



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

July 23, 2025

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Eel Management Board; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Executive Committee; ISFMP Policy Board; Sciaenids Management Board; Shad and River Herring Management Board; and Weakfish Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal 
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Summer Meeting: August 5 – 7, 2025 (TA 25-062)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Meeting will be August 5 – 7, 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 Summer Meeting are now available at <https://asmfc.org/events/2025-summer-meeting/>; click on the relevant Board/Committee name to access the documents for that Board/Committee. For ease of access, materials for all boards have been combined into one document - <https://asmfc.org/resources/management-meeting-materials/2025-summer-meeting-materials/>. Supplemental materials will be posted to the website on **Wednesday, July 30**.

Please note: the Coastal Sharks Management Board meeting, previously scheduled for Wednesday, August 6 (11:30 AM – 12:15 PM) has been canceled. The Weakfish Management Board meeting, which was previously scheduled for Tuesday, August 5 (1 – 2 PM) will now occur Wednesday, August 6 (11:30 AM – 12:15 PM). The timing of all other meetings on August 5 has been slightly modified.

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 Tuesday, August 5 at 10 AM and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be 11:45 AM on Thursday, August 7). To

register for the webinar, please go to:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8127397986650630485> (Webinar ID: 230-697-115). If you are joining the webinar but will not be using VoIP, you may also call in at +1 (914) 614-3221, access code 949-913-944. 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 Summer Meeting. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740.



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Summer Meeting

August 5 – 7, 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 the quarterly meeting (July 14) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5 PM on Tuesday, July 29 will be included in supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by 10 AM on Friday, August 1 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.

Tuesday, August 5

10 AM – Noon 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, Matzen, Pugh

Chair: Zobel

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*R. Zobel*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from May 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Update on On-Demand Gear Research and Technology (*E. Matzen*)
5. Update on Joint New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Alternative Gear Marking Framework (*A. Murphy*)
 - American Lobster Advisory Panel Report (*C. Starks*)
6. Update from Maine and New Hampshire on Industry Meetings (*C. Wilson, R. Zobel*)
7. Progress Update on American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment (*T. Pugh*)
8. Other Business/Adjourn

Noon – 1:30 PM Legislative and Governors' Appointees Luncheon

Noon – 1:30 PM Lunch Provided for Commissioners and Proxies

1:30 – 2:30 PM American Eel 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: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: Beal, Carty, Hahn

Chair: Kuhn

Staff: Starks

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*K. Kuhn*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment

4. Update on CITES Proposal to List American Eel under Appendix II (*D. Hahn*)
5. Review and Consider Maine Aquaculture Plan for 2026 Fishing Year **Action**
 - Technical Committee Report (*C. Starks*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

2:45 – 5 PM

Sciaenids Management Board

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

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC

Other Participants: Rickabaugh, Finch, Simpson

Chair: Haymans

Staff: Bauer

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Haymans*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from May 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Red Drum Draft Addendum II on Modifications to Red Drum Management for Public Comment (*T. Bauer*) **Action**
5. Review 2025 Traffic Light Analyses for Spot and Atlantic Croaker (*H. Rickabaugh/M. Finch*)
Possible Action
 - Technical Committee Recommendations
6. Consider Delaware Spot Commercial Measures Proposal (*J. Clark*) **Action**
7. Consider Atlantic Croaker and Red Drum Fishery Management Plan Reviews and State Compliance for the 2024 Fishing Year (*T. Bauer*) **Action**
8. Other Business/Adjourn

5:30 – 6:30 PM

ASMFC Public Outreach (Westin Lobby)

- Informational Exchange among Commission Members, Staff, and Meeting Attendees; All are Welcome; Light Snacks

Wednesday, August 6

8 – 9:45 AM

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, Dyar, Fegley, Gary, Green, Haymans, Hyatt, 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 May 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Legislative Update (A. Law)
5. Review Discussion Paper on Establishing and Reviewing Declared Interests (*R. Beal*)
6. 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
7. Other Business
8. ***Closed Session***
 - Litigation Update (*R. Beal*)
 - Update on CARES Act Repayment Progress (*R. Beal*)
9. Adjourn

10 – 11 AM

Shad & River Herring 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: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: Daniels, Jargowsky, Lyons Gromen

Chair: Edwards

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Edwards*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2024
3. Public Comment

4. Advisory Panel Report (*P. Lyons Gromen*)
 - 2024 River Herring Benchmark Assessment
5. Consider Shad and River Herring Sustainable Fishery Management Plan (SFMP) and Alternative Management Plan (AMP) Updates (*M. Jargowsky*) **Action**
 - Massachusetts River Herring SFMP
 - Florida Shad & River Herring AMP
 - Georgia American Shad SFMP and River Herring AMP
6. Elect Vice-Chair (*P. Edwards*) **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Weakfish Management Board

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

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC

Other Participants: Levesque, Major

Chair: Haymans

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Haymans*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2019
3. Public Comment
4. Consider 2025 Weakfish Stock Assessment Update **Possible Action**
 - Presentation of Stock Assessment Report (*E. Levesque*)
 - Consider Management Response, if necessary (*D. Haymans*)
5. Elect Vice-Chair (*D. Haymans*) **Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

12:15 – 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

1:15 – 5:30 PM

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 May 2025
3. Public Comment

4. Consider Approval of FMP Review and State Compliance for the 2024 Fishing Year (*E. Franke*)
Action
5. Report on Commercial Tagging Program Ten-Year Review (*E. Franke*)
6. 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 (*T. Grabowski*)
7. Other Business/Adjourn

Thursday, August 7

8:30 – 9:30 AM

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, Lapp

Chair: Clark

Staff: Boyle

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Clark*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from May 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Discuss Technical Committee Direction in Response to Work Group Report on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay
5. Progress Update on 2025 Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Stock Assessment (*K. Drew*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

9:45 – 11:30 AM

Interstate Fisheries Management Program 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 May 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Executive Committee Report (*J. Cimino*)
5. Review and Consider Conservation Equivalency: Policy and Technical Guidance Document (*T. Kerns*)
Final Action
6. Review Discussion Paper on Establishing and Reviewing Declared Interests (*R. Beal*)

7. Discussion of Nature-Friendly Fishing Gear and Bait Alternatives (*T. Kerns*)
8. Report from the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (*S. Kaalstad*)
9. Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary **Action**
10. Other Business/Adjourn

11:30 – 11:45 AM

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 May 2025
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary **Final Action**
5. Other Business/Adjourn