

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
SPINY DOGFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD

**The Westin Crystal City
Arlington, Virginia
Hybrid Meeting**

May 5, 2025

Approved February 3, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| Call to Order, Chair Patrick Geer | 1 |
| Approval of Agenda | 1 |
| Approval of Proceedings from February 4, 2025 | 1 |
| Public Comment | 1 |
| Consider Technical Addendum I to Spiny Dogfish Addendum VII for Final Approval | 1 |
| Adjournment | 2 |

INDEX OF MOTIONS

1. **Approval of agenda** by consent (Page 1).
2. **Approval of Proceedings of February 4, 2025** by consent (Page 1).
3. **Move to approve Technical Addendum I to Addendum VII, effective immediately** (Page 2). Motion by John Clark; second by Eric Reid. Motion passes by unanimous consent (Page 2).
4. **Move to adjourn** by consent (Page 2)

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

| | |
|--|--|
| Megan Ware, ME, proxy for C. Wilson (AA) | William Hyatt, CT (GA) |
| Renee Zobel, NH, proxy for C. Patterson (AA) | Jesse Hornstein, NY, proxy for M. Gary (AA) |
| Doug Grout, NH (GA) | Joe Cimino, NJ (AA) |
| Dennis Abbott, NH, proxy for Sen. Watters (LA) | Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Sen. Gopal (LA) |
| Nichola Meserve, MA, proxy for D. McKiernan (AA) | John Clark, DE (AA) |
| Raymond Kane, MA (GA) | Roy Miller, DE (GA) |
| Sarah Ferrara, MA, proxy for Rep. Armini (LA) | Michael Luisi, MD, proxy for L. Fegley (AA) |
| Jason McNamee, RI (AA) | Pat Geer, VA, proxy for J. Green (AA) |
| David Borden, RI (GA) | Rep. Brian Turner, NC (LA) |
| Eric Reid, RI, proxy for Sen. Sosnowski (LA) | Allison Murphy, NMFS |
| Matt Gates, CT, proxy for J. Davis (AA) | |

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

Staff

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Bob Beal | Caitlin Starks | James Boyle |
| Toni Kerns | Chelsea Tuohy | Katie Drew |
| Tina Berger | Emilie Franke | Jeff Kipp |
| Madeline Musante | Tracy Bauer | Samara Nehemiah |

The Spiny Dogfish Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Jefferson Ballroom of the Westin Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia, via hybrid meeting, in-person and webinar; Monday, May 5, 2025, and was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Chair Pat Geer.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR PATRICK GEER: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Pat Geer; I am the Administrative Proxy for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and I am the Chairman of the Spiny Dogfish Board today. Welcome, everybody, happy Cinco de Mayo to everybody. Everyone is all excited about that, I'm sure.

We have Kurt Blanchard and the ASMFC Law Enforcement Partner is somewhere in the room, if there are any questions to Law Enforcement, and our expert, James Boyle to my right. Before we get started, Bob has an announcement.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: Yes, just before the Board gets started, I want to introduce a new commissioner from North Carolina, Representative Brian Turner is in the back corner, waving his hand. He is the new Legislative Commissioner from North Carolina, appointed, I don't know, Wednesday or Thursday of last week, and re-wracked your schedule and came up here for the next couple days.

Please welcome him here, and welcome, Representative Turner. I should have done the same introducing Carl at the last meeting, but Carl seems to have been around so long and I've known him forever, so my apologies, Carl, for not introducing you at the beginning of Lobster meeting. With that, it's all yours.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHAIR GEER: Welcome aboard, Sir. Okay, first item on the agenda today is the approval of the agenda. Are there any changes or modifications

to the agenda? Hearing none the agenda is approved by consent.

APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR GEER: Approval of the proceedings from the February, 2025 meeting. Are there any modifications, changes or updates to that? Hearing none; consent approval. Is there anybody here for public comment? Anybody in the audience or online? None online, moving right along. We're going to try to, we do have one. Mr. Fletcher, you have the mic.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MR. JAMES FLETCHER: This dogfish management plan does not include the male stock that stays offshore outside of 200 fathoms, and all of the numbers that we're dealing with, because there has been no survey out there, are highly suspect. Before the Commission gets in and puts in poundage quotas, can somebody please explain to an old person.

If you've never done a survey where the fish are, you have information for satellite tags where the fish stay. Can somebody tell me how we set a quota, because the science is not science. We are not harvesting what are out there. By not doing that, those fish, the male fish, have not been harvested since the Russians left in the seventies.

They are putting pressure on all of our other stocks. Can the management board or whoever try to help industry get some male fishery going? I thank you for your time, United National Fishermen's Association, I appreciate you letting me speak. Thank you, Sir.

CHAIR GEER: Thank you very much, Mr. Fletcher. Is there anyone else? Not seeing any, we're going to move on. We're on to Item 4, which is Consider the Technical Addendum. There were a couple of language changes, and it was one mistake in one of the coordinates that needed to be corrected. I'll give the floor to James at this time.

**CONSIDER TECHNICAL ADDENDUM I TO SPINY
DOGFISH ADDENDUM VII FOR FINAL
APPROVAL**

MR. JAMES BOYLE IV: Yes, this should be a pretty quick presentation. At the winter meeting in February, the Board approved Addendum VII, with aims to reduce Atlantic sturgeon bycatch by prohibiting overnight soaks, by state spiny dogfish permit holders using certain gillnet mesh sizes in specific times and areas off of Maryland and Virginia.

However, Addendum VII inadvertently had a typo in the coordinates for one of the areas, and did not include text from our Final Rule published by NOAA Fisheries that specifies which end of the mesh size range should be included in the management measure. Therefore, staff has drafted a Technical Addendum to correct those errors.

For the first issue, there was a mistake in the longitude of the northwestern point of the Delaware and Maryland bycatch reduction area. Instead of reading 75 degrees, 60 minutes west, the longitude should be 75 degrees, 6 minutes west. The correct value is displayed in decimal form in Figure 1, which is included in both Addendum VII and in the federal action, 75. 1 degrees.

The second issue is regarding the mesh size range. The Final Rule published by NOAA Fisheries specifies that the range is “equal to or greater than 5.25 inches, and less than 10 inches.” Whereas Addendum VII just says between 5 1/4 and 10 inches.

Since the stated objective of Addendum VII is to maintain consistency with the federal action, if approved the technical addendum will correct the error in the coordinates of the Delaware and Maryland Bycatch Reduction Area and replace the text in Section 3 with the language on the slide, which clarifies that the range includes the 5.25 inch and excludes 10-inch mesh. With that, the Board action to consider

today is the approval of the Technical Addendum, and I’m happy to take any questions.

CHAIR GEER: Any questions for James? Thank you, James. Hearing none, do we need a motion for this? John.

MR. JOHN CLARK: Sure, I was just waiting for it to go up. **Move to approve Technical Addendum 1 to Addendum VII, effective immediately.**

CHAIR GEER: Second by Eric Reid. Any discussion on the motion? Okay, I’ll read the motion in. Move to approve Technical Addendum I to Addendum VII effective immediately. Motion by Mr. Clark; seconded by Mr. Reid. **Is there any opposition to this motion? Hearing none, approved unanimously.** Anything else on the agenda? Okay, James is going to give an update on the Implementation Plan, I’m sorry.

MR. BOYLE: It’s not on the agenda, but just a quick update on the Implementation Plans for Addendum VII. We received plans from both Maryland and Virginia before the Technical Addendum putting issues in the Technical Addendum were raised. We’re just waiting on one more update from the Virginia implementation Plan, and I’ll send out an e-mail for the Board to approve them once we have that.

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR GEER: Is there any Other Business to come before this Board today? Hearing none; is there any opposition to adjourn? So moved, this meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2025)