



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel Meeting Summary

Webinar
April 14, 2025

Advisory Panel Members in Attendance

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| Bob Humphrey (ME for-hire) | Toby Lapinski (CT recreational) |
| Peter Fallon (ME for-hire) | Eleanor Bochenek (NJ rec, fisheries scientist) |
| Peter Whelan (NH recreational) | Tom Fote (NJ recreational) |
| Patrick Paquette (MA recreational) | Will Poston (DC recreational) |
| Craig Poosikian (MA commercial) | Kelly Place (VA commercial) |
| Peter Jenkins (RI recreational) | Jon Worthington (NC recreational) |

AP Member Julie Evans (NY commercial) submitted comments via email.

ASMFC Staff: Emilie Franke, Katie Drew

Public in Attendance: Brandon Foor, Chris Batsavage, Corrin Flora, David Sikorski, Elise Koob, Jake Hardy, Kristen Thiebault, Tony Friedrich

The Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel (AP) met via webinar on April 14, 2025 to receive an overview of issues being developed for Draft Addendum III, provide input to the Plan Development Team on requirements for measuring striped bass total length in Draft Addendum III, and elect an AP Chair and Vice Chair. If Draft Addendum III is approved for public comment, an AP meeting will be scheduled during the public comment period to gather AP recommendations on the specific options in the draft addendum.

Staff provided an overview of the types of management measures being considered in Draft Addendum III for options to reduce fishery removals. One AP member noted concern that the Board is not focused on research to determine the underlying cause of low recruitment and to determine whether the male to female ratio is sufficient in the Chesapeake Bay. For recreational options that consider different measures between private vessels/shore anglers and for-hire vessels, one AP member noted concern that separate quotas for modes are not being considered. It was noted that a full evaluation of mode split management should include evaluation of quota allocation.

Staff provided an overview of the commercial tagging option in Draft Addendum III that considers requiring tagging at the point of harvest. This would impact Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and North Carolina where tagging is currently implemented at the point of sale. One AP member noted point of sale tagging has been in place for a long time in Massachusetts, and it may be difficult to determine how many tags each fisherman should receive for a point of

harvest model. One AP member noted all states should have the same type of commercial tagging program.

Staff provided an overview of the option in Draft Addendum III that would implement a coastwide definition of 'total length' as it applies to measuring a striped bass, including requiring the fish be laid flat on a measuring device and requiring squeezing the tail. The Plan Development Team specifically requested input from the AP on whether there are any concerns about requiring fish to be laid flat on a measuring device, for example when fishing from shore or from a pier.

AP consensus is that a standard coastwide definition of total length, including a requirement to lay the fish flat, is reasonable and preferred. AP members noted it is the responsibility of every angler, no matter if fishing from a boat or shore or pier, to ensure they can properly measure the fish. Measuring devices are available in many popular shore or pier fishing areas, and it would be easy for an angler to bring their own measuring device and find a flat platform to lay the fish. All anglers, especially those who intend to harvest a fish, should have a plan for how they will measure the fish. AP members noted the importance of a consistent definition for all states coastwide. One AP member noted the recent discussion of this issue in Massachusetts and the importance of enforcement's input that a standard definition would be beneficial and make it very clear to anglers and to enforcement officers how a fish should be measured. Overall, the AP agreed a standard definition for measuring striped bass should be implemented for all anglers in all states.

The Advisory Panel elected Eleanor Bochenek from New Jersey as the AP Chair and Peter Whelan from New Hampshire as the AP Vice Chair.