



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

April 23, 2025

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council; Atlantic Herring Management Board; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Executive Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Sciaenids Management Board; Spiny Dogfish Management Board; and Tautog 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 room block is now closed; if you need assistance reserving a room, please contact Lisa Carty at lcarty@asmfc.org.

The final agenda and meeting materials for the Spring Meeting are now available at <https://asmfc.org/events/2025-spring-meeting/>; click on the relevant Board/Committee name to access the documents for that Board/Committee. For ease of access, all boards have been combined into one document - <https://asmfc.org/resources/management/management-presentations/2025-spring-meeting-materials-combined-may-2025/>. Supplemental materials will be posted to the website on Wednesday, April 30.

Please note: the Weakfish Management Board meeting, previously scheduled for Monday, May 5 (3:45 – 4:45 PM) has been canceled. Instead, the Spiny Dogfish Management Board will be held on May 5 from 3:45 – 4:15 PM, with an Atlantic Herring Management Board meeting to follow from 4:30 – 5 PM.

The following pages contain the final agenda and public comment guidelines. Be advised the agenda's schedule is subject to change; the order in which the agenda items are listed is subject to change, and other agenda items or meetings may be added as necessary.

Webinar Information

Meeting proceedings will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning Monday, May 5 at 1:30 PM and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be Noon on Wednesday, May 8). To

MAINE • NEW HAMPSHIRE • MASSACHUSETTS • RHODE ISLAND • CONNECTICUT • NEW YORK • NEW JERSEY • DELAWARE
PENNSYLVANIA • MARYLAND • VIRGINIA • NORTH CAROLINA • SOUTH CAROLINA • GEORGIA • FLORIDA

register for the webinar, please go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/60738568308578650> (Webinar ID: 826-144-067). If you are joining the webinar but will not be using VoIP, you may also call in at +1.562.247.8321, access code 112-047-383. A PIN will be provided to you after joining the webinar. For those who will not be joining the webinar but would like to listen in to the audio portion only, press the # key when asked for a PIN.

Each day, the webinar will begin 15 minutes prior to the start of the first meeting so that people can troubleshoot any connectivity or audio issues they may encounter. If you are having issues with the webinar (connecting to or audio related issues), please contact Chris Jacobs at 703.842.0790.

Meeting Process

Board chairs will ask both in-person and virtual board members if they wish to speak. In-person members can simply raise their hands at the meeting without logging on to the webinar, while virtual members will raise their hands on the webinar. The chair will work with staff to compile the list of speakers, balancing the flow of questions/comments between in-person and virtual attendees. The same process will be used for public comment. 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.

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: Final Agenda



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.

Final Agenda

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.

Please note: the Weakfish Management Board meeting, previously scheduled for Monday, May 5 (3:45 – 4:45 PM) has been canceled. Instead, the Spiny Dogfish Management Board will be held on May 5 from 3:45 – 4:15 PM, with an Atlantic Herring Management Board meeting to follow from 4:30 – 5 PM.

Monday, May 5

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

American Lobster Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

Other Members: NEFMC, NMFS

Other Participants: Beal, Pugh, Soule

Chair: Zobel

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*R. Zobel*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from March 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Addendum XXXII on Repealing Gauge and Vent Size Changes of Addendum XXVII for Final Approval (*C. Starks*) **Final Action**
5. Update from Maine and New Hampshire on Industry Meetings (*C. Wilson, R. Zobel*)
6. Report from Lobster Conservation Management Team Area 3 (*H. Soule*)
7. Update on Joint New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Alternative Gear Marking Amendment (*A. Murphy*)
8. Update on American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment (*T. Pugh*)
9. Other Business/Adjourn

3:45 – 4:15 p.m.

Spiny Dogfish Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

Other Members: NMFS

Other Participants: Chapin, Newlin

Chair: Geer

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Geer*)

2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Technical Addendum I to Spiny Dogfish Addendum VII for Final Approval (*J. Boyle*)

Final Action

5. Other Business/Adjourn

4:30 – 5 p.m.

Atlantic Herring Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey

Other Members: NEFMC, NMFS

Other Participants: Brown

Chair: Grout

Staff: Franke

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Grout*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Revised Specifications for the 2025-2027 Fishing Years (*E. Franke*) **Final Action**
5. Other Business/Adjourn

Tuesday, May 6

9 – 10 a.m.

Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Chair: Cimino

Staff: Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino*)
2. Board Consent (*J. Cimino*)
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Consider Conservation Equivalency: Policy and Technical Guidance Document (*T. Kerns*) **Final Action**
5. Progress Update on On-Going Stock Assessments (*K. Drew*)
6. Recess/Reconvene on May 8, 2025

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Sciaenids Management Board

Member States: New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC

Other Participants: Simpson

Chair: Haymans

Staff: Bauer

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Haymans*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Red Drum Technical Committee Report (*E. Simpson*) **Possible Action**
 - Recommendations on Benchmark Stock Assessment Follow-up Tasks
5. Progress Update on Atlantic Croaker Benchmark Stock Assessment (*J. Kipp*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

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

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

Other Members: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: Grabowski, Mercer

Chair: Ware

Staff: Franke

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Ware*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Update on 2027 Benchmark Stock Assessment (*K. Drew*) **Action**
 - Review and Consider Stock Assessment Terms of Reference
 - Review and Populate Stock Assessment Subcommittee Membership
5. Consider Approval of Draft Addendum III on Future Management Measures, Commercial Tagging, and Total Length Measurement for Public Comment (*E. Franke*) **Action**
 - Technical Committee Report on Stock Projections (*K. Drew*)
 - Maryland Proposal for Recreational Season Baseline Option (*M. Luisi*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

1:30 – 5 p.m.

Law Enforcement Committee

(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Committee members and the LEC Coordinator only)

Members: Bailey, Beal, Brown, Cassin, Chapelle, Chapin, Daniels, Gadowski, B. Hale, Hettenbach, Hodge, Javor, Mercer, Pearce, Rogers, Thomas, Walker, Williams

Chair: Pearce

Staff: Blanchard

Webinar link: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/053399673> (Meeting ID: 053399673)

Call in: +1 (650) 419-1505 US (Access Code / Meeting ID: 053399673)

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*S. Pearce*)
2. Committee Consent (*S. Pearce*)
 - Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Introductions
5. New Hampshire Fish and Game Law Enforcement Case Study (*D. Brown*)
6. Break
7. Review and Discuss Commission Species
 - Bluefish Uncertainty Tool (*C. Touhy*)
 - Other Species
8. Meeting Recess/Reconvene on May 7 at 8:30 a.m.

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

Wednesday, May 7

8 – 10 a.m.

Executive Committee

Breakfast will be available at 7:30 a.m.

(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Committee members and Commissioners only)

Members: Abbott, Burgess, Cimino, Clark, Davis, Dyar, Fegley, Gary, Green, Haymans, Kuhn, McKiernan, McNamee, Miller, Patterson, Rawls, Wilson

Chair: Cimino

Staff: Leach

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Meeting Summary from February 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Report of the Administrative Oversight Committee **Final Approval** (*D. McKiernan*)
 - Review and Consider Approval of FY26 Budget
5. Legislative Update (*A. Law*)

6. Review Discussion Paper on Declared Interests and Voting Privileges – Issues 1 & 2 (*R. Beal*)
7. Future Annual Meetings Update (*L. Leach*)
 - October 26 – 30, 2025 – Dewey Beach, Delaware
 - 2026 – Rhode Island
 - 2027 – South Carolina
 - 2028 – Massachusetts
 - 2029 – Pennsylvania
 - 2030 -- Georgia
8. Other Business
9. **Closed Session**
 - Litigation Update (*R. Beal*)
 - Update on CARES Act Repayment Progress (*R. Beal*)
 - Conduct Executive Director Performance Review
10. Adjourn

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Law Enforcement Committee (continued)

(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Committee members and the LEC Coordinator only)

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1. Reconvene
2. Review and Discuss Ongoing Enforcement Activities (**Closed Session**)
3. State Agency Reports (*S. Pearce*)
4. ASMFC Website Review (*T. Berger*)
5. Other Business/Adjourn

10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)
Coordinating Council**

Partners: ASMFC, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, MAFMC, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, NEFMC, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, NMFS, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, PRFC, Rhode Island, SAFMC, South Carolina, USFWS, Virginia

Chair: Knowlton

Staff: White

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions (*G. White, K. Knowlton*)
2. Council Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Funding Decision Document and FY2026 Request for Proposals (*J. Simpson*) **Action**

5. Update on Program and Committee Activities (*G. White, J. Simpson*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: Bailey, Craig

Chair: Clark

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Clark*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Final Report from Work Group on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay (*M. Gary*) **Possible Action**
5. Progress Update on 2025 Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Stock Assessment (*K. Drew*)
6. Provide Direction to Technical Committee on 2026-2028 Stock Projections (*K. Drew*)
7. Other Business/Adjourn

3:30 – 4 p.m.

Update on Responsible Offshore Science Alliance for Commissioners

4:15 – 5 p.m.

Tautog Management Board

Member States: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

Other Members: NMFS

Other Participants: Scott, Weedon

Chair: Vacant (R. Beal will chair the meeting)

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*R. Beal*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Review Technical Committee Report on New York Study of Alternative Commercial Tags (*C. Weedon*)
5. Progress Update on the 2025 Tautog Stock Assessment Update (*K. Drew*)
6. Elect Chair **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

Thursday, May 8

8:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Horseshoe Crab Management Board

Member States: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: Couch, Hoffmeister, Simpson, Sweka

Chair: Reid

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*E. Reid*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Addendum IX on Multi-year Specifications for Male-Only Harvest of Delaware Bay-origin Horseshoe Crabs for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review Options and Public Comment Summary (*C. Starks*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*B. Hoffmeister*)
 - Consider Addendum IX for Final Approval
5. Adaptive Resource Management Subcommittee Report (*J. Sweka*)
 - Recommendations Regarding Possible Changes to Reward/Utility Functions
6. Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership (*T. Berger, C. Starks*) **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

ISFMP Policy Board (continued)

1. Reconvene
2. Executive Committee Report (*J. Cimino*)
3. Review Discussion Paper on Declared Interests and Voting Privileges – Issues 1 & 2 (*T. Kerns*)
Possible Action
4. Law Enforcement Committee Report (*K. Blanchard*)
5. Review Noncompliance Findings (If Necessary) **Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

11:45 a.m. – Noon

Commission Business Session

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Chair: Cimino

Staff: Beal

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Cimino*)

2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Northern Shrimp for Final Approval **Final Action** (*D. Grout*)
5. Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary
6. Other Business/Adjourn