

# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## ISFMP Policy Board

October 24, 2012  
2:45 – 5:00 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 (*P. Diodati*) 2:45 p.m.
2. Board Consent (*P. Diodati*) 2:45 p.m.
  - a. Approval of Agenda
  - b. Approval of Proceedings from August 2012
3. Public comment 2:50 p.m.
4. Update on Marine Recreational Information Program Implementation (*G. Colvin*) 3:00 p.m.
5. Assessment Science Committee Report (*M. Cieri*) **Action** 3:25 p.m.
  - Assessment prioritization
6. Review white paper on ASFMC meeting transparency (*R. Beal*) **Action** 3:50 p.m.
  - Web broadcasting ASMFC quarterly meetings
  - Roll call voting
7. Habitat Committee Report (*R. Van Dolah*) **Action** 4:00 p.m.
  - Future direction of Habitat Committee
8. Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Report (*E. Greene*) 4:25 p.m.
9. Update on MAFMC Strategic Plan and Visioning Process (*R. Robins*) 4:30 p.m.
10. Law Enforcement Committee Report 4:45 p.m.
11. Update on Technical Orientation and Guidance Document (*T. Kerns*) 4:50 p.m.
12. Discussion of climate change induced shifts in species distribution (*P. Diodati*) 4:55 p.m.
13. Other Business/Recess 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel, 220 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA; 215-735-6000

# MEETING OVERVIEW

**ISFMP Policy Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 24, 2012**  
**2:45 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Chair: Paul Diodati (MA) Assumed Chairmanship: 11/11	Vice Chair: Louis Daniel (NC)	Previous Board Meeting: August 8 and 9, 2012
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, PRFC, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS (19 votes)		

## 2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from August 8 and 9, 2012

**3. Public Comment** – At the beginning of the meeting public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

## 4. Update on Marine Recreational Information Program Implementation (3:00–3:25 p.m.)

### Background

- The MRIP program has been moving forward with major survey design improvements, including the rollout of the new intercept survey design in 2013.
- The MRIP Implementation Plan identifies next steps for regional implementation decision-making.

### Presentations

- Status overview of MRIP implementation by G. Colvin

## 5. Assessment Science Committee Report (3:25-3:50 p.m.) Action

### Background

- The Assessment Science Committee (ASC) met September 17-18, 2012
- The Policy Board tasked ASC with developing alternative scheduling options in order to conduct menhaden and sturgeon benchmark assessments as soon as possible. ASC developed a recommended option for including the assessments in the 2014 schedule.
- ASC is developing guidance for Technical Committees on characterizing uncertainty in different types of stock assessments
- ASC is providing input on an update of the Technical Committee Guidance Document, including guidelines for hiring contractors for stock assessments

### Presentations

- Report on ASC activities by M. Cieri (**Briefing CD**)

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- Approve 2014 Stock Assessment Schedule

**6. Review white paper on ASMFC meeting transparency (3:50-4:00 p.m.) Action****Background**

- Rep. Walter B. Jones (NC) requested the Commission consider web broadcasting the quarterly meetings to allow for increased transparency of Commission activities by a wider range of stakeholders (**Briefing CD**).
- Rep. Jones also requested the Commission consider roll-call votes for all Commission actions.
- In the response to Rep. Jones, the Commission committed to web broadcasting of the quarterly meetings and exploring policies for using roll-call votes (**Briefing CD**).

**Presentations**

- Review of white paper on meeting transparency by R. Beal (**Briefing CD**)

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- Approve plan for roll-call votes and web broadcasting

**7. Habitat Committee Report (4:00-4:25 p.m.) Action****Background**

- A white paper was developed by a contractor to consider the future direction of the Habitat Program. The white paper includes recommendations for changes to the program (**Briefing CD**). The Habitat Committee prepared a response to the white paper (**Briefing CD**)
- The Habitat Committee met on October 23 and 24, 2012

**Presentations**

- Direction and priorities of the Habitat Committee by R. Van Dolah and M. Caldwell
- Review of Habitat Committee activities by R. Van Dolah

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- Accept habitat program recommendations

**8. Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Report (4:25-4:30 p.m.)****Background**

- The ACFHP Steering Committee met on October 22 and 23, 2012
- FY12 project funding approved and FY13 project applications received
- 2013 Multistate Conservation Grant funding announced

**Presentations**

- Update on Partnership activities by E. Greene

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- None

**9. Update on the MAFMC Strategic Planning and Visioning Process (4:30-4:45 p.m.)****Background**

- The MAFMC has been conducting a series of visioning meetings with managers and stakeholders in order to revise the strategic plan

**Presentations**

- Update on MAFMC strategic planning process by R. Robins

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- None

**10. Law Enforcement Committee Report (4:45-4:50 p.m.)****Background**

- The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) met on October 22 and 23, 2012

**Presentations**

- Review of LEC activities

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- None

**11. Technical Orientation and Guidance Document Update (4:50-4:55 p.m.)****Background**

- The Guidance Document for ASMFC Technical Support Groups and the Orientation Manual for ASMFC Technical Support Group Membership were last updated in 2002
- Commission Science and Policy staff updated the manuals into one draft guidance document that reflects current ASMFC committees and practices
- The MSC and ASC are reviewing and editing the draft document completed by staff
- Included will be guidance for public participation during Technical Committee meetings to address various stakeholders concerns to the Policy Board on the limited guidelines in the current manuals
- The Policy Board will review and consider the document at the February 2013 meeting

**Presentations**

- Update on the Progress of the Technical Orientation and Guidance Document by T. Kerns

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- None

**12. Discussion of climate change induced shifts in species distribution (4:55-5:00 p.m.)****Background**

- At the 2011 Annual ASMFC Meeting there was a discussion with the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFC)
- The MFC expressed concern that climate changes are going to have an effect on the distribution and availability of migratory species.
- The MFC requested the Commission start a review of quota allocations and how they could be periodically re-evaluated
- On behalf of the MFC, Paul Diodati has sent a letter to the Commission requesting the ISFMP Policy Board task the Management and Science Committee to consider whether climate-induced distribution shifts of migration populations have occurred and if these distribution shifts can be used as a basis for re-evaluation of quota allocation decisions  
**(Briefing CD)**

**Presentations**

- Review of LEC activities

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- Tasking the MSC

**13. Other Business/Recess**

# MEETING OVERVIEW

**ISFMP Policy Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 25, 2012**  
**3:15– 4:45 p.m.**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Chair: Paul Diodati (MA) Assumed Chairmanship: 11/11	Vice Chair: Louis Daniel (NC)	Previous Board Meeting: August 8 and 9, 2012
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, PRFC, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS (19 votes)		

## 2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda

**3. Public Comment** – At the beginning of the meeting public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

## 4. Review Non-Compliance Recommendations (If Necessary) (3:15-3:45 p.m.)

### Background

- Species management boards and sections review compliance on an on-going basis.
- If a board/section recommends that a state be found out of compliance, the Policy Board must review this finding prior to the Commission taking action.

### Presentations

- Staff will provide background on any non-compliance recommendations

### Board actions for consideration at this meeting

- Determine if a recommendation should be made for the Commission to notify the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce of a state's non-compliance

## 5. Other Business/Adjourn

# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Guidelines for Improved Transparency in the Commission's Fisheries Management Process

At its August 2012 meeting, the Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board tasked staff with developing a white paper to provide guidance on two issues to improve transparency in the Commission's fisheries management process: (1) the use of live-streaming at ASMFC Meeting Weeks and (2) use of roll-call votes.

### Live Streaming

Over the past year, the three East Coast Regional Fishery Management Councils have begun to live-stream Council meetings with the use of an online meeting interface, GoTo Webinar. The Commission currently also has a GoToWebinar account which can accommodate up to 100 participants for the potential broadcast of business proceedings. To use GoToWebinar, participants are required to download and install the necessary software in order to join the meeting remotely. GoToWebinar allows participants to view meeting motions and presentations as well as listen in on the meeting proceedings through two integrated audio options: (1) phone dial in and (2) Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Participants who join the meeting via telephone dial a toll-based number that GoToWebinar provides automatically. Participants are then charged their standard long-distance rate for calling this toll-based number, just as if they made a regular long-distance call. Alternatively, participants who join the meeting via VoIP need speakers or headphones to hear the GoToWebinar session. A third option for audio use only would be to offer access via a toll free conference call number. There would be an additional fee associated with this option.

All three Councils utilize both integrated audio options – phone call in at the callers expense and VoIP. None of the Councils allow participants to submit questions during the meeting proceedings, however, the Mid-Atlantic Council allows participants to submit questions during listening sessions. The Councils also encourage participants to register prior to the start of the meeting, which provides an estimate of the number of people joining the session remotely. All three also record the sessions by committee/board and post the audio recordings to their websites generally a day or two following the full meeting.

Other online meeting companies include WebEx and Adobe Connect. The Mid-Atlantic Council currently uses GoToWebinar, but will be testing Adobe Connect at its next meeting. The Commission does not have active accounts with either application so there would be an additional fee associated with using these applications.

**Staff Recommendation:** Utilize the GoToWebinar application, allowing for both integrated audio options, with phone call-ins being at the participants' expense (long distance charges). Participants have the ability to contact staff through an online messaging program should problems with internet/audio transmission arise. This would not be used as a mechanism to solicit public input on or questions about

the meeting deliberations. As does the Councils, the Commission would encourage participants to register prior to the beginning of the first meeting of the week. However, access to the GoToWebinar is not restricted and participants may join at any time during the meeting once they register. Below is an example of the Mid-Atlantic Council's registration page for their Council meetings.



## October 2012 MAFMC Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM EDT - [Show in my Time Zone](#)

### Webinar In Session

Please check the agenda for times when the webinar is active. The Council is not currently accepting comments via the webinar except during the Public Listening Session. Comments may be submitted via the contact information on our home page, [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org) or in person at the meeting.

* First Name:	* Last Name:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
* Email Address:	State/Province:
<input type="text"/>	Choose one... <input type="text"/>

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Webinar organizers are prohibited from soliciting confidential personal information (credit card information, social security numbers, etc.) in the registration form. This questionnaire is not intended to handle sensitive data.

Please type "yes" if you would like to be added to our email list:

\* Indicates a required field

By clicking the "Join Webinar In Progress" button you submit your information to the Webinar organizer, who will use it to communicate with you regarding this event and their other services.

[View system requirements](#)

Your email address and personal information will be used by the Webinar organizer to communicate with you about this event and their other services. To review the Webinar organizer's privacy policy or opt out of their other communications, contact the Webinar organizer directly.

Safeguarding your email address and Webinar registration information is taken seriously at GoToWebinar. GoToWebinar will not sell or rent this information.

The Commission would post audio files by species board/section under meeting archives the Monday following the conclusion of the full meeting.

**Costs:** Limited initial start up cost (purchase wire to connect audio to dedicated computer). There will be an additional commitment of staff time (one dedicated person per meeting to ensure smooth and consistent operation of webinar). Staff proposes doing an internal test of GoToWebinar at Annual Meeting with first pilot at the Commission's December 14, 2012 Atlantic Menhaden Board meeting.

### Roll Call Vote

In an effort to balance meeting efficiencies with the need for ensuring transparency in our decision-making process, staff recommends the implementation of roll call votes for issues pertaining to:

- Approval of fishery management plans/amendments/addenda

- Stock assessments
- Non-compliance recommendations
- Specifications (including quotas, seasons, and allocations);
- Conservation equivalency
- At the discretion of the chair, other modifications to the management program
- At the request of a Commissioner or board/section member

Potential issues that would not need a roll call vote include: FMP Reviews; committee/panel membership and assignment.

Given the varied number of issues covered by motions and the differing degree of controversy associated with them, it is not possible to foresee all motions that might require roll call. One potential approach would be when the Board Chair calls for a show of hands during the standard voting practices, lead staff would verbally identify the states/jurisdictions/agencies who voted in the affirmative, negative, null or abstention. These would then be made part of the official record.