



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Joseph Cimino (NJ), Chair

Dan McKiernan (MA), Vice-Chair


Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

## MEMORANDUM

March 19, 2025

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Executive Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Sciaenids Management Board; Tautog Management Board; and Weakfish Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal   
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Spring Meeting: May 5 – 8, 2025 (TA 25-051)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spring Meeting will be May 5 – 8, 2025 at **The Westin Crystal City**. This will be a hybrid meeting (both in-person and remote) to allow for participation by Commissioners and interested stakeholders; the details of which will be provided two weeks prior to the meeting. A brief, preliminary agenda and public comment guidelines are included with this memorandum. Materials will be available April 23 on the Commission website at <https://asmfc.org/events/2025-spring-meeting/>.

A block of rooms is being held at The Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. Lisa Carty will make Commissioner/Proxy reservations and will contact you regarding the details of your accommodations. **Please notify Lisa of any changes to your travel plans that will impact your hotel reservations, otherwise you will incur no-show penalties.** We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

For all other attendees, please reserve your room online via our group link at [Book your group rate for Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission ASMFC Meeting May 2025](#) or call Marriott directly at 888.236.2427 as soon as possible and mention the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to obtain the group room rate of \$276 plus tax single/dbl. Please be aware you must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or one night's advance payment. **Hotel reservations must be made by Monday, April 7. Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** If you are being reimbursed by ASMFC for your travel, please make your reservation directly with the hotel. Reservations made through travel websites do not apply toward our minimum number of required reservations with the hotel. **Please note, cancellations at The Westin must be made by 4 PM two days before arrival to avoid penalty and an early departure fee of \$276 + tax will apply when checking out before the confirmed date.** If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Lisa Carty at 703.842.0713 or [lcarty@asmfc.org](mailto:lcarty@asmfc.org).

We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Meeting. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740.

Enclosed: Preliminary Agenda, TA 25-051, and Travel Reimbursement Guidelines



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Spring Meeting

May 5 – 8, 2025

**The Westin Crystal City**

Arlington, Virginia

### Public Comment Guidelines

To provide a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board has approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings:

**For issues that are not on the agenda**, management boards will continue to provide opportunities to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will ask members of the public to raise their hands to let the chair know they would like to speak. Depending upon the number of commenters, the board chair will decide how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

**For topics that are on the agenda**, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic. Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comments will not provide additional insight to the board.

**For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment**, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

In addition, the following timeline has been established for the **submission of written comments for issues for which the Commission has NOT established a specific public comment period** (i.e., in response to proposed management action).

1. Comments received three weeks prior to the start of a meeting week (April 14) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 29 will be included in supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by 10 AM on Friday, May 2 will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting.

The submitted comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution. As with other public comment, it will be accepted via mail and email.

# Preliminary Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided below. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

## Monday, May 5

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

### **American Lobster Management Board**

- Progress Update on Benchmark Stock Assessment for American Lobster
- Consider Final approval of Draft Addendum XXXII to Repeal Addendum XVII Minimum and Gauge Size Requirements
- Report from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts on Industry Meetings
- Review Report of Lobster Conservation Management Team Area 3
- Update on Joint New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Alternative Gear Marking Amendment
- Discuss Vessel Tracking Rules

**3:45 – 4:45 p.m.**

### **Weakfish Management Board**

- Consider 2025 Stock Assessment Update and Possible Management Response
- Elect Vice-Chair

## Tuesday, May 6

**9 – 10 a.m.**

### **Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board**

- Review and Consider Conservation Equivalency: Policy and Technical Guidance Document
- Progress Update on Ongoing Stock Assessments
- Reconvene on May 8

**10:15 – 11:45 a.m.**

### **Sciaenids Management Board**

- Consider Red Drum Technical Committee Report on Stock Assessment Follow-Up Tasks and Possible Management Response
- Progress Update on Atlantic Croaker Benchmark Stock Assessment

**11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

### **Luncheon for Legislative and Governor Appointee Commissioners**

**11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

### **Lunch Provided for Commissioners and Proxies**

**1:15 – 5:15 p.m.**

### **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

- Consider Terms of Reference for 2027 Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Consider Massachusetts Conservation Equivalency Proposal for Commercial Fishery Size Limit
- Consider Approval for Public Comment Draft Addendum III on Proposed Management Measures for 2026

- 1:30 – 5 p.m. Law Enforcement Committee**
- Review and Discuss Enforcement of Commission Species
  - Review and Discuss Ongoing Enforcement Activities (Closed Session)

**6 – 7:30 p.m. Annual Awards of Excellence Reception**

**Wednesday, May 7**

- 8 – 10 a.m. Executive Committee**
- Review and Consider Approval of FY26 Budget
  - Review White Paper on Board Voting and Virtual Meeting Standard Operating Practices and Procedures
  - Future Annual Meetings
  - Conduct Executive Director Performance Review (Closed Session)

- 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Law Enforcement Committee (continued)**
- State Agency Reports

- 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)  
Coordinating Council**
- Consider Approval of 2026 Request for Proposals
  - Program and Committee Updates

**12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Lunch Break**

- 1:15 – 3:15 p.m. Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**
- Consider Final Report from Work Group on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay
  - Progress Update on 2025 Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Assessment
  - Provide Direction to Technical Committee on 2026-2028 Stock Projections

**3:30 – 4 p.m. Update on Responsible Offshore Science Alliance for  
Commissioners**

- 4:15 – 5 p.m. Tautog Management Board**
- Review Technical Committee Report on New York Study of Alternative Commercial Tags
  - Progress Update on 2025 Tautog Stock Assessment Update
  - Elect Vice-Chair

**Thursday, May 8**

**8:30 – 10:15 a.m.**

**Horseshoe Crab Management Board**

- Consider Final Approval of Draft Addendum IX on Multiyear Specifications for Male Only Harvest
- Review Adaptive Resource Management Subcommittee Recommendations Regarding Input on Changes to Reward/Utility Functions
- Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership

**10:30 – 11:45 a.m.**

**ISFMP Policy Board (continued)**

- Executive Committee Report
- Review White Paper on Board Voting and Virtual Meeting Standard Operating Practices and Procedures
- Committee Reports
- Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary

**11:45 a.m. – Noon**

**Commission Business Session**

- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary