

The meeting will be held at the [Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel](#), 220 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 215.735.6000

Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Business Session

*October 25, 2012
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Draft Agenda

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

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Welcome; Introductions (<i>P. Diodati</i>) | 3:45 pm |
| 2. | Board Consent (<i>P. Diodati</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of Agenda | 3:45 pm |
| 3. | Public comment | 3:45 pm |
| 4. | Review Noncompliance Recommendations (if necessary) | 3:50 pm |
| 5. | Report from the Resolutions Committee | 3:55 pm |
| 6. | Other Business/Adjourn | 4:00 pm |

The meeting will be held at the [Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel](#), 220 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 215.735.6000

Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

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

**Crowne Plaza Hotel - Old Town
Alexandria, Virginia
May 3, 2012**

**These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Commissioners
during their next Business Session**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Call to Order, Chairman Louis Daniel	1
Approval of Proceedings, November 9, 2011	1
Adjournment	1

INDEX OF MOTIONS

1. **Approval of Agenda** by consent (Page 1).
2. **Adjourn** by consent (Page 1).

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Terry Stockwell, ME, proxy for P. Keliher (AA)	Loren Lustig, PA (GA)
Douglas Grout (AA)	Gene Kray, PA, proxy for Rep. Schroder (LA)
Dennis Abbott, NH proxy for Rep Watters (LA)	Roy Miller, DE (GA)
Ritchie White, NH (GA)	David Saveikis, DE (AA)
Paul Diodati, MA (AA)	William Goldsborough, MD (GA)
William Adler, MA (GA)	Tom O'Connell, MD (AA)
Bob Ballou, RI (AA)	Jack Travelstead, VA proxy for S. Bowman (AA)
Rick Bellavance, RI, proxy for Rep. Martin (LA)	Cathy Davenport, VA (GA)
Bill McElroy, RI (GA)	Louis Daniel, NC (AA)
David Simpson, CT (AA)	John Frampton, SC (AA)
James Gilmore, NY (AA)	Robert Boyles, Jr., SC (LA)
Pat Augustine, NY (GA)	John Duren, GA (GA)
Brian Culhane, NY, proxy for Sen. Johnson (LA)	Patrick Geer, GA, proxy for S. Woodward (AA)
Tom McCloy, NJ, proxy for D. Chanda (AA)	Aaron Podey, FL (AA)
Tom Fote, NJ (GA)	A.C. Carpenter, PRFC
Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Asm. Albano (LA)	Jaime Geiger, USFWS
Leroy Young, PA, proxy for J. Arway (AA)	Steve Meyers, NOAA

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

Ex-Officio Members

Staff

Vince O'Shea	Meredith Wilson
Bob Beal	Pat Campfield
Danielle Chesky	Kate Taylor
Melissa Paine	Genny Nesslage
Tina Berger	Toni Kerns
Katie Drew	Mark Robson
Chris Vonderweidt	

Guests

John Clark, DE DFW	Forbes Darby, NMFS
Stewart Michels, DE DFW	Gordon Colvin, NOAA
David Pierce, MA DMF	Russ Allen, NJ DFW
Peter Burns, NMFS	Charles Lynch, NOAA
Bob Ross, NMFS	Wilson Laney, US FWS
Dick Brame, CCA	Michelle Duval, NC DMF
Peter Himchak, NJ DFW	Don Stauffer, Ocean City, MD
Leah Sharpe, NMFS	

**These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Commissioners
during their next Business Session**

The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Presidential Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia, May 3, 2012, and was called to order at 11:20 o'clock a.m. by Vice-Chairman Louis Daniel.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRMAN LOUIS DANIEL: We'll call to order the business session just to let you know there is nothing on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS

We have the proceedings from our last meeting; and if there is no objection we will approve those minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Unless there is other business to come before the business session, I'll adjourn that one, too.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 o'clock a.m., May 3, 2012.)

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

PROPOSED 2013 ACTION PLAN

FOR REVIEW BY THE FULL COMMISSION 10/24/12
FOR ACTION BY THE FULL COMMISSION 10/25/12

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE TASKS THROUGHOUT THE ACTION PLAN WHICH ARE BOLDED. **BOLDED** TASKS INDICATE THAT THE TASK IS NEW, OR IS SIGNIFICANT DUE TO URGENCY, WORKLOAD IMPACT, FISCAL IMPACT OR HIGH VISIBILITY.



HEALTHY, SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATIONS FOR ALL ATLANTIC COAST FISH SPECIES OR
SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION WELL IN PROGRESS BY THE YEAR 2015

GOAL 1 REBUILD AND RESTORE DEPLETED ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES, AND MAINTAIN AND FAIRLY ALLOCATE RECOVERED FISHERIES THROUGH COOPERATIVE REGULATORY PLANNING.

This goal focuses on the responsibility of the states to conserve and manage the Atlantic coastal fishery resources for sustainable use. States will develop fisheries management programs that account for ecological interactions, bycatch, habitat quality, and socioeconomic concerns. Effective conservation and management of fishery resources must be achieved within the human and fiscal resources of the states. Cooperation and coordination with the federal government and stakeholders can streamline the fisheries management process. Actively involving partners into the process can increase efficiency, transparency, and, ultimately, success. In the next five years, the Commission is committed to making significant progress on rebuilding overfished or depleted Atlantic fish stocks.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

1.1 Develop and implement new fishery management plans, amendments, and addenda in a timely manner to address the conservation and management needs of Atlantic coastal fishery populations.

Task 1.1.1 – American Eel: Complete Addendum III in response to 2012 benchmark stock assessment and peer review results. Maintain communication with Canadian Working Group to monitor progress on Canadian stock assessment. Explore strategy to complete of Memorandum of Understanding on management and scientific collaboration with Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Work with Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) on monitoring poaching and illegal sale of glass eels (see Task 3.3.1). Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Monitor action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the petition to list American eel under the Endangered Species Act and follow activities on CITES.

Task 1.1.2 – American Lobster: Monitor implementation of Addenda XVII, XVIII and XIX to establish measures to rebuild the SNE stock. Complete Addendum XX to establish measures for transferability in Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMA) 2 and 3. Develop an Addendum to adjust the fishery effort to the size of the resource in LCMAs 4, 5, and 6. Explore long-term funding options for fishery independent and dependent data collection.

Populate and initiate the use of the lobster database to track trap tag transfers.

Continue to work with federal government to ensure consistency between regulations in state and federal waters. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Update lobster database with landings information and monitor landings patterns in both the trap and non-trap fisheries. Initiate data and assessment workshops in preparation for the 2014 stock assessment.

Continue to monitor progress towards implementing more complete catch reporting as recommended by the 2009 Stock Assessment Peer Review Panel.

Task 1.1.3 – Atlantic Menhaden: Review state compliance with implementation of Amendment 2. Monitor landings for the 2013 fishing year. Continue to work with Technical Committee and Multispecies Technical Committee to examine ecosystem-based reference points that account for predation effects (see task 2.6.1)

Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Secure adequate assessment expertise and initiate data compilation and modeling efforts to support a 2014 benchmark stock assessment and peer review.

Task 1.1.4 – Atlantic Striped Bass: Complete benchmark stock assessment and peer review in July 2013 through SARC 57 and consider initiation of an Addendum to respond to assessment finding. Continue consideration of natural mortality associated with mycobacteriosis. Review and evaluate alternative approaches for evaluating conservation equivalency. Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of Addendum III, state commercial fishery tagging requirements (see task 3.2.5). Explore options to implement monitoring of wave 1 recreational harvest in the mid-Atlantic region.

Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance, including review of any alternative management proposals implemented in 2011.

Review 2012 law enforcement efforts, results, and interagency cooperation regarding the illegal harvest of striped bass in state and federal waters.

Task 1.1.5 – Atlantic Sturgeon: Develop and submit a petition to NOAA Fisheries to downlist or delist Atlantic sturgeon. Initiate the development of a benchmark stock assessment and peer review to be completed in 2014, including discussions/analysis on genetics and bycatch. Monitor state and federal activities in response to ESA listing of Atlantic sturgeon, including review of biological opinions and critical habitat designations. Continue working with USFWS and Canadian representatives to ensure harvest of sturgeon on the Saint John River is consistent with CITES requirements.

Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.1.6 – Black Drum: Complete development and initiate implementation of an Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Black Drum. Provide flexibility to respond to benchmark assessment and peer review results when available.

Hold data and assessment workshops to continue development of a coast wide benchmark stock assessment.

Task 1.1.7 – Northern Shrimp: Implement Addendum I to the FMP and continue development of an addendum to consider limited entry in the northern shrimp fishery. Establish specifications for the

2013/2014 season. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Complete benchmark stock assessment in December 2013 through SARC 58 peer review.

Task 1.1.8 – Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

Summer Flounder: Work in collaboration with NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) to complete a benchmark stock assessment and peer review in July 2013 through SARC 57.

Finalize regulations for 2013 recreational fishery. In collaboration with the MAFMC, review established 2014 specification to determine if any changes are necessary. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Scup: Collaborate with MAFMC to develop an amendment to address recreational/commercial allocation as well as commercial winter/summer allocation in the scup fishery considering the results of the completed economic study. Work in collaboration with NMFS NEFSC to update stock assessment or stock projections.

Finalize regulations for 2013 recreational fishery. In collaboration with the MAFMC, review established 2014 specification to determine if any changes are necessary. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Black Sea Bass: Develop an addendum to address allocation in the black sea bass recreational fishery for 2013. Collaborate with MAFMC to develop an addendum/amendment to address recreational allocation for 2014 and later. Work in collaboration with NMFS NEFSC to update stock assessment or stock projections.

Finalize regulations for 2013 recreational fishery. In collaboration with the MAFMC, establish the specifications for 2014. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

1.2 *Determine status and monitor progress of interstate fisheries conservation and management programs.*

Task 1.2.1 – Atlantic Croaker: Develop Addendum to consider alternative trigger mechanisms for croaker management. Complete annual update of assessment triggers to determine if a coastwide assessment and/or management changes are needed. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.2 – Atlantic Herring: Finalize 2013-2015 specifications and review 2014 specification to determine if any changes are necessary. Monitor activities of the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) in response to the legal decision regarding small mesh bycatch. Hold meetings as necessary to establish state effort

control (days-out) programs for Areas 1A and 1B. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Implement measures included in Addendum II, spawning provisions. Consider Addendum to establish and/or modify spawn area closures, including Nantucket Shoals Spawning Area.

Task 1.2.3 – Bluefish: Work in collaboration with NMFS NEFSC to update stock assessment or stock projections and initiate work on a benchmark stock assessment and peer review in June 2014 through SARC 59. Review established specifications for 2014 and determine if changes are necessary in cooperation with the MAFMC. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.4 – Horseshoe Crab: Implement Addendum VII to incorporate Adaptive Resource Management Model (ARM) framework and quota allocation methodology. Complete development of best management practices to reduce mortality associated with biomedical bleeding (possibly implement through addendum). Develop white paper on conch/whelk fisheries impacts on horseshoe crab bait industry and market.

Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance for both the bait and biomedical industries.

Engage federal management agencies, the biomedical community, and shorebird advocacy groups to secure funding to support continuation of the Horseshoe Crab Benthic Trawl Survey in 2014. Continue to explore long-term funding strategy.

Monitor action by the USFWS on the petition to list red knot under the Endangered Species Act.

Task 1.2.5 – Red Drum: Evaluate state conservation equivalency proposals (if necessary). Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.6 – Shad and River Herring: Monitor activities of the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) in response to the legal decision regarding small mesh bycatch. Monitor and participate in Council consideration of including shad and river herring as “stocks in the fishery”. Consider ASMFC FMP management changes in response to actions taken by the Councils (see Task 1.12.4).

Work with states in the development of habitat plans as required by Amendment 3.

Monitor action by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the petition to list river herring under the Endangered Species Act.

Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.7 – Spanish Mackerel, Spot and Spotted Seatrout:

Spanish Mackerel: Monitor implementation of South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) Amendment 19 and 20; consider October 2012 SEDAR 28 benchmark stock assessment and peer review findings and subsequent SAFMC actions to determine if changes are needed to the interstate fishery management plan. Consider changes to dealer reporting and permitting requirements to ensure complete commercial catch reporting. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Spot: Evaluate management triggers to determine if management action is warranted. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Spotted Seatrout: Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.8 – Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks

Spiny Dogfish: Establish the specifications for 2014/2015. Monitor final approval and implementation of federal Amendment 3 to modify the current allocation of the federal quota. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance. Participate in annual stock assessment update, as needed.

Coastal Sharks: Establish the specifications for 2014 and later. Develop and implement Addendum III to modify fin to carcass ratio for smooth dogfish. Monitor and engage in the development of Amendments 5 and 6 by the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Office of NMFS. Determine appropriate Commission response to HMS Amendments. Continue to engage with Humane Society, commercial fishing representatives and other groups to address legislative initiatives for shark finning. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.9 – Tautog: Monitor state implementation of Addendum VI and recommend actions in federal waters to Secretary of Commerce. Continue sample exchange work to reconcile different ageing techniques to ensure all biological data can be incorporated into the 2014 benchmark stock assessment and peer review (See Task 2.4.4). Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Initiate benchmark stock assessment for completion and peer review in 2014.

Task 1.2.10 – Weakfish: Update stock status indicators to evaluate changes in the population. Review trends in landings and conduct annual review of conservation equivalency programs. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance. Populate stock assessment subcommittee and review stock assessment modeling efforts.

Task 1.2.11 – Winter Flounder: Complete Addendum III, to provide Board flexibility to react to federal annual catch limits, accountability measures, and subsequent assessment updates. Continue

to monitor Amendment 16 sectors, common pool, and state fisheries. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

1.3 Evaluate management program progress using appropriate metrics such as biological reference points.

Task 1.3.1 – Conduct review of stock rebuilding performance through the ISFMP Policy Board.

1.4 Utilize the best available scientific advice.

Task 1.4.1 – Present to the Policy Board individual board records in following scientific advice in management actions, as part of the annual stock rebuilding performance.

1.5 Manage responsibly when facing uncertainty.

Task 1.5.1 – Establish requirements (or best practices) for technical committees to provide risk and uncertainty estimates when presenting scientific advice. Assessment Science Committee develop guidelines for technical committees to characterize uncertainty for each type of assessment.

Task 1.5.2 – Develop Commission policy regarding risk and uncertainty in consideration of and in coordination with Councils approaches. **Management and Science Committee to draft for Policy Board consideration.**

1.6 Encourage the use of monitoring programs (e.g., observer programs) to characterize fisheries.

Task 1.6.1 – Evaluate data collected and observer coverage through the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) for ASMFC species. Pursue remedies to address deficiencies in bycatch data. Evaluate link between ACCSP bycatch priorities and SBRM funding. Address shortfalls via ASMFC Observer Program where feasible.

Task 1.6.2 – Develop strategy among state and federal biological sampling programs to achieve efficiencies in sample collection and processing to meet bio-sampling goals and FMP requirements. **Expand ‘freezer program’ to additional species and states to obtain biological samples from angler donated carcasses (See Task 2.9.1).**

Task 1.6.3 – Continue coordination of the ASMFC Observer Program for Mid-Atlantic small-mesh otter trawl fisheries through the Northeast Fishery Observer Program. Pursue funding with other partners; expand the program to address other ASMFC research priorities, based upon the ACCSP FY2013 Bycatch Prioritization Listing. Evaluate existing funding mechanisms that use industry support.

1.7 Document, evaluate, and minimize discards and bycatch in commercial and recreational fisheries.

Task 1.7.1 – Convene Fishing Gear Technology Work Group to address new ISFMP Policy Board tasking, if necessary.

Task 1.7.2 – Submit ASMFC changes to existing priorities for at-sea observer coverage for inclusion in the ACCSP Bycatch Prioritization Listing. **Consult Fishing Gear Technology Work Group regarding ASMFC input to Bycatch Prioritization.**

1.8 Commit to implementing full commercial and recreational catch and landings reporting systems for all species.

Task 1.8.1 – **Assessment Science Committee work with ACCSP Commercial Technical Committee** to determine level of catch reporting for each ASMFC species; determine impacts of status to science and management. **Report findings to the Policy Board.** Utilize ACCSP catch reporting evaluations to highlight ASMFC species with incomplete catch reporting.

1.9 Evaluate interactions and minimize impacts on protected species.

Task 1.9.1 – Provide liaison between ASMFC activities and marine mammal take reduction teams and the NMFS National Sea Turtle Strategy.

Task 1.9.2 – Monitor the potential impacts of ESA listings on ASMFC species, including Atlantic and short-nose sturgeon, river herring, and American eel.

Task 1.9.3 – Work with the Law Enforcement Committee on exchanging information and best practices related to the enforcement of protected and endangered species regulations (See Task 3.3.6).

1.10 Enhance integration of habitat, compliance, and socioeconomic concerns into the fisheries management process.

Task 1.10.1 – Coordinate the activities of the Committee on Economics and Social Sciences.

Task 1.10.2 – Cooperate with ACCSP staff on issues requiring socioeconomic data. Provide recommendations on socioeconomic data collection and standards.

Task 1.10.3 – Report to ISFMP Policy Board on current socioeconomic data collection and analyses used by other Commissions and Councils, including associated costs.

Task 1.10.4 – Solicit Commissioner input on socioeconomic issues and information needs.

Task 1.10.5 – Track progress of NEFSC's development of fishery performance measures and explore development of indicators for use in ASMFC stock assessments.

1.11 Promote development of effective fish passage approaches and projects through state and federal collaboration.

Task 1.11.1 – Coordinate the activities of the Fish Passage Working Group to carry out priority tasks as defined by the ISFMP Policy Board.

Task 1.11.2 – Prioritize fish passage projects and develop performance criteria.

Subtask 1.11.2.1 – Develop protocol for prioritizing fish passage projects.

Subtask 1.11.2.2 – Develop database of dams, fishways, and passage efficiency studies.

Task 1.11.3 – Distribute *Guide to Fish Passage Technology for ASMFC Species* to fisheries and habitat managers. Produce and distribute Eel Passage Technology Workshop report.

Task 1.11.4 – Establish coast wide fish passage targets.

Subtask 1.11.4.1 – As amendments/addenda are developed, update diadromous species FMPs to include fish passage targets and to effectively contribute to FERC relicensing fish passage prescriptions.

Task 1.11.5 – Continue to develop an East Coast Fish Passage Plan.

Task 1.11.6 – Develop a guidance document for navigating the FERC dam relicensing process. Also develop materials for a training workshop for state biologists and other technical experts.

Subtask 1.11.6.1 – Compile and maintain contact list of FERC relicensing specialists.

Subtask 1.11.6.2 – Monitor and participate in upcoming FERC relicensing projects.

Subtask 1.11.6.3 – As amendments/addenda are developed, update diadromous species FMPs to effectively contribute to FERC relicensing fish passage prescriptions.

Task 1.11.7 – Task diadromous technical committees with evaluating positive and negative consequences of providing fish passage.

Task 1.11.8 – Engage with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to secure fiscal resources to improve fish passage.

1.12 Monitor and promote cooperative planning with the Regional Fishery Management Councils, NOAA Fisheries, and other entities.

Task 1.12.1 – Attend Regional Fishery Management Council meetings as needed and as time is available; participate as a non-voting member and liaison between the Councils and the Commission on matters of mutual interest.

Task 1.12.2 – Participate on the Northeast Regional Coordinating Council and SEDAR Steering Committee to set state/federal management and assessment priorities.

Task 1.12.3 – Work with the Regional Fishery Management Councils and NMFS to improve alignment between state and federal fishery management programs.

Task 1.12.4 – Continue to work with NEFMC and MAFMC on evaluating and mitigating shad and river herring bycatch in small mesh ocean fisheries. Monitor the potential initiation of a federal anadromous (Alosine) fishery management plan (See Task 1.2.6).

1.13 Promote efficiency and accountability in the Interstate Fisheries Management Program process.

Task 1.13.1 – Continue to track status of stocks relative to biological reference points to evaluate and drive improvement and results in the Commission’s fisheries management process.

Task 1.13.2 – Continue to improve the “Meeting Overview” document to increase the efficiency of management board meetings.

Task 1.13.3 – Increase the use of decision documents to structure Board discussion on complex management decisions. (Decision documents will be ~2 pages, to summarize decisions to be considered by management board.

Task 1.13.4 – Continue to focus Board attention on developing clear problem statements prior to initiating management changes.

1.14 Annual review of Commission progress towards achieving ASMFC Vision.

Task 1.14.1 – Conduct annual assessment to gauge the Commissioners’ evaluation of progress towards achieving the Commission’s Vision using an on-line survey.

1.15 Strengthen incorporation of stakeholder input into the interstate fishery management planning process, including contributions from advisory panels, environmental organizations, and other interested parties.

Task 1.15.1 – Engage American Eel, American Lobster, Northern Shrimp, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and South Atlantic (black drum) Advisory Panels in the development of FMPs and Amendments.

Task 1.15.2 – Continue communication with non-active advisory panels (species in the maintenance mode).

Task 1.15.3 – Integrate non-traditional constituents into the Atlantic Menhaden and American Lobster Advisory Panels through the Advisory Panel Oversight Committee.

Task 1.15.4 – Assess membership of South Atlantic Species Advisory Panel, and add additional members as needed to represent black drum fishery interests.

1.16 *Evaluate alternative allocation approaches including conservation incentives to promote fair allocation.*

Task 1.16.1 – Support socioeconomic assessments in conjunction with stock assessments, as recommended by the Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (CESS) for striped bass and other species, to provide more comprehensive information for managers when making harvest and allocation decisions.

GOAL 2 STRENGTHEN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CAPABILITIES, DATA COLLECTION, AND THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR STOCK ASSESSMENTS TO SUPPORT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.

Successful conservation and management of fish stocks depends on high quality scientific research and monitoring information. This goal seeks to improve the quality, quantity, and timeliness of information used to develop stock assessments and manage fishery resources. Stock assessment data need to be accurate, relevant, and timely to reduce uncertainty and provide the best available science in assessment results. This goal encompasses the development of innovative scientific methods and research and also augments the states' stock assessment capabilities. It provides for the administration, coordination, and expansion of cooperative interstate research, data collection, and analytical programs. Achieving this goal will ensure sound science is available to serve as the foundation for effective management actions and improve the Commission's evaluation of stock status.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

2.1 *Continue to promote the development of sound science.*

Task 2.1.1 – Address data priorities for stocks of unknown status. Develop quantitative assessments for species of unknown stock status. **Initiate an Atlantic sturgeon benchmark stock assessment and continue work on black drum stock assessment.**

Task 2.1.2 – Address data priorities for species with limited data. Collect more comprehensive data for species with limited data in order to move from problematic to more advanced and accurate assessment models. **Focal areas include Scaenid bycatch data, menhaden fishery-independent data, river herring at-sea and in-river monitoring, improved tautog indices, and black drum age sampling.**

Task 2.1.3 – Develop measurable goals and timelines to move species from unknown to known status.

2.2 *Improve, expand and focus interstate and state-federal cooperative fisheries science programs to support critical scientific and fishery management needs, including the Northeast and Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Programs (NEAMAP and SEAMAP), Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistic Program (ACCSP), and NOAA Fisheries research program priorities.*

Task 2.2.1 – Coordinate and implement NEAMAP.

Subtask 2.2.1.1 – Assist in securing RSA funding to conduct 2013 NEAMAP Nearshore Trawl Survey.

Subtask 2.2.1.2 – Continue to pursue a line item in President’s request in NOAA’s budget for NEAMAP.

Subtask 2.2.1.3 – Support continuation of the NEAMAP Nearshore Trawl Surveys through coordination with Principal Investigators and all NEAMAP committees, **including the new NEAMAP Analytical Committee**. Provide administrative and planning support.

Subtask 2.2.1.4 – Assist in the refinement of the NEAMAP Data Management Plan.

Subtask 2.2.1.5 – Develop the 2013 NEAMAP Operations Plan.

Subtask 2.2.1.6 – Coordinate meetings of the NEAMAP Board, Data Management, Operations, **Analytical**, and Trawl Technical Committees.

Subtask 2.2.1.7 – Update and maintain the NEAMAP website for access to program information and Nearshore Trawl Survey results.

Subtask 2.2.1.8 – Include NEAMAP age information in coast wide ageing workshops and exchanges.

Subtask 2.2.1.9 – Track and demonstrate use of NEAMAP data in stock assessments, including a report to the ISFMP Policy Board in 2012.

Subtask 2.2.1.10 – Ensure NEAMAP products are serving the needs of technical committees.

Task 2.2.2 – Coordinate the SEAMAP-South Atlantic program.

Subtask 2.2.2.1 – Coordinate all research components of SEAMAP-South Atlantic: Coastal Survey, Red Drum Longline Survey, Bottom Mapping, Fish Habitat Characterization and Assessment, Pamlico Sound Survey, Reef Fish Survey, and the Data Management and Crustacean Work Groups.

Subtask 2.2.2.2 – Assist in developing the 2014 Operations Plan.

Subtask 2.2.2.3 – Participate in the expansion of SEAMAP-South Atlantic to include fishery-independent data coordination and mapping. Support Data Management Work Group refinement and populating of SEAMAP-South Atlantic database (Coastal Survey, Pamlico Sound Survey, Red Drum Longline Survey, Reef Fish Survey, Winter Tagging Cruise), and coordinate with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to complete a database with a searchable web interface.

Subtask 2.2.2.4 – Coordinate South Atlantic activities with the Gulf and Caribbean components of SEAMAP.

Subtask 2.2.2.5 – Update and maintain the SEAMAP website hosted by ASMFC.

Task 2.2.3 – Facilitate information exchange on state, federal, and regional activities regarding invasive species, as issues arise.

Task 2.2.4 – Continue the Tagging Certification Program and improve the use of tagging data in ASMFC species management programs. Develop tagging registration programs, update and maintain the tagging resource website, **link acoustic tagging information to the Atlantic Coastal Tagging (ACT) network website**, and develop instructional tagging videos to improve the efficiency and quality of tagging efforts along the coast.

Task 2.2.5 – Continue to participate in the development and implementation of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), with ASMFC staff serving on Executive Steering Committee, Operations Team, and Angler Registry Team. Report progress to the ISFMP Policy Board, Assessment Science Committee, and Management and Science Committee.

Task 2.2.6 – Participate in national MRIP **PSE** workshop to determine best scientific methods for using new catch and effort estimates in assessment and management processes.

Task 2.2.7 – Coordinate and administer MRIP Angler Registry **and Site Registry** grants to states.

Task 2.2.8 – **Provide administrative and at-sea support to the** Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise.

Task 2.2.9 – Coordinate FishSmart program activities to facilitate education and implementation of angler ethics and scientifically-based best handling practices.

2.3 *Strengthen the quality and credibility of Commission stock assessments.*

Task 2.3.1 – Coordinate the assessments for striped bass and northern shrimp and monitor peer reviews of **small** coastal sharks through SEDAR, and **striped bass, summer flounder, and northern shrimp** through SAW/SARC.

Task 2.3.2 – Coordinate the Assessment Science Committee's evaluation of workload issues to support and complete 2013-2014 benchmark assessments. Develop long-term assessment schedule; identify data and modeling constraints to improve assessments.

Task 2.3.3 – Serve as members of the American Lobster, Atlantic Menhaden, Atlantic Striped Bass, **Atlantic Sturgeon**, Black Drum, **Multispecies, Northern Shrimp, and Tautog** Technical Committees and Stock Assessment Subcommittees to assist in completion of benchmark assessments and annual assessment updates. Utilize the Assessment Science Committee for guidance with assessment methods as necessary.

Task 2.3.4 – In collaboration with Virginia Tech, develop alternative stock assessment models to begin preparing for next weakfish benchmark stock assessment. In collaboration with NEFSC, initiate analytical projects to prepare for the 2014 bluefish benchmark stock assessment.

Task 2.3.5 – Conduct introductory, intermediate (via webinar), and advanced stock assessment methods training workshops. Conduct a stock assessment training workshop for Commissioners. (See Task 7.2.1)

Task 2.3.6 – Develop new policies and approaches to better match assessment workload with assessment resources, using the guidance of the Assessment Science Committee. Develop state plans and pursue other options to address ASMFC assessment capacity issue. **Develop approaches for improved and cost effective data collection.**

Task 2.3.7 – Continue to utilize the Framework for Benchmark Assessments. Revise the Guidance Document for ASMFC Technical Groups and the Orientation Manual for ASMFC Technical Support Group Membership.

Task 2.3.8 – Facilitate stakeholder participation in the stock assessment and fisheries management processes. Seek stakeholder input at data workshops during development of stock assessments.

Task 2.3.9 – Continue to support monitoring and other data collection to improve information available for assessments of spot, kingfish (whiting) and black drum; evaluate kingfish stock when feasible to determine if interstate management is warranted. Support improved monitoring of blue catfish in collaboration with NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office.

2.4 Develop cooperative programs to address Commission research needs through partnerships with agencies, universities, private research organizations, and stakeholders.

Task 2.4.1 – Update the ASMFC Research Priorities by species through technical committee and Management and Science Committee review, and as benchmark assessments are completed. CESS appointees on technical committees and plan development teams to establish baseline socioeconomic information needed for each species and identify additional research priorities.

Task 2.4.2 – Participate in meetings of MARFIN, MARMAP, MAFMC RSA, the NMFS Cooperative Research Programs and ACCSP to review funding proposals and monitor regional research activities to promote member state needs.

Task 2.4.3 – Participate as members of the Chesapeake Bay Goal Implementation Team and Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup.

Task 2.4.4 – Work with the states to develop cooperative programs to collect otoliths towards improving age data for assessments of striped bass, weakfish, bluefish and other species. Conduct age sample exchanges and an ageing workshop for **shad and river herring** to ensure optimal and consistent methods are being used coast wide. **Spot-check historical tautog age samples to validate ageing consistency by state (see Task 1.2.9).**

Task 2.4.5 – Distribute electronically the ASMFC fish ageing manual for Atlantic coast species.

Task 2.4.6 – Conduct regular meetings with staffs of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and ASMFC to review research priorities and funding opportunities.

2.5 Identify and evaluate sources of mortality, other than fishing mortality, and methods to integrate them into the assessment process.

Task 2.5.1 – Coordinate the Multispecies Technical Committee and Biological Ecosystem Reference Points Working Group to address ISFMP Policy Board and Atlantic Menhaden Board tasks regarding multispecies interactions. Examine ways to quantify interactions for important prey species such as Atlantic menhaden.

Task 2.5.2 – Continue to improve multispecies modeling efforts to support single-species assessments, including development of a new multispecies statistical catch-at-age model. Examine ecosystem based reference points as an alternative to single species reference points, using Atlantic menhaden as a test species.

Task 2.5.3 – Seek cooperative opportunities with state, federal, and university researchers to collaborate using existing data collection platforms to advance ASMFC ecosystem models (e.g. diet studies, surveys of spawning and nursery habitats).

2.6 Increase data collection and research for ecosystem-based management strategies.

Task 2.6.1 – Continue to advance Commission use of ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management using development of Atlantic menhaden alternative reference points as a case study (see Task 1.1.3).

Task 2.6.2 – Promote interstate programs to improve integrated management of fish, fish habitat, and water quality in regulatory and operational programs.

Task 2.6.3 - Develop Commission approach to ecosystem science to support ecosystem-based fisheries management.

2.7 Provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate in regional assessment processes.

Task 2.7.1 – Continue to encourage attendance of stakeholders, including advisory panel members, at regional assessment processes.

Task 2.7.2 – Track attendance of stakeholders and report to ISFMP Policy Board.

2.8 *Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission's ISFMP technical process.*

Task 2.8.1 – Continue to work with stock assessment scientists and ACCSP staff to increase use of ACCSP data in the Commission's technical work.

Task 2.8.2 – Following benchmark stock assessments, create species-specific databases (including CDs) to facilitate efficient future assessment updates.

Task 2.8.3 – Monitor the workload of technical committees and inform ISFMP Policy Board of workload issues.

2.9 *Facilitate stakeholder involvement in cooperative data collection for use in stock assessments and fisheries management.*

Task 2.9.1 – Continue angler-based age sample collection for striped bass, **Spanish mackerel, black drum, and red drum**, and expand to weakfish and bluefish.

Task 2.9.2 – Promote scientifically sound tagging practices and certification of angler-based tagging programs through the Interstate Tagging Committee.

2.10 *Increase the Commission's involvement in decisions of how joint state-federal fishery management plan research-set-asides will be used.*

Task 2.10.1 – Develop and communicate research priorities for review and approval by the appropriate species management boards, and provide to RSA.

Task 2.10.2 – Work closely with federal partners to ensure completed RSA projected are reviewed and transmitted to appropriate technical committees and boards

2.11 *Participate as a partner to fully implement the ACCSP.*

Task 2.11.1 – Provide ASMFC input to the ACCSP's Coordinating Council, Operations Committee, Bycatch Prioritization Committee, Biological Review Panel, Recreational and Commercial Technical Committees, Outreach Committee and the Computer Technical Committee.

Task 2.11.2 – Act as liaison between ACCSP and States when compiling landings for stock assessments to identify discrepancies and ensure consistency across data sources.

GOAL 3 IMPROVE STAKEHOLDER COMPLIANCE WITH COMMISSION FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS.

This goal recognizes that fisheries managers, law enforcement personnel, and stakeholders have a shared responsibility to promote compliance with fisheries management measures. Stakeholder support and compliance is vital to successful management plans. Activities under this goal seek to increase and improve the extent to which states coordinate their law enforcement efforts with each other and with federal agencies. Commission members recognize that adequate and consistent enforcement of fisheries rules must keep pace with increasingly complex management activity, including thorough reviews of proposed management measures for enforceability. Achieving this goal will improve the effectiveness of the Commission's fishery management plans.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

3.1 Develop practical compliance requirements recognizing fiscal limitations.

Task 3.1.1 – Identify compliance requirements that the states are unable to implement due to fiscal limitations in the annual FMP Reviews.

Task 3.1.2 – Review effectiveness of the “Guidelines for Resource Managers” to evaluate its ability to inform fishery managers and affect their decisions in the regulatory process. Work with LEC Coordinator to ensure the input of the Law Enforcement Committee is received **throughout** the management process.

Task 3.1.3 – Evaluate enforceability of management options proposed in FMPs, amendments, addenda and conservation equivalency proposals.

3.2 Evaluate effectiveness of enforcement and compliance measures of fisheries management programs.

Task 3.2.1 – Report on the enforceability of existing FMPs as part of the annual compliance review for each species.

Task 3.2.2 – Engage and support NMFS Office of Law Enforcement and **US Fish and Wildlife Service** Chiefs to improve communication and coordination between states and federal enforcement agencies.

Task 3.2.3 – Report on enforcement issues associated with differing federal, interstate, and state regulations.

Task 3.2.4 – Evaluate and report on states ability to effectively close (communicate and enforce) recreational fisheries in-season through emergency or other actions.

Task 3.2.5 – Evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the Addendum III to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan (commercial fishery tagging requirements, see task 1.1.4)

3.3 Enhance communication of enforcement and compliance issues to Atlantic state agencies and other law enforcement programs.

Task 3.3.1 – Provide a forum to promote interjurisdictional enforcement operations targeting specific fishery resources (e.g. Atlantic striped bass, tautog, American eel). (see task 1.1.1)

Task 3.3.2 – Expand efforts to reach out to the law enforcement advisory committees of the regional fishery management councils and interstate commissions to seek opportunities for collaboration and ensure consistent law enforcement strategies.

Task 3.3.3 – Continue to evaluate the states' use of vessel monitoring system (VMS) data with increased access provided to the states. Determine if current level of access is adequate for state use of VMS data. Provide training opportunities, if necessary and resources permit, for state officers to ensure timely and efficient access to VMS data.

Task 3.3.4 – Appoint ASMFC representative to serve on the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Law Enforcement Committee. Monitor the Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association and exchange information as appropriate.

Task 3.3.5 – Exchange information on record keeping of violations, dispatching, and use of real time data to enhance conservation enforcement efforts.

Task 3.3.6 – Exchange information and best practices related to the enforcement of protected and endangered species regulations (See Task 1.9.3).

Task 3.3.7 – Continue to monitor compliance with newly implemented state and federal recreational registry requirements.

Task 3.3.8 – Develop strategies to improve communications among state and federal enforcement agencies prior to regional enforcement activities.

Task 3.3.9 – Review **2013** law enforcement efforts, results, and interagency cooperation regarding the illegal harvest of striped bass in state and federal waters. Use results of review for planning **2014** priorities and strategies.

Task 3.3.10 – Engage in annual review of NMFS enforcement priorities to ensure state enforcement needs are included. Review and provide feedback to NMFS on the new federal penalty structure.

3.4 Promote and expand existing partnerships with state and federal natural resource law enforcement agencies.

Task 3.4.1 – Provide forum for enforcement agencies to display successful development and use of enforcement technologies.

Task 3.4.2 – Conduct semi-annual presentations, by state and federal agencies, of enforcement actions and facilitate discussions on joint efforts that can assist in fisheries enforcement.

Task 3.4.3 – Share enforcement techniques and law enforcement success stories and provide regional training sessions (if resources allow) to enhance law enforcement efficiency along the Atlantic coast.

Task 3.4.4 – Evaluate the merits of establishing more timely communication among state and federal law enforcement entities to facilitate more frequent information exchange.

Task 3.4.5 – Explore the addition of a US Department of Justice representative to the Law Enforcement Committee.

3.5 *Develop and implement fishery management measures that include compliance incentives and foster stakeholder buy-in.*

Task 3.5.1 – Identify and explore fishery management measures that maximize stakeholder buy-in.

GOAL 4 PROTECT, RESTORE AND ENHANCE FISH HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND EDUCATION.

This goal aims to improve fish habitat and ecosystem health to the benefit of Commission managed species. Habitat loss and degradation have been identified as significant factors affecting the long-term sustainability of the nation's fisheries. Consequently, the mission of the Commission's Habitat Program is to work through the Commission, in cooperation with appropriate agencies and organizations, to improve and cooperatively manage vital fish habitat for conservation, restoration, and enhancement, and to support the cooperative management of Commission managed species. The Commission's Habitat Program embraces the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, and will continue to work cooperatively with that program to improve aquatic habitat along the Atlantic coast.

The challenge for fisheries managers and the Commission is improving fish habitat in the absence of specific regulatory authority for habitat protection or restoration. This goal calls for the Commission to be a change agent in effectively integrating habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement into fisheries management programs, in recognition of ecosystem-based management principles.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

4.1 *Effectively protect, restore, and enhance Atlantic coastal fish habitat through fisheries management programs and partnerships, such as the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP).*

Task 4.1.1 – Continue to provide administrative support to the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP).

Subtask 4.1.1.1 – Assist in obtaining future funding to support ACFHP operations and fish habitat conservation projects.

Subtask 4.1.1.2 – Continue to provide logistical support for committee meetings and other Partnership activities.

Subtask 4.1.1.3 – ACFHP Coordinator or Steering Committee representative report progress at Summer and Fall Meetings of the ISFMP Policy Board.

Task 4.1.2 – Continue to provide coordination support for ACFHP, under the direction of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) Board.

Subtask 4.1.2.1 – Facilitate communication and outreach with ACFHP partners, overlapping partnerships, and new partners. Develop outreach materials and maintain the ACFHP website.

Subtask 4.1.2.2 – Coordinate the implementation of the 5-year ACFHP Conservation Strategic Plan, including development of an Implementation Plan outlining tasks by year to achieve the goals, objectives, and actions in the Strategic Plan.

Subtask 4.1.2.3 – Support the completion of priority ACFHP Science and Data projects - acquire and analyze fish population, habitat, and human impact data; make results available to Partners for the purpose of strategic coastal habitat conservation.

Task 4.1.3 – Coordinate artificial reef activities among the Atlantic coast states, and between the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions.

4.2 *Identify important habitat areas for Commission-managed species.*

Task 4.2.1 – Take the lead in updating FMP habitat sections for American lobster and **Black Drum** working closely with technical committees, other species experts, and staff. For each species, include descriptions of habitat types or areas most critical to restoring or maintaining sustainable stocks. **Habitat sections will describe the habitat limitations creating a bottleneck to the recovery of a species of concern.**

Task 4.2.2 – Prioritize and publicize important habitat types for Commission-managed species as identified in the ACFHP Strategic Plan.

Task 4.2.3 – Work with state and federal agencies, the Councils, and NGOs to build on existing efforts to develop a coast wide GIS of fish habitat resources, to identify important fish habitats for Commission managed species **as defined in the ACFHP Species-Habitat matrix.**

Task 4.2.4 – **Develop an approach for describing habitat limitations creating a bottleneck to the recovery of Commission managed species with a poor stock status. Recommendations to address the habitat limitations would also be explored.**

4.3 *Build and support partnerships with fishery and non-fishery management agencies, researchers, and habitat stakeholders to leverage regulatory, political and financial resources.*

Task 4.3.1 – Provide information or comment on Atlantic coast projects and permits in accordance with ASMFC project review protocol.

Task 4.3.2 – **Through ACFHP**, facilitate funding and partnership opportunities to promote habitat research in the states.

Task 4.3.3 – **Through ACFHP**, Identify partnership opportunities and forge additional relationships with organizations – **such as non-governmental organizations and the recreational fishing community** - to facilitate the promotion of fish habitat through a collaboration of strengths of different stakeholder groups.

Task 4.3.4 – **Through ACFHP, and in cooperation with other Fish Habitat Partnerships and the National Fish Habitat Board**, work with partners to develop monitoring and data standards for assessment of coastal habitat condition and fishery resource status prior to and following alteration projects.

Task 4.3.5 – **Update habitat managers database to disseminate information about important habitat areas identified in Habitat Committee products.**

4.4 *Educate Commissioners, stakeholders, and the general public about the importance of protecting, restoring, and enhancing habitat to achieve successful fisheries management.*

Task 4.4.1 – Facilitate coordination and distribution of information for ecosystem-based management and marine protected area activities, and the potential consequences of significant anthropogenic activities on habitats of concern.

Task 4.4.2 – Participate in regional and national habitat meetings and scientific conferences to facilitate increased communication with agencies and programs that have jurisdiction over habitat.

Task 4.4.3 – Review and improve format of *Habitat Hotline Atlantic* newsletter to enhance the utility and effectiveness of meeting the target audience's needs. Produce and distribute periodic issues of the newsletter.

Task 4.4.4 – **Develop next installment of the Habitat Management Series: Habitat Impacts of Harbor Deepening Projects for ISFMP Policy Board acceptance. Identify a subsequent topic (e.g. Sand mining, Power plant impingement, climate change impact on fish habitat, estuarine and nearshore aquaculture).**

Task 4.4.5 – Serve as a point of contact and information conduit at the Commission for energy-related issues affecting fish habitat.

4.5 *Implement performance metrics to focus efforts and monitor progress of the Habitat Program.*

Task 4.5.1 – Review program goals and evaluate accomplishments annually.

Task 4.5.2 – Revise the Habitat Operational Procedures Manual and submit for ISFMP Policy Board approval.

4.6 *Engage local governments in habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement programs.*

Task 4.6.1 – Highlight local habitat activities in *Habitat Hotline Atlantic* and distribute to local governments.

Task 4.6.2 – Work with ACFHP to foster partnerships with like-minded organizations at local levels to further common habitat goals.

Task 4.6.3 – Provide stakeholders with the tools to effectively communicate, promote and accomplish habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement programs at the local level.

GOAL 5 STRENGTHEN CONGRESSIONAL, STAKEHOLDER, AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION'S MISSION, VISION, AND ACTIONS.

This goal recognizes and supports the critical role of stakeholder and public participation in Commission programs. In order for this participation to be effective these groups must have a clear understanding of the Commission's Mission, Vision, and decision-making processes. This goal seeks to foster an informed constituency, including our federal partners, stakeholders, and Congress. It does so through expanded outreach and education efforts about Commission programs, decision-making processes, and its management successes and challenges. It aims to engage congressional delegations in the process of fisheries conservation and management, and promote the activities and accomplishments of the Commission. This goal strives to provide Commissioners and stakeholders with the tools to effectively communicate the Commission's Mission, Vision, achievements and challenges to their peers. Achieving this goal will increase stakeholder participation in and congressional understanding of Commission activities.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

5.1 *Increase public understanding and support of the Commission and its activities through expanded information and education efforts for stakeholders.*

Task 5.1.1 – Publish **bimonthly** issues of *Fisheries Focus*. **Continue to move towards electronic distribution.**

Task 5.1.2 – Promote ASMFC through attendance at fisheries-related trade shows and conferences.

Task 5.1.3 – **Launch redesigned website to promote ASMFC activities to a broader audience.**

Task 5.1.4 – Promote Commission activities regarding **recently assessed and/or high profile species**, as well as the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, NEAMAP **and SEAMAP**, to a broader constituency through mechanisms such as targeted press releases, informational brochures, submission of articles in popular press and scientific publications, webpage highlights and conference/trade show participation.

Task 5.1.5 – Develop and distribute youth-based educational materials designed to increase awareness of fisheries science and **understating of fisheries management** to key venues (e.g., **teacher kits**, Eco-camps, charter boat operations, aquatic educators) to help promote marine stewardship and ocean literacy.

Task 5.1.6 – Develop performance measures to track success of outreach activities.

Task 5.1.7 – **Collaborate with three East Coast Aquaria (MD, VA and NC) and relevant partners to promote interstate fisheries management and science activities at the aquaria.**

Task 5.1.8 – **Continue to promote Commission’s mission and programs through outreach meetings with various marine policy and marine science graduate programs (See Task 7.1.1).**

Task 5.1.9 – Conduct webinars of fisheries science principles and concepts to be geared towards stakeholders and the general public.

5.2 *Engage and assist congressional delegations with an interest in supporting the Commission’s goals and objectives.*

Task 5.2.1 – Work with Commission leadership and Legislative Committee to develop ASMFC message and strategies for communicating that message to Congressional delegations, and implement as appropriate.

Task 5.2.2 – As requested by member states, meet with state legislatures and governors to increase understanding of and promote state participation in the Commission.

5.3 *Strengthen national, regional and local media relations to increase coverage of Commission actions.*

Task 5.3.1 – Prepare and distribute biweekly ASMFC-related news clippings to Commissioners and staff.

Task 5.3.2 – Conduct media training for key staff members.

Task 5.3.3 – Prepare “Stock Assessment Briefs” for major benchmark stock assessments (**Spanish mackerel, small coastal sharks, Atlantic striped bass, summer flounder**) to facilitate media understanding and coverage of assessment findings and methodologies.

Task 5.3.4 – Implement posting press releases and associated photos/graphs on website in html format to increase usefulness to media.

Task 5.3.5 – Conduct annual meeting of Atlantic Coast Fisheries Communication Group, comprised of PAOs from the Councils, states and federal agencies, to share successful tools, identify key media contacts and work cooperatively on joint projects.

Task 5.3.6 – Work with NOAA Director of Communications on identifying priority issues for coordinated outreach efforts.

Task 5.3.7 – Develop procedures and guidelines for the use of social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter.

5.4 Empower partners and stakeholders to promote Commission to stakeholders and state legislatures through outreach efforts.

Task 5.4.1 – Work with state and federal partners on the development of informational materials regarding state, regional, and federal fisheries stock assessment and management processes.

Task 5.4.2 – Promote Commission/state partnership with presence at state sponsored marine-related festivals and fairs.

Task 5.4.3 – Provide information, guidance, and support to the states to conduct outreach on issues of mutual interest.

5.5 Promote transparency of the Commission’s decision-making process and activities.

Task 5.5.1 – Revise, publish, and distribute program-specific factsheets and stock assessment summaries to increase awareness of and foster transparency in Commission programs/processes.

Task 5.5.2 – Revise, publish, and distribute species factsheets (ISFMP folder) to increase awareness of and foster transparency in Commission programs/processes.

Task 5.5.3 – Utilize appropriate outreach tools (i.e., Annual Report, Status of the Stocks, species factsheets and website) to document progress in rebuilding Atlantic stocks.

GOAL 6 REPRESENT MEMBER STATES’ COLLECTIVE INTERESTS AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

This goal recognizes that state fisheries interests are often underrepresented at the regional and national levels. States are positioned to achieve many of the national goals for marine fisheries through their mutual and cooperative efforts. Policy formulation is often disconnected from the processes that provide the support, organization, and resources necessary to implement the policies. The capabilities of the states need to be kept sharply in focus as approaches to national fisheries policy are developed. This goal seeks to emphasize the importance of achieving conservation goals consistent with productive commercial and recreational fisheries and healthy ecosystems, and of working with all stakeholders in all phases of the process.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

6.1 Promote the interests of the states to Congress and the Administration, and in national forums.

Task 6.1.1 – Work with Legislative Committee to prioritize federal legislation before Congress and the Administration, **including reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation Act, ACFCMA, Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, and the Striped Bass Act.**

Task 6.1.2 – Distribute the legislative tracking sheet to Commissioners upon action of a significant bill and prior to Commission meetings.

Task 6.1.3 – Publish and distribute **2012** Annual Report to Congress, state legislators, and stakeholders to provide an overview of our activities and progress in carrying out the Commission's mission and public trust responsibilities.

Task 6.1.4 – Participate with national-level organizations, such as AFS, NFWF, and AFWA, in order to promote and communicate issues of interest to the Commission.

Task 6.1.5 – Continue to serve as an advisor to MAFAC.

Task 6.1.6 – Participate in the interagency coordination under the ACFCMA **to improve state-federal partnerships.**

Task 6.1.7 – Maintain the Commission's visibility on Capitol Hill through interaction with members and their staffs.

Task 6.1.8 – Continue to participate as a member on the MARFIN panel.

Task 6.1.9 – Continue to offer assistance and advice to the NOAA Administrator and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries in support of mutual goals.

Task 6.1.10 – Support a legislative strategic workshop for the Commissioners in conjunction with the **2013** meeting weeks **(See Task 7.2.4).**

Task 6.1.11 – Develop strategy to respond to Administration and Congressional changes as a result of November 2012 elections.

Task 6.1.12 – Schedule a meeting between Executive Committee and Government Relations firm to develop and implement strategies to promote Commission and states' interests in budget and legislative activities.

6.2 Maintain working relationships with national state government associations, and other interstate organizations.

Task 6.2.1 – Maintain working relationship with Executive Director and staff at AFWA.

Task 6.2.2 – Coordinate “**Tri-Commission Initiative**” with the GSMFC and PSMFC on legislative and budget activities of national interest.

Task 6.2.3 – Develop working relationship with new Executive Director of Coastal States Organization.

Task 6.2.4 – Develop strategies to promote increased cooperation between coastal states to address issues of mutual concern.

6.3 *Engage state marine councils/commissions to address stakeholder concerns and increase understanding of Commission actions.*

Task 6.3.1 – Strengthen outreach efforts by distributing *Fisheries Focus* and quarterly meeting summaries to the membership of state commissions/councils.

Task 6.3.2 – Offer an opportunity to the **Georgia** Commissioners to meet with their in-state governing body at the Annual Meeting to discuss common issues.

Task 6.3.3 – Respond as necessary to requests from in-state marine fishery commissions, other governing bodies, and fishery-related groups, with the concurrence of the Administrative Commissioners, for additional information regarding ASMFC activities and processes.

6.4 *Develop a clear, proactive, and visionary federal legislative agenda.*

Task 6.4.1 – Engage the Legislative Committee and **Government Relations firm** to identify relevant policy and legislative issues, to be presented to the full Commission for consideration.

Task 6.4.2 – Update Legislative Program Manual, bringing together informational resources and standardized processes for approaching legislative issues.

Task 6.4.3 – Continue to update and implement strategies for ensuring appropriate Commission funding from Congress and the Administration.

Task 6.4.4 – Promote Commissioner involvement and interaction with legislative partners. **Provide necessary supporting information to Commissioners regarding ASMFC and state needs.**

6.5 *Participate in the formulation of national strategies stemming from the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.*

Task 6.5.1 – Work with regional fishery management councils as well as SERO and NERO, **regarding implementation and impacts of ACLs and AMs** in the fisheries management process.

Task 6.5.2 – Monitor implementation of catch share programs by the Atlantic Coast Councils, **NMFS Highly Migratory Species Office**, and states to determine if Commission involvement is appropriate.

6.6 *Work to ensure that JOCI action and policy complements and enhances Commission activities.*

Task 6.6.1 – Track federal implementation of the new U.S. Ocean Policy and keep Commissioners advised of significant activity and developments.

Task 6.6.2 – Continue to monitor the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (JOCI) Leadership Council and legislative advisors working group. **Provide summary updates of activities to Commissioners.**

GOAL 7 STRENGTHEN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCE LEARNING AND GROWTH WITHIN THE COMMISSION.

This goal promotes human resource policies that attract talented and committed individuals to carry out the Commission actions. It also highlights the need for the Commission as an organization to continually educate itself. Increased understanding of the Commission process and issues will improve the efficiency of decision-making. It calls for Commissioners and Commission staff to maintain or expand the institutional knowledge of the Commission through periods of turnover. The Commission also embraces the opportunity to integrate the talents, perspectives, and energy of new Commissioners and staff to continually improve. The Commission is committed to promote learning and growth of state personnel in order to leverage scarce fiscal and human resources. Achieving this goal will build core strengths enabling the Commission to respond to increasingly difficult and complex fisheries management issues.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

7.1 *Strengthen the human resources policies of the Commission, including strategies to recruit the best talent to fill open positions and expand the skills of existing staff.*

Task 7.1.1 – Promote Commission’s programs and activities and recruit new talent by conducting seminars to graduate level marine programs (See Task 5.1.8).

Task 7.1.2 – Launch online human resources webpage to include revised employee handbook.

Task 7.1.3 – **Strengthen new employee orientation to clearly define** the various staff roles and responsibilities.

Task 7.1.4 – Review and revise position descriptions as necessary.

Task 7.1.5 – Review vacancy announcement distribution list and update as necessary.

7.2 *Provide learning opportunities to state members in the areas of science, policy, and meetings management to improve efficiency of decision-making during Commission meetings.*

Task 7.2.1 – Conduct stock assessment methods training workshops. (See Task 2.3.5)

Task 7.2.2 – Conduct Commissioner workshop to enhance leadership, decision making, and strategic thinking skills.

Task 7.2.3 – **Conduct meeting management training for committees chairs.**

Task 7.2.4 - Support a legislative strategic workshop for the Commissioners in conjunction with one of the 2013 meeting weeks (See Task 6.1.10).

7.3 *Strengthen orientation for new Commission participants, including Commissioners, technical committees, and other committees.*

Task 7.3.1 – Work with Executive Committee to determine the appropriate transition and orientation program for new Commissioners.

Task 7.3.2 – Update and distribute, as necessary, the Commissioner Manual.

Task 7.3.3 – Continue to provide orientation materials for new members of Commission supporting committees.

7.4 *Benchmark Commission processes with similar organizations to increase institutional efficiencies.*

Task 7.4.1 – Continue to monitor regional fishery management councils and other interstate commissions for best practices.

7.5 *Facilitate learning and growth opportunities for staff and state personnel.*

Task 7.5.1 – Facilitate staff participation at national and regional conferences; provide professional training opportunities.

Task 7.5.2 – Seek educational opportunities targeted to specific staff based on job responsibilities and facilitate participation.

Task 7.5.3 – Subscribe to online access to fisheries journals in order for state and Commission staff to keep up to date with the latest scientific, management, and policy literature.

GOAL 8 PROVIDE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION’S BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND ENSURE THE COMMISSION’S FINANCIAL STABILITY.

This goal addresses the Commission’s administrative and management opportunities, including operational stability. This goal will ensure that the business affairs of the Commission are managed effectively and efficiently. This goal encompasses efficiency of operations, including workload balancing through the development of annual action plans to support the Commission’s management process. It also highlights the need for the Commission to efficiently manage the resources it currently receives, and develop strategies for finding new funding sources to carry out its programs. This goal promotes the efficient use of

legal advice to proactively review policies and react to litigation. Achieving this goal will ensure that the Commission has sufficient fiscal resources to support its Mission.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

8.1 Develop, implement, and monitor an annual action plan.

Task 8.1.1 – Conduct semi-annual reviews of progress under the 2013 Action Plan with the Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC), and report semi-annually to Commissioners concerning progress.

Task 8.1.2 – Initiate development of 2014 Action Plan in August 2013 **to reflect the new goals and strategies in the 2014-2018 strategic plan.**

Task 8.1.3 – Develop 2014 – 2018 Strategic Plan.

8.2 Conservatively manage the Commission's operational and programmatic budgets and reserves to ensure fiscal stability.

Task 8.2.1 – Monitor and update as necessary guidelines for cost effective meeting locations and meeting attendee travel practices.

Task 8.2.2 – Manage the Commission's reserve fund according to the approved investment policy. Review investments annually with AOC.

Task 8.2.3 – Review Reserve Policy in view of previous, current and expected legal expenses, as well as other uses.

Task 8.2.4 – Submit a Certification of Indirect Cost to the Department of Commerce.

Task 8.2.5 – Monitor expenditures on a monthly basis and project variances to ensure complete and timely use of available funds. Distribute monthly financial report to Senior Staff.

Task 8.2.6 – Conduct annual meeting with financial advisor to review retirement program performance with staff and provide opportunities for staff and provide opportunities for staff to meet individually with financial advisor to match financial goals with investment choices for retirement.

Task 8.2.7 – Prepare for and work cooperatively with CPA firm to conduct annual audit.

Task 8.2.8 – Update physical inventory.

Task 8.2.9 – Seek ways to achieve greater efficiency and cost effectiveness through selection of meeting venues.

Task 8.2.10 – Pay-off remaining balance on the floating portion of the office mortgage.

8.3 *Maintain and seek to increase long-term funding for programs that support Commission goals.*

Task 8.3.1 – Work to ensure the reauthorization of ACFCMA includes an increase to the authorized amount.

Task 8.3.2 – Work with the Gulf and Pacific State Commissions to pursue increased funding opportunities for all three Commissions (IJF, WB, Anadromous Act, etc.)

8.4 *Explore new information technology to increase efficiency of business management and presentation of technical information.*

Task 8.4.1 – Attend information technology seminars/trade shows to remain abreast of current and future technologies.

Task 8.4.2 – Maintain repository for incoming and outgoing Commission correspondence.

Task 8.4.3 – Provide targeted staff training for full use of office equipment and software.

Task 8.4.4 – **Expand** use of direct deposit for reimbursement to **all Commission committee members.**

Task 8.4.5 – **Develop and implement standards for electronic document retention.**

Task 8.4.6 – **Maintain** searchable database of Commission publications for staff and public use.

Task 8.4.7 – Conduct audit of Commission databases to verify contacts and relevant information.

Task 8.4.8 – Develop site map of Commission electronic filing system for internal use.

Task 8.4.9 – Respond to building fire at offsite archives storage facility by assessing lost/damaged files and develop policy for future storage/retention with goal of reducing need for offsite archives.

Task 8.4.10 – Implement live-streaming audio of quarterly Commission meetings and develop guidelines for meeting conduct.

8.5 *Incorporate proactive legal advice on new management strategies and policies and respond to litigation as necessary.*

Task 8.5.1 – **Respond as needed to** litigation regarding challenges to ASMFC's FMPs.

Task 8.5.2 – Work with Commission attorney to develop a potential information request policy for consideration by full Commission (FOIA equivalent).

8.6 *Provide an administrative home for the ACCSP.*

Task 8.6.1 – Provide administrative support to the ACCSP, including human resource and meeting management, grant and financial monitoring and office space.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Proposed 2013 Action Plan Budget (Programmable Funds)

NOTE: Detailed budgets for each task can be found following this overview.

Goal 1: Regulatory Planning		ACFCMA	IJF	W/B	SEAMAP	FHP	Total
Task 1.1	Meeting Weeks	\$ 275,000	\$ 50,000				\$ 325,000
Task 1.1.1	American Eel	\$ 9,950					\$ 9,950
Task 1.1.2	American Lobster	\$ 29,850					\$ 29,850
Task 1.1.3	Atlantic Menhaden	\$ 37,800					\$ 37,800
Task 1.1.4	Atlantic Striped Bass	\$ 27,100					\$ 27,100
Task 1.1.5	Atlantic Sturgeon	\$ 15,700					\$ 15,700
Task 1.1.6	Black Drum	\$ 12,600					\$ 12,600
Task 1.1.7	Northern Shrimp	\$ 13,550					\$ 13,550
Task 1.1.8	Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass	\$ 27,580					\$ 27,580
Task 1.2.1	Atlantic Croaker	\$ 150					\$ 150
Task 1.2.2	Atlantic Herring	\$ 12,700					\$ 12,700
Task 1.2.3	Bluefish	\$ 6,100					\$ 6,100
Task 1.2.4	Horseshoe Crab	\$ 19,550					\$ 19,550
Task 1.2.5	Red Drum	\$ 50					\$ 50
Task 1.2.6	Shad and River Herring	\$ 18,450					\$ 18,450
Task 1.2.7	Spanish Mackerel	\$ 150					\$ 150
Task 1.2.8	Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks	\$ 16,000					\$ 16,000
Task 1.2.9	Tautog	\$ 17,800					\$ 17,800
Task 1.2.10	Weakfish	\$ 200					\$ 200
Task 1.2.11	Winter Flounder	\$ 2,200					\$ 2,200
Task 1.7.1	Fishing Gear Technology Work Group	\$ 100					\$ 100
Task 1.10.1	CESS	\$ 3,500					\$ 3,500
Task 1.11.1	Fish Passage Working Group	\$ 9,750					\$ 9,750
Task 1.12.2	NRCC/SEDAR	\$ 3,000					\$ 3,000
Goal 2: Cooperative Research		ACFCMA	IJF	W/B	SEAMAP	FHP	Total
Task 2.2.1	NEAMAP	\$ 10,300					\$ 10,300
Task 2.2.2	SEAMAP				\$ 16,400		\$ 16,400
Task 2.2.3	Invasive Species	\$ 250					\$ 250
Task 2.2.4	Tagging Program	\$ 100					\$ 100
Task 2.3	Stock Assessment Support	\$ 10,300					\$ 10,300

Task 2.3.1	Stock Assessment Peer Reviews	\$ 24,150	\$ 24,150
Task 2.3.4	Stock Assessment Models	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Task 2.3.5	Stock Assessment Training	\$ 68,000	\$ 68,000
Task 2.4.4	Fish Ageing	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Task 2.5.1	Multispecies Technical Committee	\$ 11,100	\$ 11,100

Goal 3: Compliance

Task 3	Law Enforcement Coordinator	\$20,000	\$20,000
Task 3.3.4	Monitor IAFWA and CLECA	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000

Goal 4: Habitat

Task 4	Habitat Coordinator	\$20,000		
Task 4.1.2	Fish Habitat Partnership		\$ 42,025	\$ 42,025
Task 4.1.3	Artificial Reef Committee	\$ 5,400		\$ 5,400
Task 4.4	Coordinate Coastwide Habitat Activities	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000
Task 4.4.3/4/5	Develop & Distribute Habitat Information	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000
	Science Staff Conference Registrations	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500

Goal 5: Outreach

Task 5.1	Information & Education	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
----------	-------------------------	-----------	-----------

Goal 7: Learning and Growth

Task 7.2	Commissioner and TC Training	\$ 10,000	
Task 7.3.1	New Commissioner Orientation	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000

Goal 8: Administration and Finance

Task 8.1.3	2014-2018 Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000	
------------	--------------------------	-----------	--

Budget Overview Totals:	\$ 801,530	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,400	\$ 16,400	\$ 42,025	\$ 891,855
Executive Directorate	\$ 275,000	\$ 50,000				\$ 325,000
ISFMP	\$ 291,480					\$ 291,480
Science	\$ 202,050	\$ -	\$ 25,400	\$ 16,400	\$ 42,025	\$ 285,875
Finance & Administration	\$ 33,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,000

2013 ISFMP Budget Details		ACFCMA	IJF	W/B	SEAMAP	FHP	Total
Goal 1: Regulatory Planning							
Task 1.1.1	Board (4 meetings in meeting weeks)						\$ 9,950
American Eel	Technical Committee (15 members x 1 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$ 5,400					
	Advisory Panel (1 meeting x 12 members, 1 conference call)	\$ 4,350					
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$ 50					
	Plan Development Team (3 conf. calls)	\$ 150					
Task 1.1.2	Board (3 meetings in meeting weeks)						\$ 29,850
American Lobster	Technical Committee (10 members x 3 meetings, 3 conference calls)	\$ 10,650					
	Stock Assessment Subcommittee (8 members x 3 meeting)	\$ 8,550					
	Advisory Panel (22 members x 1 meetings, 1 conference calls)	\$ 2,850					
	Plan Review Team (5 members x 1 meeting, 3 conference calls)	\$ 1,850					
	Socio-Economic Sub-comm. (1 conference call)	\$ 50					
	LCMT and Trade Meetings (staff travel to 2 mtgs)	\$ 800					
	Plan Development Team (5 members x 2 meetings, 3 conference calls)	\$ 3,600					
	Public Hearings (6 hearings)	\$ 1,500					
Task 1.1.3	Board (4 meetings in meeting weeks)						\$ 37,800
Atlantic Menhaden	Technical Committee (18 members x 3 meetings, 6 conference calls)	\$ 24,750					
	Stock Assess. Subcomm. (10 members x 2 meeting, 2 conference calls)	\$ 9,100					
	Advisory Panel (18 members x 1 meeting, 3 conference calls)	\$ 3,650					
	Plan Review Team (1 conference calls)	\$ 50					
	Plan Development Team (5 members x 5 conference calls)	\$ 250					
Task 1.1.4	Board (4 meetings in meeting weeks)						\$ 27,100
Atlantic Striped Bass	Technical Committee (16 members x 2 meetings, 5 conference calls)	\$ 11,350					
	Joint TC/sasc (25 members x 1 meetings, 1 conference calls)	\$ 11,250					

	Advisory Panel (12 members x 1 meeting, 2 conference calls)	\$	4,300	
	Plan Development Team (4 members x 3 calls)	\$	150	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	50	
Task 1.1.5	Board (4 meeting in meeting weeks)			\$ 15,700
Atlantic Sturgeon	Stock assessment subcommittee (8 members x 2 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$	9,000	
	Technical Committee (16 members x 1 meeting, 3 conference calls)	\$	6,550	
	Advisory Panel 2 conference calls	\$	100	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference calls)	\$	50	
Task 1.1.6	Board (3 meetings in meeting weeks)			\$ 12,600
Black Drum	Technical Committee (12 members x 1 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$	4,900	
	Stock Assess. Subcomm. (5 members x 1 meeting, 2 conference calls)	\$	2,600	
	South Atlantic Advisory Panel (12 members x 1 meeting, 1 conference calls)	\$	2,850	
	Plan Development Team (5 conference calls)	\$	150	
	Public Hearings (4 hearings)	\$	1,500	
	Staff Travel (SAFMC)	\$	600	
Task 1.1.7	Section (4 meetings)	\$	3,800	\$ 13,550
Northern Shrimp	Technical Committee (7 members x 1 meetings, 5 conference calls)	\$	2,700	
	Advisory Panel (10 members x 3 meetings, 1 conference call)	\$	4,550	
	Plan Review Team (21 conference call)	\$	50	
	Plan Development Team (4 conference calls)	\$	200	
	Public Hearings (4 hearings)	\$	1,500	
	Staff Travel (survey cruise and Maine Fish. Forum)	\$	750	
Task 1.1.8	Board (2 meetings in meeting week, 2 outside)	\$	6,800	\$ 27,580
Summer Flounder (Includes Black sea bass and scup)	Technical Committee (12 members x 3 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$	12,700	
	Advisory Panel (10 members x 2 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$	4,000	
	Plan Development Team (1 conference call)	\$	40	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	40	
	Staff Travel (6 meetings) (MAFMC/FMAT)	\$	1,000	
	Public Hearings (10 hearings)	\$	3,000	

Scup	Budget combined with Summer Flounder	\$	-	\$	-
Black Sea Bass	Budget combined with Summer Flounder	\$	-	\$	-
Task 1.2.1	Board (budgeted under Black Drum)			\$	150
Atlantic Croaker	Technical Committee (2 conference calls)	\$	100		
	Advisory Panel (South Atlantic) (Budgeted under Black Drum)	\$	-		
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	50		
Task 1.2.2				\$	12,700
Atlantic Herring	Section (3 meetings in meeting weeks, 2 outside)	\$	3,800		
	Technical Committee (10 members x 2 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$	2,900		
	Advisory Panel (13 members x 1 meeting)	\$	2,100		
	Plan Review Team (2 conference calls)	\$	100		
	Staff travel (coord w/ NEFMC, days out meetings)	\$	3,800		
	"Days Out" Meetings (3 Meetings)	\$	1,500		
Task 1.2.3	Board (1 meeting inside meeting week, 1 outside)	\$	1,500	\$	6,100
Bluefish	Technical Committee (1 meeting 10 members, 2 confere	\$	2,800		
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	50		
	Advisory Panel (5 members x 1 meeting)	\$	1,750		
Task 1.2.4	Board (3 meetings in meeting weeks)			\$	19,550
Horseshoe Crab	HSC Technical Committee (25 members x 1 meeting, 2 conference calls)	\$	7,000		
	ARM Subcomm. (12 members x 1 meeting, 1 confere	\$	3,950		
	DBETC (12 members x 1 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$	3,700		
	HSC Advisory Panel (2 conference calls)	\$	100		
	Shorebird Adviosry Panel (2 conference calls)	\$	100		
	Plan Review Team (2 conference call)	\$	100		
	Plan Development Team (2 conference calls)	\$	100		
	Ad Hoc Biomedical Working Group (10 members x 1 meeting, 2 conference calls)	\$	4,000		
	Staff Travel (DE Bay Survey)	\$	500		

Task 1.2.5	Board (budgeted under Black Drum)			\$	50
Red Drum	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	50		
	Advisory Panel (see Black Drum)	\$	-		
Task 1.2.6	Board (3 meetings in meeting weeks)			\$	18,450
Shad and River Herring	Technical Committee (16 members x 2 meetings, 4 conference calls)	\$	13,000		
	Advisory Panel (12 members x 1 meeting, 2 conference calls)	\$	4,900		
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	50		
	Staff Travel (1 Meetings)	\$	500		
Task 1.2.7					
Spanish Mackerel	Board (budgeted under Black Drum)			\$	150
	Plan Review Team (3 members x 1 conference call)	\$	50		
	Advisory Panel (see Black Drum)				
Spot	Board (budgeted under Black Drum)	\$	-		
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	50		
	Advisory Panel (see Black Drum)	\$	-		
Spotted Seatrout	Board (budgeted under Black Drum)	\$	-		
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	50		
	Advisory Panel (see Black Drum)	\$	-		
Task 1.2.8	Board (4 meetings in meeting week)			\$	16,000
Spiny Dogfish	SD Technical Comm. (13 members x 1 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$	5,300		
Coastal Sharks	CS Technical Comm. (15 members x 1 meeting, 2 cor	\$	5,500		
	SD Advisory Panel (2 conference call)	\$	100		
	CS Advisory Panel (10 members x 1 meeting, 1 confe	\$	2,450		
	SD Plan Review Team (1 conference calls)	\$	50		
	CS Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	50		
	SD Plan Development Team (1 confernce call)	\$	50		
	CS Plan Development Team (2 conference calls)	\$	100		
	Staff Travel to NEFMC/MAFMC/HMS AP	\$	900		
	Public Hearings 4 Hearings)	\$	1,500		

Task 1.2.9	Board (2 meetings in meeting week)		\$ 17,800
Tautog	Plan Review Team (1 conference calls)	\$ 50	
	Technical Committee (15 members x 2 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$ 7,100	
	Stock Assessment Subcommittee (8 members x 2 meetings, 2 conference calls)	\$ 7,800	
	Advisory Panel (8 members x 1 meeting, 1 conference)	\$ 2,850	
Task 1.2.10	Board (1 meetings in meeting weeks)		\$ 200
Weakfish	Technical Committee (2 conference calls)	\$ 100	
	Advisory Panel (1 conference call)	\$ 50	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$ 50	
Task 1.2.11	Board (2 meetings in meeting weeks)		\$ 2,200
Winter Flounder	Technical Committee (2 conference calls)	\$ 100	
	Advisory Panel (1 conference call)	\$ 50	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$ 50	
	Hearings (5 hearings)	\$ 1,500	
	Staff travel (NEFMC)	\$ 500	
Task 1.12.2	NRCC	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Task 3	Law Enforcement Coordinator	\$20,000	\$20,000
Task 3.3.4	Monitor AFWA and CLECA	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Subtotal:			\$ 291,480

2013 Science Budget Details		ACFCMA	IJF	W/B	SEAMAP	FHP	Total
Goal 1: Regulatory Planning							
Task 1.7.1	Fishing Gear Technology Work Group	\$	100				\$ 100
Task 1.10.1	CESS	\$	3,500				\$ 3,500
Task 1.11.1	Fish Passage Working Group	\$	9,750				\$ 9,750
Goal 2:							
Cooperative Research							
Task 2.2.1	NEAMAP						\$ 10,300
	NEAMAP Board	\$	10,050				
	Analytical Committee	\$	100				
	Operations Committee	\$	50				
	Trawl Technical Committee	\$	50				
	Data Management Committee	\$	50				
Task 2.2.2	SEAMAP						\$ 16,400
	SEAMAP South Atlantic Committee				\$	8,600	
	Coastal Survey Workgroup						
	Data Management Workgroup				\$	300	
	Bottom Mapping Workgroup				\$	4,600	
	Crustacean Workgroup				\$	2,900	
Task 2.2.3	Invasive Species	\$	250				\$ 250
Task 2.2.4	Tagging Program	\$	100				\$ 100
Task 2.3.1	Peer Reviews						\$ 24,150
	Tautog Integrated Review; Black Drum	\$	23,000				
	SEDAR/SARC	\$	1,150				
Task 2.3.2	Assessment Science Committee	\$	10,300				\$ 10,300
Task 2.3.4	Stock Assessment Models	\$	30,000				\$ 30,000
Task 2.3.5	Stock Assessment Training	\$	68,000				\$ 68,000
Task 2.4.4	Fish Ageing Exchanges and Workshop	\$	15,000				\$ 15,000
Task 2.5.1	Multispecies Technical Committee	\$	11,100				\$ 11,100
Goal 4: Habitat							
Task 4	Habitat Coordinator			\$	20,000		\$ 20,000
Task 4.1.2	Fish Habitat Partnership						\$ 42,025
	Steering Committee					\$	16,950
	Annual Meeting					\$	13,950
	Work Groups					\$	11,125
Task 4.1.3	Artificial Reef Committee			\$	5,400		\$ 5,400
Task 4.4	Coordinate Coastwide Habitat Activities	\$	15,000				\$ 15,000
Task 4.4.3/4/5	Develop & Distribute Habitat Information	\$	2,000				\$ 2,000
	Science staff conference registrations	\$	2,500				\$ 2,500
Subtotals:		\$	202,050	\$	-	\$	25,400
				\$	16,400	\$	42,025
						\$	285,875

**ASMFC Assessment Science Committee (ASC)
Report to the ISFMP Policy Board
October 24, 2012**

The Assessment Science Committee (ASC) met September 17-18, 2012 to address the following issues:

ACTION

- Stock assessment and peer review schedule through 2016
 - Changes since the Policy Board approved schedule in April 2012:
 - Small coastal shark SEDAR in 2013 - species will be bonnethead and sharpnose
 - **Policy Board task to ASC: Develop alternative scheduling options to allow Atlantic menhaden and sturgeon benchmark assessments to be conducted as soon as possible (see page 2)**
 - ASC developed different schedule scenarios, taking into account scientist workloads and realistic assessment delivery dates; 2014 is the earliest possible completion for the sturgeon and menhaden assessments.
 - ASC strongly advises caution in hiring external consultants to conduct assessments. ASC is developing guidance for the updated Technical Committee Guidance and Benchmark Framework on the effective use of consultants.
 - Pros: outside expertise helps alleviate workload, brings new ideas
 - Cons: inability to reproduce methods in future assessments, open-endedness of consultants' obligation, still requires significant time from state scientists; consultants may not have biological expertise
 - Consultants should be fully integrated to the TC/SASC process; the use of consultants should be rare.

DISCUSSION

- **Updating the ASMFC Technical Committee Guidance and Benchmark Framework**
 - Provided comments on issues such as stock assessment triggers, size of assessment subcommittees, and presenting preliminary results to Boards
 - Described levels of permission for sharing stock assessment data in response to public data requests
- **Use of new MRIP estimates in stock assessments and Technical Committee analyses**
 - NMFS has developed tools to compare new and old MRIP estimates. ASC recommends sending the MRIP Calibration Workshop report to all TCs; ASC will work with the Management and Science Committee to develop guidance for the Boards to use the most accurate estimates in quota monitoring and stock assessments.
- **2012 Action Plan tasks regarding uncertainty**
 - Task 1.5.1 – Establish best practices for technical committees to provide risk and uncertainty estimates when presenting scientific advice. ASC develop guidelines for characterizing uncertainty for each type of assessment.
 - ASC will hold a workshop at their Spring 2013 meeting to review uncertainty characterization in each species' assessment, look for commonalities, and develop consistent approaches for presenting uncertainty to managers.

Task from Policy Board to ASC: Develop alternative scheduling options that would allow Atlantic menhaden and sturgeon benchmark assessments to be conducted as soon as possible.

The Assessment Science Committee recommends that in order for menhaden and sturgeon to be benchmark peer reviewed at the earliest in 2014, work for those assessments needs to begin immediately, and several adjustments to the stock assessment schedule are required. Weakfish will need to be delayed one year to 2015 to allow ASMFC staff to contribute to sturgeon and tautog. Black drum does not have staff resource conflicts, however delaying the assessment one year to 2015 releases funding needed for that work until 2015. To allow for NMFS contribution to the Atlantic menhaden assessment in 2014, Atlantic menhaden must be added to the SEDAR schedule for 2014. To allow for ASMFC staff contribution to the menhaden assessment, the review of lobster would need to be delayed to 2016. The development of ecological reference points using multispecies models for Atlantic menhaden would be delayed to 2016 or later. State directors would need to make sturgeon a high priority and commit their staff resources to ensure the sturgeon assessment is completed. Options 2 and 3 are alternative scenarios that would allow the lobster peer review to remain on the schedule in 2014.

Option 1, ASMFC staff lead menhaden	Option 2, NMFS-Beaufort lead menhaden	Option 3, States or hired consultant lead menhaden
2013 Benchmarks	2013 Benchmarks	2013 Benchmarks
Striped Bass	Striped Bass	Striped Bass
<i>Summer Flounder</i>	<i>Summer Flounder</i>	<i>Summer Flounder</i>
Northern Shrimp	Northern Shrimp	Northern Shrimp
<i>Coastal Sharks</i>	<i>Coastal Sharks</i>	<i>Coastal Sharks</i>
2014 Benchmarks	2014 Benchmarks	2014 Benchmarks
	Lobster	Lobster
Sturgeon	Sturgeon	Sturgeon
Tautog	Tautog	Tautog
<i>Bluefish</i>	<i>Bluefish</i>	<i>Bluefish</i>
<i>Black Sea Bass</i>	<i>Black Sea Bass</i>	<i>Black Sea Bass</i>
Atlantic menhaden	Atlantic menhaden	Atlantic menhaden
2015 Benchmarks	2015 Benchmarks	2015 Benchmarks
Red Drum	Red Drum	Red Drum
Croaker	Croaker	Croaker
Weakfish	Weakfish	Weakfish
Black Drum	Black Drum	Black Drum
2016 Benchmarks	2016 Benchmarks	2016 Benchmarks
Lobster		
ERP task (MSVPA)	ERP task (MSVPA)	ERP task (MSVPA)

Long-Term Benchmark Assessment and Peer Review Schedule												
Species	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
American Eel	E							E				x
American Shad			E					x				
River Herring								E				
American Lobster	E				E					X		
Atlantic Croaker						SE					x	
Atlantic Menhaden		*				SE		*			SE	
Atlantic Sea Herring		T			*			S-S				
Atlantic Striped Bass	*		S-F		*		*		S-S			
Atlantic Sturgeon **												
Black Drum										X		
Black Sea Bass		S-S		DP	*	*	S-F	*	*	S-S		x
Bluefish	S-S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		S-S		
Horseshoe Crab					E					*		x
Multispecies VPA	S-F				*			*			x	
Northern Shrimp	*	*	S-S	*	*	*	*	*	S-F	*		
Red Drum					SE						SE	
Scup				DP	*	*	*	*	* (x)			
Spanish Mackerel				SE				SE				
Spiny Dogfish	*	S-S	*	*	*	T	*	*	*			
Large Coastal Sharks		SE					SE					
Small Coastal Sharks			SE				SE		SE			
Spot												
Spotted Seatrout												
Summer Flounder	S-S	*	*	S-S	*	*	*	*	S-S			
Tautog	E	*					*			X		
Weakfish		E		DP	S-S					X		
Winter Flounder - SNE	*			S-S			S-S					x
Winter Flounder - GOM	*			S-S			S-S					x

S = SARC (F = Fall, S = Spring)	Green = SEDAR External Review									
E = EXTERNAL	Red = ASMFC External Review									
I = INTERNAL	Orange = Fall SARC Review									
X = SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW	Light Blue = Spring SARC Review									
x = 5 year trigger date or potential review	Light Yellow = No assessments scheduled									
T = TRAC	Grey = Completed									
SE = SEDAR										
* = Assessment update	DP = DATA POOR WORKSHOP by the Northeast Region									
<i>Italics = under consideration, but not officially scheduled</i>		2013 marks transitioning to the new NE Stock Assessment Process								
** These species are reviewed by their respective Plan Review Team during annual FMP reviews. Due to existing management measures for these species, no formal stock assessment or peer review will be conducted until requested by the PRT.										
Please note that all species scheduled for review (X) must be prioritized by management boards and Policy Board for the type of review.										

Species	Future Benchmark Assessments
American Eel	Benchmark assessment and ASMFC External Review completed in March 2012 in conjunction with river herring.
American Shad	Benchmark assessment and ASMFC External Review completed in 2007. Next benchmark assessment not scheduled.
River Herring	Benchmark assessment and ASMFC External Review completed in March 2012 in conjunction with eel.
American Lobster	Reviewed in March 2009; Scheduled for review in 2014.
Atlantic Croaker	SEDAR 20 - Review Mar 2010
Atlantic Menhaden	Scheduled for SEDAR Benchmark Review 2015; completed update in 2012
Atlantic Sea Herring	June 2009 TRAC update, turn of the crank; Review completed SARC 54, June 2012
Atlantic Striped Bass	Scheduled for SARC 56 June or July 2013; 2013 marks transitioning to the new NE Stock Assessment Process
Atlantic Sturgeon **	No assessments scheduled. ESA listed. Awaiting end of moratorium in 2038.
Black Drum	Policy Board agreed to initiate an assessment tentatively for review in 2014.
Black Sea Bass	Tentatively scheduled for SARC 59 first half of 2014
Bluefish	Tentatively scheduled for SARC 59 first half of 2014
Horseshoe Crab	Benchmark HSC and multispecies Adaptive Resource Mgmt model concurrent external reviews in mid Nov 2009
Multispecies VPA	Update presented to Policy Board February 2009; next benchmark review tentatively scheduled for 2015
Northern Shrimp	Scheduled for SARC 58 Dec 2013; 2013 marks transitioning to the new NE Stock Assessment Process
Red Drum	Scheduled for ASMFC SEDAR 51 2015
Scup	Considered for SARC 53 Dec 2011, not on latest SARC schedule; 5-year trigger 2013
Spanish Mackerel	SEDAR benchmark in 2012 with the Coastal Migratory Pelagics SEDAR 28 - spanish mackerel, cobia
Spiny Dogfish	TRAC reviewed 2010
Large Coastal Sharks	SEDAR 21-Sandbar (was LCS, now research); LCS-Dusky (prohibited); SCS-Blacknose (quota); RW Apr 2011
Small Coastal Sharks	SEDAR 34-HMS bonnethead and Atlantic sharpnose 2013
Spot	PRT recommended take off SEDAR schedule, lack of bycatch data
Spotted Seatrout	No assessments scheduled
Summer Flounder	Scheduled for SARC 57 June or July 2013; 2013 marks transitioning to new NE Stock Assessment Process
Tautog	Review scheduled for 2014, with a pre-data workshop to discuss potential for regional assessments
Weakfish	Data Poor Review, Dec 2008; SARC 48 June 2009; scheduled for review in 2014
Winter Flounder - SNE	Assessed as part of the GARM in 2008; Next review SARC 52, June 2011
Winter Flounder - GOM	Assessed as part of the GARM in 2008; Next review SARC 52, June 2011