

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

ISFMP Policy Board

October 30, 2025

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. McKiernan*) 10:15 a.m.
2. Board Consent (*D. McKiernan*) 10:15 a.m.
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2025
3. Public Comment 10:20 a.m.
4. Executive Committee Report (*D. McKiernan*) 10:30 a.m.
5. Committee Reports **Final Action** 10:50 a.m.
 - Assessment Science Committee (*J. Patel*)
 - Law Enforcement Committee (*K. Blanchard*)
 - Habitat Committee (*S. Kaalstad*)
 - Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (*S. Kaalstad*)
6. Consider Fishing Year 2026 Coastal Sharks Specifications (*C. Starks*) **Final Action** 11:20 a.m.
7. Update on North Carolina's Pamlico Sound Trawl Survey (*C. Batsavage*) 11:30 .am.
8. Update on On-Going Stock Assessments 11:35 a.m.
 - Cobia (*E. Franke*)
 - Sturgeon (*K. Drew*)
9. Review Noncompliance Findings (If Necessary) **Action** 11:50 a.m.
10. Other Business 11:55 a.m.
11. Adjourn 12:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at Hyatt Place Dewey Beach (1301 Coastal Highway, Dewey Beach, Delaware; 302.864.9100) and via webinar; click [here](#) for details.

MEETING OVERVIEW

ISFMP Board
Thursday October 30, 2025
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Chair: Dan McKiernan (MA) Assumed Chairmanship: 10/25	Vice Chair: Will be elected on 10/28	Previous Board Meetings: August 7, 2025
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, PRFC, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS (19 votes)		

2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from August 2025

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Executive Committee Report (10:30 -10:50 a.m.)
Background <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Executive Committee will meet on October 29, 2025
Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• D. McKiernan will provide an update of the Executive Committee’s work
Board action for consideration at this meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

5. Committee Reports (10:50- 11:20 a.m.) Final Action
Background <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Assessment Science Committee has updated the Commission’s stock assessment schedule, including the addition of 2029 and 2030, as well as some other changes (meeting materials)• The Law Enforcement Committee will meet on October 28-29, 2025• The Habitat Committee will meet on October 29, 2025• The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership will meet on October 27-28, 2025

Presentations

- J. Patel will review the updated stock assessment schedule
- K. Blanchard will review the work of the LEC
- S. Kaalstad will review the work of the Habitat Committee
- S. Kaalstad will review the work of the ACFHP

Board discussion for consideration at this meeting

- Consider approval of the Commission's Stock Assessment Schedule

6. Consider Fishing Year 2026 Coastal Sharks Specifications (11:20-11:30 a.m.) Final Action**Background**

- Effective January 1, 2024, NOAA Fisheries changed the federal regulations for Atlantic shark fisheries to automatically open the commercial fishing year on January 1 of each year under the base quotas and default retention limits.
- The Commission has typically set coastal shark specifications based on federal regulations for Atlantic coastal shark fisheries.
- Under Addendum II to the Interstate Coastal Sharks FMP, the coastwide Atlantic smooth dogfish quota is allocated into state shares.

Presentations

- C. Starks will review 2026 specifications (**meeting materials**)

Board action for consideration at this meeting

- Consider 2026 coastal shark specifications

7. Update on North Carolina's Pamlico Sound Trawl Survey (11:30-11:35 a.m.)**Background**

- The R/V Carolina Coast which is used to conduct the Pamlico Sound Trawl Survey is no longer structurally sound. The survey, which began in 1987, is conducted each June and September in Pamlico Sound and its tributaries. Data from this survey are used in the summer flounder and weakfish stock assessments and the spot and croaker traffic light analyses and ongoing stock assessments.

Presentations

- C. Batsavage will give an update on the Pamlico Sound Trawl Survey

Board action for consideration at this meeting

- None

8. Update on On-Going Stock Assessments (11:35-11:50 a.m.)**Background**

- The Cobia Benchmark Stock Assessment began work this fall and will be reviewed by SEDAR next year
- The 2028 Sturgeon Benchmark Stock Assessment will begin its work this year.

Presentations

- E. Franke and K. Drew will present on the assessment work to date

Board action for consideration at this meeting

- None

9. Review Non-Compliance Findings, if Necessary Action

10. Other Business

11. Adjourn