

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
COASTAL SHARKS MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**Beaufort Hotel  
Beaufort, North Carolina  
Hybrid Meeting**

**October 17, 2023**

**Approved May 2, 2024**

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1. **Approval of Agenda** by consent (Page 1).
2. **Approval of Proceedings of August 1, 2023** by consent (Page 1).
3. **Move to approve the 2024 coastal sharks specifications via an email vote after NOAA Fisheries publishes the final rule for the 2024 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing season** (Page 2). Motion by John Clark; second by Mike Luisi. Motion carries by unanimous consent (Page 2).
4. **Move to nominate Mike Luisi as Vice-Chair of the Coastal Sharks Board** (Page 2). Motion by John Clark; second by Nichola Meserve. Motion passes by unanimous consent (Page 2).
5. **Move to adjourn** by consent (Page 2).

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Coastal Sharks Management Board.  
The Board will review the minutes during its next meeting.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Nichola Meserve, MA, proxy for D. McKiernan (AA)	Craig Pugh, DE, proxy for Rep. Carson (LA)
Sarah Ferrara, MA, proxy for Rep. Peake (LA)	Michael Luisi, MD, proxy for L. Fegley (AA)
Jason McNamee (AA)	Lewis Gillingham, VA, proxy for J. Green (AA)
Eric Reid, RI, proxy for Sen. Sosnowski (LA)	Chris Batsavage, NC, proxy for K. Rawls (AA)
Bill Hyatt, CT (GA)	Jerry Mannen, NC (GA)
Craig Miner, CT proxy for Rep. Gresko, CT (LA)	Chad Thomas, NC, proxy for Rep. Wray (LA)
Jim Gilmore, NY, proxy for M. Gary (AA)	Malcolm Rhodes, SC (GA)
Emerson Hasbrouck, NY (GA)	Ben Dyar, SC, proxy for Sen. Cromer (LA)
Heather Corbett, NJ, proxy for J. Cimino (AA)	Spud Woodward, GA (GA)
Jeff Kaelin, NJ (GA)	Erika Burgess, FL, proxy for J. McCawley (AA)
John Clark, DE (AA)	Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NMFS
Roy Miller, DE (GA)	

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

**Ex-Officio Members**

**Staff**

Bob Beal	Caitlin Starks	Katie Drew
Toni Kerns	Jeff Kipp	Jainita Patel
Tina Berger	Tracy Bauer	Chelsea Tuohy
Madeline Musante	James Boyle	

**Guests**

Pat Augustine	Tony Friedrich, ASGA	Brian Neilan, NJ DEP
Alan Bianchi, NC DMF	Pat Geer, VMRC	Kathy Rawls, NC (AA)
Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NOAA	Joseph Grist, VMRC	Paul Risi
Benson Chiles	Hannah Hart, MAFMC	Katherine Rodrigue, RI DEM
Joseph Cimino, NJDEP	Jesse Hornstein, NYS DEC	Christopher Scott, NYS DEC
Bill DeSteph	Chuck Karr, NJ DEP	McLean Seward, NC DEQ
Julie Evans	Shanna Madsen, VMRC	Scott Travers, RI Saltwater
James Fletcher, United National	Joshua McGilly, VMRC	Anglers Assn.
Fishermen's Assn.	Steve Meyers	Craig Weedon, MD DNR
Dawn Franco, GA CRD	Tina Moore, NC DMF	Chris Wright, NOAA

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The Coastal Sharks Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Rachel Carson Ballroom via hybrid meeting, in-person and webinar; Tuesday, October 17, 2023, and was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Erika Burgess.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR ERIKA BURGESS: At this time, I'll call to order the Coastal Sharks Management Board.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CHAIR BURGESS: The first item on our agenda is the approval of the agenda. Is there any opposition to the agenda or any additions to the agenda? Seeing none.

#### **APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIR BURGESS: Next up is the approval of the proceedings from August, 2023. Is there any objection to approving the proceedings? Seeing none.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

CHAIR BURGESS: We'll now open the floor to public comment. I see a few people in the audience. Is there anyone in the room who wishes to give public comment to the Coastal Sharks Management Board? Seeing none; I'll look online. None online, all right.

#### **SET SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2024 FISHING YEAR**

CHAIR BURGESS: That brings us to our fourth agenda item, which is to set specifications for the 2024 fishing year, and I will ask Caitlin to give a presentation.

MS. CAITLIN STARKS: Thank you, Madam Chair. This should be pretty quick and painless. The NOAA Highly Migratory Species Division published their Proposed Rule for the 2024 coastal shark specifications on August 2nd this year, and the Final Rule is expected to publish later this fall. In that proposed rule, the quota for the shark's species relevant to this Board remain status quo from last

year, and the proposed opening date is January 1, 2024.

In addition to the specifications, the Proposed Rule considers options for the 2024 fishing years and beyond to automatically open the commercial fishing season on January 1st of each year, under base quotas and default retention limits. It also considers increasing the default commercial retention limit for the large coastal shark fisheries.

These are the 2024 proposed quotas for aggregated large coastal shark; hammerhead shark, non-blacknose, small coastal shark, blacknose shark, and smoothhound shark. For the LCS group and the blacknose group, the proposed retention limits are status quo from 2023 at 55 large coastal sharks other than sandbar sharks and 8 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip.

Next, so the proposed 2024 quotas for the non-sandbar LCS research group, sandbar shark research group, blue shark, porbeagle sharks and other pelagic sharks. These are also status quo from 2023. Regarding the proposed default measures in a proposed rule. The proposed option or preferred option is to automatically open the fisheries on January 1st of each year, with base quotas and default retention limits. This option would increase the default possession limit for the large coastal sharks' group to 55 sharks per vessel per trip, rather than the current default of 45. The default possession limit for blacknose would stay at eight, and in this option, NOAA could still adjust the start date quotas and retention limits as needed, either before or during the season. Similar to last year, the Board can consider whether to approve the 2024 coastal sharks' specifications via an e-mail vote after NOAA Fisheries publishes the final rule for the 2024 Atlantic coastal sharks commercial fishing season later this year. I can take any questions.

CHAIR BURGESS: Any questions for Caitlin regarding her presentation or the proposed specifications? Mr. Clark.

MR. JOHN CLARK: Thank you, Madam Chair. If

there are no questions, I think there is a prepared motion that I would be glad to make. Okay, **move to approve the 2024 Coastal Sharks Specifications via an e-mail vote after NOAA Fisheries publishes the Final Rule for the 2024 Atlantic shark commercial fishing season.**

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m. on October 17, 2023)

CHAIR BURGESS: I saw a second from Mike Luisi. Is there any discussion on the motion? One thing I want to bring forward, to make sure everyone on the Board is aware. Caitlin and I have discussed this. The ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Plan for coastal sharks requires us to set a fishing season start date each year.

Although NOAAs Proposed Rule would set it at January 1st, for each year, this Board would still have to go through the formal process of voting on a season each year. We can leave that in place, if that's all right. If we want to change it that would require an addendum. An addendum is not necessary, but if everyone is comfortable with that.

I just want to make sure that the Board is aware that that would be the practice moving forward. **Any opposition to this motion? Seeing none; this motion is approved,** and be on the lookout for an e-mail from Caitlin to vote for that. The next to last action is to elect a Vice-Chair. John, is your arm, okay?

MR. CLARK: Thanks to all the candy I have regained my strength, Madam Chair. At this time, it is my honor to **nominate my neighbor, the multitalented Mike Luisi as Vice-Chair of the Coastal Sharks Board.**

CHAIR BURGESS: I see a second from Nichola Meserve. **Any opposition to this motion? Mike, you can't put your hand up. Seeing none; I'll consider that motion approved.**

#### ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR BURGESS: Is there any other business to come before this Board? Seeing none, I'll ask for a motion to adjourn. So moved, thank you.