

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
**ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**BUSINESS SESSION**

**The Westin**  
**Annapolis, Maryland**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**October 23, 2024**  
**Approved May 8, 2025**

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## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Board Members**

Pat Keliher (AA)	Kris Kuhn, PA, proxy for Timothy Schaeffer (AA)
Rep. Allison Hepler, ME (LA)	Loren Lustig, PA (GA)
Steve Train, ME (GA)	John Clark, DE (AA)
Cheri Patterson, NH (AA)	Roy Miller, DE (GA)
Dennis Abbott, NH, proxy for Sen. Watters (LA)	Lynn Fegley, MD (AA)
Doug Grout, NH (GA)	David Sikorski, M, proxy for Del. Stein (LA)
Dan McKiernan (AA)	Jamie Green, VA (AA)
Ray Kane, MA (GA)	Sen. Danny Diggs, VA (LA)
Jason McNamee (AA)	James Minor, VA (GA)
David Borden, RI (GA)	Chris Batsavage, NC, proxy for Kathy Rawls (AA)
Eric Reid, RI, proxy for Sen. Sosnowski	Chad Thomas, NC, proxy for Rep. Wray (LA)
Justin Davis (AA)	Ben Dyar, SC, proxy for Blaik Keppler (AA)
Bill Hyatt (GA)	Mel Bell, SC, proxy for Sen. Cromer (LA)
Marty Gary (AA)	Malcolm Rhodes, SC (GA)
Emerson Hasbrouck, NY (GA)	Doug Haymans, GA (AA)
Jim Gilmore, NY, proxy for Assy. Thiele (LA)	Spud Woodward, GA (GA)
Joe Cimino, NJ (AA)	Erika Burgess, FL, proxy for Jessica McCawley (AA)
Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Sen. Gopal (LA)	Gary Jennings, FL (GA)
Jeff Kaelin, NJ (GA)	

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

### **Staff**

Bob Beal	Alexnader Law	James Boyle
Toni Kerns	Michael Opiekun	Katie Drew
Tina Berger	Caitlin Starks	Jainita Patel
Madeline Musante	Jeff Kipp	Chelsea Tuohy
Lisa Carty	Tracy Bauer	Emilie Franke

The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Capitol Ballroom via hybrid meeting, in-person, and webinar; Wednesday, October 23, 2024, and Thursday, October 24, 2024, and was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by Chair Joe Cimino.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR JOE CIMINO: All right, good morning, everyone, I think we're good on sound checks, so I would like to call to order the Business Session. My name is Joe Cimino, I am the Administrative Commissioner for the state of New Jersey, and current Chair of the Commission.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CHAIR CIMINO: I'll go through Approval of the Agenda. Does anyone have any additions or any added items that they would like to add to our agenda? That's always a good thing. Not seeing any hands.

### **APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIR CIMINO: Approval of the Proceedings from our January, 2024 meeting. Any issues there? Not seeing any hands, I'll consider both of those approved by consent.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2025 ACTION PLAN**

CHAIR CIMINO: And we will get into the approval for our 2025 Action Plan. Those of you that joined us for our annual dinner last night already know that I'm geeking out and waiting for staff to go through all that we're going to do today, sorry, for the rest of 2025. Bob, who am I starting with here? Okay, I'm going to start with Toni Kerns.

### **GOAL 1 – PRIORITY SPECIES FOR 2025**

MS. TONI KERNS: I was going to try to get it up on the screen, but we don't have time for that. Okay, I am going to go through Goal 1, which is our priority species for 2025. I'll first go through the high priority species and then the medium-

low priority species. It's not that we think lesser of the medium lows, it's just a question of workload, not about how important the species is. First, we'll go through American lobsters.

I'm only going to go through the new activities. We'll be collaborating with both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Council regarding on demand track gear configurations, and the other issues related to this. We will also work with Canada DFO on potential changes in minimum size in the maritime regions, which could result in trade impacts, as well as work with Canada DFO and our science committees on lobster science.

Moving on for Atlantic menhaden, we'll consider any of the work groups input on precautionary management for Chesapeake Bay, and respond as necessary to any management actions that are needed. For striped bass we'll develop any management actions, if needed, to meet the rebuilding deadline of 2029, and we'll also address any recommendations from the Recreational Release Mortality Workgroup.

For summer flounder, scup, black sea bass and bluefish, we will present management track stock assessments and respond if necessary, and we'll do that in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Council. For horseshoe crab, we'll consider recommendations from the Delaware Bay Management Objectives Workshop, and we will also monitor the Endangered Species Act 90 day finding and respond as necessary. For red drum we'll work in response to the 2024 benchmark stock assessment, which was presented this week, and conduct any projections and technical work as requested by the management board, including the Risk and Uncertainty Tool, and we'll also conduct and present Traffic Light Analysis and respond as necessary.

Then for scup, the only thing that we'll do in addition to the assessment is to monitor the activities of the Mid-Atlantic Council on scup discards and gear restricted areas. For tautaug, we'll conduct and present the stock assessment update and respond as necessary, and we'll do the

same thing for weakfish. Joe, do you want me to pause and see if I have questions on these high priorities?

CHAIR CIMINO: Yes, please, Toni. Any questions on what Toni has gone through so far?

MS. KERNS: Moving into the medium-low priorities, and again, I'm just going over new actions. For Atlantic sturgeon we'll monitor the state and federal responses to the 2025 Biological Opinion, and respond as necessary. For coastal sharks, HMS will be coming out with Draft Amendment 16, which is the commercial and recreational direct fishery management issues, and proposed rule for electronic reporting and respond if necessary.

For Atlantic cobia, we'll implement the new recreational measures, designed to achieve the regional harvest allocations based on Addendum II for the recreational fishery. For spiny dogfish we'll finalize and implement Addendum VII, which is reducing Atlantic Sturgeon bycatch, and maintaining consistency with federal management for the bycatch reductions. That's all.

CHAIR CIMINO: Any questions or comments on those other species? Not seeing any hands.

MS. KERNS: We'll move into the crosscutting issues, and these are the crosscutting issues across the Commission. One of the things that we're proposing is to strike the continue to explore allocation strategies for the Commission's quota managed species to reflect current fishery conditions.

This Workgroup has, the issue has been on the docket, but has been looked at more on a species specific, you know being addressed in each of the FMPs, so we're considering taking this out instead of addressing it across the board. Then we're also adding to explore the development or guidance of a policy level document on allocation and use of the recreational mode splits and rec sector

separation. This is an issue that is being addressed right now in the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass FMP, but it may be something that we want to do across the board.

We're also participating in the Climate Ecosystem Fisheries Initiative, which is abbreviated as CEFI, and the Decision Support Teams and relevant council Inflation Reduction Act, to support the development and advancement of climate ready fisheries. We're also monitoring the activities of 304F for the regional councils, and we would respond if necessary if there is anything that the Commission would need to do. Any questions?

CHAIR CIMINO: Yes, looks like we have one, John.

MR. JOHN CLARK: Toni, could you just briefly cover what the 304F activities are?

MS. KERNS: I don't know exactly what the activities that the Councils will be doing in response to 304F. I think that there is some discussion that is still occurring within the Councils of how they plan to or may respond to 304F. We would just monitor what is going on, and then if there is something that comes up that the Commission could help with or needs to do on our end, that we would talk about it and consider those actions, but mostly it's a monitor, wait and see type of issue, unless anybody has any additions.

CHAIR CIMINO: No, but considering just the fact that there is great number of species, I don't think there is any way that the Commission doesn't get involved in that. But even a more overarching issue, you know this could visit a general overall policy for how we handle stuff, you know to some extent that was part of discussions in our Ex Com too. John, follow up?

MR. CLARK: Yes, I just was actually asking more, what exactly is 304F?

MS. KERNS: Sorry, John, and I realized that after I stopped talking, 304F is a Policy Directive from NOAA Fisheries that touches on how Councils are addressing the movement of species across the

management bodies, and when Councils start to take action for species expansion or shifting of range.

CHAIR CIMINO: Jim.

MR. JAMES GILMORE: Toni, this is just to verify what you just said, because when I read this the crossing out the allocation part of it, you know gave me a heart attack. Essentially what we're doing is now we're broadening that to more species than we've looked at in the past, and we're doing that mode split, so we're not abandoning looking at allocations over time, we're just broadening it, that's all I want to verify, thanks.

CHAIR CIMINO: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Yes.

CHAIR CIMINO: Any other questions or comments on Goal 1. Toni, was that it for Goal 1? Yes, okay, not seeing any other hands, we'll get into Goal 2, Pat.

## **GOAL 2 – FISHERY SCIENCE PROGRAM, STOCK ASSESSMENTS AND FISHERIES RESEARCH**

MR. PATRICK A. CAMPFIELD: Goal 2 covers the Commission's Fishery Science Program, Stock Assessments, Fisheries Research, and other inputs into the stock assessment. New activities under the scientific committees include working with USGS to continue to foster our partnership for science support from the geological survey.

Notably this year we will seek additional analytical support to the stock assessment committees from the Cooperative Research Units within the USGS in several states. Moving down to the Fisheries Socioeconomics Committee, they would like to develop a Recreational Demand Model for striped bass, to evaluate fishery trends. As was discussed earlier this week, use the Risk and Uncertainty Tool to inform management of red drum, as well as try to finalize the Commission's Risk and

Uncertainty Policy for all species. Under data collection and the regional survey programs, starting with SEAMAP in the Southeast.

There has been some work to complete survey designs for a regional fishery independent survey targeting coastal pelagic species, notably Atlantic cobia, which does not have an independent survey. Also, take another look at the effectiveness of the state longline surveys for their use as stock assessment abundance indices.

Again, that was discussed during the red drum assessment presentation. Under NEAMAP, we're going to work on some outreach activities, notably the development of a new NEAMAP website to enhance our outreach, and also work with the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel to develop plans for wind energy area survey mitigation.

There is a new initiative among the Chesapeake Bay states and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office to review striped bass recruitment patterns and associated surveys. For the horseshoe crab trawl survey, we're going to look into possibly conducting demo trips to take various stakeholders out on the trawl survey to see the operations and the numbers of crab that are being caught.

We've had this highlighted item in the last year or two about exploring the use of industry-based surveys, to supplement current fishery independent data collection, so we will continue that work with NMFS and industry partners. Then under the Fisheries Research category again, additional collaboration with USGS, specifically a project to generate new population models for invasive catfish in the Chesapeake estuaries as significant predators on species that we manage.

Also, to provide support to a new national partnership among the Interstate Fisheries Commissions and the USGS Science Centers, building on a symposium at the recent American Fisheries Society Meeting that we held together. Under Ecosystem Based Management and Changing Ocean Conditions, Toni mentioned the Climate Ecosystem and Fisheries Initiative within NOAA.

We have requested and will continue to seek support from CEFI modelers and analysts to better incorporate environmental information into our stock assessments. For the diadromous species work more closely with USGS is climate adaptation science centers, characterize changes in those populations. I think Mr. Chairman, that wraps up the new items under science.

CHAIR CIMINO: See, cool stuff. It's exciting. Questions for Pat on Goal 2, or comment. John.

MR. CLARK: Yes, very cool stuff. Pat, just a question about the Recreational Demand Model for striped bass. If I recall, there are two different models out there right now that we were looking at for, what is it, black sea bass or summer flounder. Is it going to be the same models, or is this something different?

MR. CAMPFIELD: Yes, I don't have a lot of specifics for you, John, again this is an idea from a couple of CESS members who have run these models before, including for striped bass they may update that model, but it looks like Toni may have some more incite.

MS. KERNS: John, it's our hope that we use the RDM that incorporates some of the social and economic information. The second model is the one that Jay came up for scup, and I think that utilizes less social and economic information than the other one, so that is our hope. But we'll see what happens.

DR. KATIE DREW: Toni pretty much covered it, but basically, I think we're going to be looking at both of those and see if there is anything we can do to develop or enhance those models going forward, based on the available data.

CHAIR CIMINO: Any other questions or comments on Goal 2? Oh, Eric.

MR. ERIC REID: Thank you for the presentation. Just a quick question on the section about NEAMAP, yes, that yellow highlighted thing. I

didn't see anywhere in there where we're going to continue to support the development of an industry-based pilot survey to complement the Bigelow. Is that included by three or four of the bullet points without being specifically named?

MR. CAMPFIELD: Yes, I think we received a presentation on that in the last year or so, perhaps at the Policy Board. But my understanding is that work will continue, you know including from NMFS. But we're looking at it at the NEAMAP table as well, because many of those surveys are run on industry vessels, and that bullet also pertains to shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Maine and working with industry boats there to continue data collection.

CHAIR CIMINO: Any other questions? Seeing none; thanks, Pat. Goal 3 we go to Geoff.

### **GOAL 3 – FISHERIES DEPENDENT DATA COLLECTION**

MR. GEOFF WHITE: Goal 3 is fisheries dependent data, primarily focused through the ACCSP Program, of course under partnerships none of this would work without the partnerships; with the states, the fellow Commissions, Councils and NOAA. Under fisheries dependent data collection, the new items are really to complete the development and implementation of modernized dealer electronic reporting applications and data processing for implementation by January, 2026.

This is an extension of work that was planned to be done earlier, but we made some significant progress for this already right now, but there could be a delay in that implementation until 2026. The goal here is to finish the programming in the middle of 2025, and allow time for outreach in practice to actually put it out to the dealers in January, 2026.

The One Stop Reporting Initiative, we want to convene a workshop on state data needs to make that electronic trip reporting more compatible across things. Under recreational surveys, continue to develop and seek MRIP certification of the for-hire methodology for logbook estimates of catch and effort with dockside validation. This is a major

item for kind of across partnerships, as there are components of that that bridge the data collection that occurs at GARFO and Southeast Fisheries Science Center, SERO and the Councils as well, so rather excited about that one moving forward. We want to support recreational data collection pilot projects. There is one that was just approved, the discard catch-cards through the ACCSP Coordinating Council, as well as some large pelagic pilot surveys that are occurring in Maine. Under data standards, distribution, and use, we really worked to define the data consolidation standards and presentation, really focused on the presentation needs for the release catch discards and at-sea observer data.

Because right now it's coming in from dealer data, trip data and citizen science records, so really figuring out the best way to present that and be most useful about discard information for the assessment process. Under Data Distribution and Use, we provide validated commercial landings data for Commission stock assessments.

There are several listed there, as well as the SEDAR process. Since 2007, ACCSP has done the consolidated landings data load process and with the improvements and consolidating biological data we really want to work on that structure and regular process for the biological datasets to be sent to the ACCSP Data Warehouse.

Include by adding partner data feeds and creating data warehouse queries. We do want to continue to expand the data warehouse content, specifically reworking recreational directed trips, queries and catch frequency queries, to provide those benefits back out to our partners and public. Under outreach and infrastructure, we do want to extend the improvement of our IT hosting scalability to address increased data demands.

Part of that is increases in electronic reporting, part of that is the vessel location information,

and making sure that our systems have enough bandwidth and capability to handle high peak workloads, as more systems are using the tracker information. We're going to promote and support communication of ACCSP activities by committee members, within their agencies, and to also extend the content and create a rich and more engaging ACCSP website.

CHAIR CIMINO: Thank you, Geoff, that's cool stuff too. I just set myself up for something here now. I didn't complement Toni, now I feel terrible. Questions or comments for Geoff. Actually, I do, Geoff. I don't think I talked about this or know if we have a plan. But for some of the exploratory rec data collection stuff, do we have a plan on how that gets reported out and back to us? Like, how do we hear about those projects?

MR. WHITE: At the moment the pilot projects that are planned for 2025. Sorry, no, there is not a clear plan of how to report that back to the Commission, but we can certainly provide updates anytime you want.

CHAIR CIMINO: Any other questions or comments on this goal? Oh, we go back to Toni. Get ready, Toni, I'm going to have a great compliment.

#### **GOAL 4 – LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

MS. KERNS: I'm really going to blow your mind with this one. Under Goal 4 it is the Compliance for our Action Plan dealing with our Law Enforcement Committee, in addition to the normal activities of the Committee to respond to different FMPs questions on compliance and enforcement. The Committee will work with the New England Fishery Management Council's enforcement committee on reviewing regulations related to on-demand trap gear.

CHAIR CIMINO: Questions or comments on the Goal 4. Not seeing any, I think we go back to Pat.

#### **GOAL 5 – HABITAT PROGRAM**

MR. CAMPFIELD: The next goal pertains to the Commission's Habitat Program. A few items to

highlight for next year. The Habitat Committee will work on publishing the Habitat Management Series document describing shell recycling programs up and down the coast, and the benefits to fish habitat, as well as identify their next focal topic for the Habitat Management Series.

Every couple of years they do a state-by-state update on climate change initiatives, and so they will update that report in 2025. Then finally, focus on some seagrass work, so work with partners to develop standardized seagrass assessment restoration and monitoring along the Atlantic coast, and we had a very productive discussion during the Habitat meetings earlier this week. Those are the few new items under Goal 5.

CHAIR CIMINO: Thank you, questions, or comments on Goal 5. Not seeing any, good. Tina.

## **GOAL 6 – OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS**

MS. TINA L. BERGER: Goal 6 is about outreach and communication and strengthening stakeholder support. Under the increase public understanding and support of ASMFC, we are going to explore some changes in format to our two primary newsletters, Habitat Hotline Atlantic and Fisheries Focus. We are extending our focused outreach in 2025 to include striped bass and red drum, as well as develop stock assessment overviews for lobster, croaker, menhaden, and ERPs.

A lot of the things under the new and current technologies will focus on our new website, which I hope you all had a chance to look at. I will send you all a link and a password, so you can explore it over the next couple of weeks and get us your feedback. We're hoping for a launch in early 2025. I know it's going to be kind of an adjustment period for everyone, because everyone is used to the old website, but we will make sure that we include tutorials

and training for everyone, to get everybody up to speed.

Part of that will be launching our redesign website, with offsite hosting. Madeline and I are getting some training in WordPress back-office and developing with SOPPs to maintain the website. We're going to continue to enhance understanding of stock assessment science to increase postings of our stock assessment presentations. We are going to use the new website to highlight engaging content, eye catching images, make it more accessible to a broader public and as Pat mentioned.

I will assist the Fisheries Science Coordinator in redesigning and migrating the NEAMAP website as needed. We're also going to track analytics to assess this assess of the new website, and our expanding efforts in social media. Under stakeholder participation, part of that worksite is development of an action tracker, which sort of allows members to track the development of a management plan and addenda through the whole process, sort of give you a history and see archive for important documents. We're attempting to sort of streamline how we get public comment through new website forms for both quarterly meetings and public comment documents. Also, we have created a new contact us page that allows folks to really tailor the kind of messaging and information they want to receive from us.

Under media relations and networking, a big issue that has come up before the various boards and this board as well, this session, is the development of FAQs for highly high-profile species like horseshoe crab and Atlantic menhaden. We also have developed what we call fact checker page that allows us to respond directly to inaccuracies and misinformation regarding printed media or digital media. I think that will help move us along in increasing understanding of our programs and the issues that we're dealing with, and that is it for us.

CHAIR CIMINO: Thanks, Tina, obviously near and dear to my heart that last idea about fact checker. Any of the recent Horseshoe Crab Board Chairs

know that we spend an inordinate amount of time responding to inaccuracies in articles, and sometimes they are just completely ignored. It is very frustrating. Tina does so much work on it, I appreciate all that she does. Any questions or comments on this goal? John.

MR. CLARK: Yes, I couldn't agree more about the fact checkers. As soon as you have that done on horseshoe crabs, Tina, I want to send it to all our legislators in Delaware. So far, I just think the new website really looks great, much cleaner and I think it's going to be easier to find. I mean I love the current website, there is so much there, but it is kind of busy.

CHAIR CIMINO: Any other questions or comments? Not seeing any, we're good, we'll go on to Goal 7. Bob.

#### **GOAL 7 – CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH AND LOBBYING EFFORTS**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: Yes, Goal 7 is a small or relatively short but really important goal, it's our Congressional Outreach and Lobbying efforts. A lot of this is going to focus on obviously getting to know a new Congress and new administration next year, and continuing to convey legislative and budget priorities.

There is a long list of acts that may be considered. It's hard to know what's going to be introduced in the new calendar, so we will react to that accordingly. There is one new bullet that is highlighted, which is develop a process to comment on pending legislation if the consensus position cannot be reached. Right now if there is not a consensus we generally don't comment. Each state can comment on their own if they choose to.

Some folks have said Well, if there is a majority or pieces of it that we all agree to, maybe we should comment on those pieces and not the whole thing. Maybe some more thought needs to be put into how we comment on pending

legislation if there is not a full agreement around the table. I think that is the highlights, a lot of it is the same thing we've always been doing.

But just to reiterate what we always say, if anyone around the table wants to go to Capitol Hill or wants to have us help you set up meetings in your local districts, we are always happy to do that, happy to attend any of those meetings when you're in town, Arlington meetings anyway, you know the Metro, we're only half a dozen Metro stops away from Capitol Hill, and it's easy to get over there and have some meetings. If we can help with that, we will do that.

CHAIR CIMINO: Questions or comments on Goal 7. Not seeing any, Laura.

#### **GOAL 8 – FISCAL STABILITY AND ADMINISTRATION**

MS. LAURA C. LEACH: Goal 8 is of course, ensure the fiscal stability and efficient administration of the Commission. Most all of our tasks are ongoing. I will only point out a couple, probably not all of the highlighted ones, but we're going to engage a consultant to update our indirect cost agreement, because that has been a challenge.

I think many of you know we charge little to no overhead on so many things, especially the Disaster Relief, and it doesn't make sense any longer, so we're going to figure that one out. The bigger one also is responding to audit requirements as necessary, regarding CARES and Consolidated Appropriation Act funds.

Next is current information, we're going to migrate our accounting software to a cloud-based platform, which probably doesn't seem that interesting, except for that because of the breach, we know we need to be in the cloud now. Then I'll take the last one, conduct an all-staff team building retreat, because we haven't done that as much since COVID, so we're going to try to do that again.

CHAIR CIMINO: Questions or comments on Goal 8? Okay, not seeing any. The Plan is first run by the AOC, which Dan Chairs, so I'll look to Dan for a

motion. There were some edits there, but I think, Dan, since this is the draft that was presented to the group, we don't have to do an amended by for just as draft.

MR. DANIEL MCKIERNAN: I'll make a **motion on behalf of the Administrative Oversight Committee to accept the Strategic Plan as presented today.**

CHAIR CIMINO: Do I have a second? Lynn, okay. Discussion on this? Not seeing any. Any objections to this one? Thanks a lot, great. We'll consider that **approved by consent.**

#### **ELECT COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

CHAIR CIMINO: Next agenda item, huh? What's that one, anything interesting? No, okay. We're actually going to pick Chair and Vice-Chair. Yes, please.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: As is the practice at the Commission, the Executive Director administers the election for the Chair and Vice-Chair. Just as another reminder, you know this is our first year under the leadership of Joe and Dan, so we appreciate the hard work they've put in this year. With that comment I will call on the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Pat Keliher, for a nomination for Chair of the Commission.

MR. PATRICK C. KELIHER: First, I would like to thank the members of the Nomination Committee, Erika Burgess and John Clark as I am sure they will attest, it was exhausting. We had hours of conversations, okay in all reality I said Hey, we're all set. **We are very pleased to renominate Joe Cimino as Chair.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Any other nominations from the floor? Not seeing any. Is there any objection to the reelection of Joe Cimino as the Chair of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission? Seeing none; Joe, congratulations, you are **elected by unanimous consent.** Mr. Keliher, do you have a nomination for Vice-Chair?

MR. KELIHER: I do, thank you very much. **The Nomination's Committee unanimously would recommend and renominate Dan McKiernan as Vice-Chair.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Great, thank you. Any other nominations from the floor. Not seeing any; any objections to reelecting Dan as the Vice-Chair for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for one more year. Not seeing any; **congratulations, Dan, you are the Vice-Chair for another year.**

CHAIR CIMINO: Well, thank you all, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of Dan that it's truly an honor to be able to do this, it's a highlight of my career and I hope you all know how much this means to me. We'll move on to Other Business. No, I don't either. We'll have an announcement on the picture, and then before we do an adjournment.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: We're going to try to do the Commissioner picture right now, since we're done a little bit early, we might as well use that time wisely. It's going to be, go up the main revolving door, is that right?

MS. LEACH: I think we go out the doors, and Tina can help me with this if I need it. But the doors, go out these doors over here, turn left. Go down the stairs, you are going to go across the loading dock. There is a stage over there against the painted wall. If you all gather there, and Tina and Lisa will be there to arrange you, and I will be up and we're going to try and shoot down like we did last year in Beaufort. That should be in the cemetery.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

CHAIR CIMINO: Maybe we should just hold hands on the way out so no one gets lost. With that, unless there are any objection, we'll adjourn here. Great, so that is the end of Business Session, thank you, everyone, much appreciated.

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on October 24, 2024)