

Declared Interest and Notification of Actions on Agendas

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Executive Committee
Winter Meeting 2026



Current Declared Interest Criteria

ONE of the 3 Criteria is needed to declare an Interest into a fishery:

A state shall be deemed to have an interest in a fishery if, according to the latest published statistics or available records of the NMFS or equivalent state statistics, it meets any of the following criteria:

- (a) Such fish are found customarily in its territorial waters;
- (b) Such fish are customarily or periodically in the territorial waters of such state for the purpose of spawning or in transit to and from spawning grounds; or
- (c) The citizens of the state are recorded as having taken 5 percent or more of the total Atlantic coast catch of the species of fish in any of the five preceding years.



Proposed Declared Interest Criteria

A state shall be deemed to have an interest in a fishery if, according to the latest published statistics or available records of the NMFS or equivalent state statistics, it meets any of the following criteria:

- Such fish are regularly found in its territorial waters meaning at least more than 1 year, as documented with fishery dependent or independent data from state or federal statistics or other credible evidence brought forth by the state (such as data from spawn migrations, peer reviewed publications, eDNA, or other).
- A state fishery's participants are recorded as having taken **1% of commercial or recreational landings over the past 3 of the 5 years** for the total Atlantic coast catch of the species of fish.



Declared Interest Review Process

Review Process

- PRT will review as part of FMP review and during a benchmark stock assessment
- **Occur at a minimum of every two years. Any**
- **Changes to Board membership recommended to Policy Board**
- Policy Board would in turn, if a state no longer meets the criteria, issue correspondence to that state. This does not preclude any state from petitioning to be on or taken off at any time, in which it should provide rationale and data for doing so.



QUESTIONS



Notification of Actions on Agendas

Agendas currently have the following language:

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.



Notification of Actions on Agendas

Add the following language to agendas:

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.