

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY OF THE
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**The Hyatt Dewey Beach
Dewey Beach, DE
October 29, 2025**

INDEX OF MOTIONS

1. Approval of Agenda by Consent (Page 1)
2. Move to accept the FY25 Audit as presented. Motion by Dr. McNamee, second by Mr. Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Carl Wilson, ME
Renee Zobel, NH
Dennis Abbott, NH (LA Chair)
Dan McKiernan, MA, Vice Chair
Jason McNamee, RI
Bill Hyatt, CT
Marty Gary, NY
Joe Cimino, NJ, Chair
Kris Kuhn, PA

Roy Miller, DE (GA Chair)
John Clark, DE
Lynn Fegley, MD
Jamie Green, VA
Chris Batsavage, proxy for Kathy Rawls, NC
Ben Dyar, SC
Doug Haymans, GA
Erika Burgess, FL

Other Commissioners/Proxies

Mel Bell, SC LA proxy
David Borden, RI GA
Matt Gates, CT DEEP
Joe Grist, VA AA Proxy
Doug Grout, NH GA
Gary Jennings, FL GA
Jeff Kaelin, NJ GA

Ray Kane, MA GA
Carrie Kennedy, MD AA proxy
Malcolm Rhodes, SC GA
Brian Turner, NC LA
Megan Ware, ME AA proxy
Spud Woodward, GA GA

Staff

Bob Beal
Toni Kerns
Alexander Law

Laura Leach
Madeline Musante
Geoff White

Guests

Kenneth Boswell, MD CBA
Don Cocnavitch, MD CBA
Doug Collison, MD CBA
Dustin Delano, NEFSA
Ron Owens, PRFC

CALL TO ORDER

The Executive Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened October 29, 2025 in the Ballroom at The Hyatt in Dewey Beach, Delaware. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Chair Joe Cimino.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with a minor change in the order of agenda items.

APPROVAL OF SUMMARY MINUTES

The summary minutes from the August 6, 2025 meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FY25 AUDIT OF THE COMMISSION

Mrs. Leach presented the FY25 financial audit of the Commission, noting it was a clean audit with no negative findings reported. Dr. McNamee made the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. Clark. *Move to accept the FY25 Audit as presented.* The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE DECLARED INTERESTS AND VOTING PRIVILEGES WORK GROUP

Mr. Beal reported a Declared Interests and Voting Privileges work group was formed to flesh out the discussion paper presented in August, to further frame the Executive Committee discussion. The work group will report back to the Executive Committee in February.

NOTIFYING ACTIONS ON MEETING AGENDAS

Mr. Beal discussed the issue of “notifying actions” on meeting agendas. After a thorough discussion staff was tasked with developing language for agendas (and possibly the ISFMP Charter), detailing the process and noting when public input was available.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Legislative Program Coordinator Alexander Law presented an update on the status of FY26 federal funding, the government shutdown, and the status of two recently introduced bills; the Fisheries Data Modernization Act, and the QUAHOGS Act.

CARES UPDATE

Mr. Beal provided an update on the status of the remaining issues with New Jersey and Florida CARES payments due to be repaid after audits found funds made some more than whole or they were ineligible to receive funds. The Commission has established repayment plans with some of the recipients in New Jersey and Florida. Also, New Jersey continues to work through the adjudicatory hearing process for several recipients.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETING LOCATIONS

Mrs. Leach provided an update on future Annual Meeting locations. In 2026 (likely the second week of November) the Commission will meet in Newport, Rhode Island; 2027 South Carolina; 2028 Massachusetts; 2029 Pennsylvania; 2030 Georgia and 2031 Connecticut.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dustin Delano, New England Fisheries Stewardship Association expressed his concern with the public comment process used during the Menhaden Board meeting. He stated if you want buy-in you cannot discourage participation. Genuine collaboration starts with listening.

ADJOURN

The Executive Committee went into a closed session at 8:48 a.m. for a CARES and litigation update. The Executive Committee adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Notifying “Actions” on Commission Agendas

During the Commission’s 2025 Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the process used to identify potential action items on Commission agendas. The Executive Committee tasked staff with developing a recommendation to ensure potential action items were properly noticed.

The Commission’s guiding documents include a definition of “final actions” that is considered in relation to meeting specific proxies for Legislative and Governor Appointee Commissioners and rescinding or amending board actions. Final actions are defined as: setting fishery specifications (including but limited to quotas, trip limits, possession limits, size limits, season, area closures, gear requirements), allocation, final approval of FMPs/amendments/addenda, emergency actions, conservation equivalency plans, and noncompliance recommendations.

Staff recommends adding language to the disclaimer included on the top of the meeting week agendas. This approach provides the public with general notification that action may be taken on any issues included on the agenda. This prevents the Commission from developing and adding a lengthy definition to the guiding documents.

The following bold/underlined language is recommended to be added to the agenda disclaimer.

The agenda is subject to change. 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. **At these meetings, action may be taken on any agenda item, including, but not limited to, reports from staff, technical committees, stock assessment committees, peer reviews, Law Enforcement Committee, advisory panels, plan review teams, and plan development teams.**