

# MEETING OVERVIEW

## American Lobster Management Board

**May 4, 2026**

**10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

Chair: Renee Zobel (NH) Assumed Chairmanship: 03/25	Lobster Technical Committee Chair: Tracy Pugh (MA) Jonah Crab Technical Committee Chair: Corinne Truesdale (RI)	Law Enforcement Committee Rep: Rob Beal (ME)
Vice Chair: John Maniscalco (NY)	Lobster Advisory Panel Chair: Grant Moore (MA) Jonah Crab Advisory Panel Chair: Sonny Gwin (MD)	Previous Board Meeting: February 3, 2026
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NMFS, NEFMC (12 votes)		

### 2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from February 2026

**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. Technical Committee Report on Board Tasks (11:00-11:35 a.m.) Possible Action

#### Background

- In October 2025, after reviewing the results of the stock assessment, the Board directed the Technical Committee (TC) to estimate the benefits to the GOM/GBK fishery that would have resulted from implementing the minimum gauge size increases under Addendum XXVII that were ultimately repealed. The TC provided an analysis to project impacts to the fishery if the gauge changes had been implemented (**Briefing Materials**).
- The Board tasked the TC to provide input on a proposal to modify the lobster fishery season closure in LCMA 5. The TC met via webinar on April 10, 2026 to discuss this proposal and provide input (**Briefing Materials**).

#### Presentations

- Technical Committee Report by T. Pugh

#### Board Actions for Consideration at the Meeting

- Consider action to change LCMA 5 season closure dates

**5. Consider Management Strategy Evaluation Steering Committee Nominations (11:35-11:45 a.m.) Action**

**Background**

- After considering the findings of the 2025 stock assessment, the Board requested the TC update and review the process for conducting an MSE for the GOM/GBK stock (**Briefing Materials**).
- As an initial step, the Board agreed to form a steering committee to 1) review existing management objectives, as outlined in Amendment #3 and subsequent addenda, relative to the current GOM/GBK stock status, and social/economic conditions facing the fishery today, and 2) develop a process that would clearly identify new management objectives (across all stakeholders), to better understand socioeconomic status and concerns, and to identify potential management tools.
- The states provided nominations for individuals to serve on the steering committee, including representation from the Board, TC, Commission staff, the Commission’s Committee on Economics and Social Sciences, industry stakeholders, and the Commission’s Assessment and Science Committee or Management and Science Committee with past experience in MSE (**Supplemental Materials**).

**Presentations**

- Steering Committee Nominations by C. Starks

**Board Actions for Consideration at the Meeting**

- Consider approval of steering committee membership

**6. Reports from Gulf of Maine States on Industry Surveys and Meetings (11:45-11:55 a.m.)**

**Background**

- Concurrent with the implementation of Addendum XXXII, the Gulf of Maine states agreed to work with the lobster industry to develop management strategies to ensure the long-term health of the resource and the coastal communities it supports.
- The Board requested Maine and New Hampshire provide updates on industry meetings and possible alternative management measures to those of Addendum XXVII at each quarterly meeting.
- Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts have completed industry meetings and surveys to gather input on management approaches.

**Presentations**

- Update from Gulf of Maine States on Industry Meetings by C. Wilson, R. Zobel, and B. Glenn

**7. Update on Request for Information on Alternative Gear Marking Framework (11:55 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)**

**Background**

- The New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Councils) are developing a joint alternative gear marking framework adjustment to provide alternative fixed gear surface marking requirements in all New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council fishery management plans. This regulatory modification would allow for the use of fixed gears without a persistent buoy line (i.e., on-demand gear).
- The Councils met in September and October 2025 and each agreed to postpone further action on the Framework until additional information on ropeless gear and visualization

technology, as solicited through a NMFS Request for Information, is available to inform stakeholder input and Council decision-making.

**Presentations**

- Update on Request for Information for Alternative Gear Marking Framework by A. Murphy

**8. Consider Outstanding Management Changes (12:00-12:10 p.m.) Possible Action**

**Background**

- At the February 2026 meeting, the Board requested to review a list of management changes that have been discussed by the Lobster Conservation Management Teams at the next meeting.

**Presentations**

- Outstanding Management Changes by C. Starks

**Board Actions for Consideration at the Meeting**

- Consider initiating management action to address outstanding management changes

**9. Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership (12:10-12:15 p.m.) Action**

**Background**

- Chris Townsend, a lobster trap fisherman from Massachusetts, has been nominated to serve on the Lobster Advisory Panel.

**Presentations**

- Advisory Panel Nominations by T. Berger

**Board Actions for Consideration at the Meeting**

- Approve advisory panel nominations

**10. Other Business/Adjourn (12:15 p.m.)**



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

Revised April 27, 2026

**To: American Lobster Management Board**  
**From: Tina Berger, Director of Communications**  
**RE: Advisory Panel Nomination**

Please find attached a new nomination to the American Lobster Advisory Panel – Christopher Townsend, a commercial pot fisherman from Massachusetts. He replaces Eric Lorentzen. Please review this nomination for action at the next Board meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (703) 842-0749 or [tberger@asmfc.org](mailto:tberger@asmfc.org).

Enc.

cc: Caitlin Starks

## American Lobster Advisory Panel

### **Maine (4)**

Jon Carter (comm/pot)  
333 Main Street  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609  
Phone: (207)288-4528  
[CARTERLOB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CARTERLOB@GMAIL.COM)  
Appt. Confirmed: 5/30/96  
Appt. Reconfirmed 7/26/00  
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/2/06  
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10  
Confirmed Interest: 10/21

Christopher Welch  
339 Alfred Road  
Kennebunk, ME 04043  
Phone: 207.205.2093  
[littleskeet@ymail.com](mailto:littleskeet@ymail.com)  
Appt. Confirmed: 8/2/22

Eben Wilson (commercial inshore/offshore trap)  
5 Lincoln Street  
PO Bix 87  
East Boothbay, ME 04544  
207.380.6897  
[ebensail@gmail.com](mailto:ebensail@gmail.com)  
Appt Confirmed 1/25/22

Jeff Putnam (commercial inshore - out to 20 miles - trap)  
107 Littlefield Road  
Chebeague Island, ME 04017  
207.650.3327  
[Putnamjeff543@gmail.com](mailto:Putnamjeff543@gmail.com)  
Appt Confirmed 1/25/22

### **New Hampshire (2)**

Robert Nudd (comm/inshore pot)  
531 Exeter Road  
P.O. Box 219  
Hampton, NH 03842  
Phone (eve): (603)926-7573  
[LOBSTAMAN@MYFAIRPOINT.NET](mailto:LOBSTAMAN@MYFAIRPOINT.NET)  
Appt. Confirmed: 10/30/95  
Appt. Reconfirmed 9/15/99  
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/2/06  
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10  
Confirmed Interest: 9/21

James A. Willwerth (comm./trap)  
10 Mill  
Hampton Falls, NH 03844  
Phone (day): (603) 765-5008  
Phone (eve): (603) 926-3139  
[JAW080257@comcast.net](mailto:JAW080257@comcast.net)  
Appt Confirmed 10/22/12

### **Massachusetts (4)**

Arthur Sawyer Jr. (comm pots)  
368 Concord Street  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
Phone: (978)281-4736  
FAX: (978)281-4736  
[sooky55@aol.com](mailto:sooky55@aol.com)  
Appt. Confirmed: 1/29/01  
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/2/06; 5/10; 9/15; 8/18  
Confirmed Interest: 9/21

Grant Moore (comm/offshore pot)  
4 Gooseberry Farms Lane  
Westport, MA 02790  
Phone (day): 508.971.2190  
Phone (eve): 508.636.6248  
FAX: 508.636.5789  
[grantmoore55@gmail.com](mailto:grantmoore55@gmail.com)  
Appt. Confirmed 11/2/15  
Appt. Reconfirmed 8/18  
Confirmed Interest: 9/21

Todd Alger (recreational diver)  
7 Holly Street  
Hingham, MA 02043  
Phone: 339.236.0736  
[Todd.alger@gmail.com](mailto:Todd.alger@gmail.com)  
Appt. Confirmed: 8/2/22

**Christopher Townsend (comm./trap)**  
**41 Highland Road**  
**PO Bix 645**  
**North Truro, MA 02652**  
**508.237.1797**  
[captchevy@yahoo.com](mailto:captchevy@yahoo.com)

## American Lobster Advisory Panel

### **Rhode Island (2)**

Lanny Dellinger (comm./pot)  
160 Snuffmill Road  
Saunderstown, RI 02874  
Phone (day): (401)932-5826  
Phone (eve): (401)294-7352  
[lad0626@aol.com](mailto:lad0626@aol.com)  
Appt Confirmed 2/21/06  
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10

### **Vacancy (comm/offshore pot)**

### **Connecticut (2)**

John Whittaker (comm./pot)  
37 Spring Street  
Groton, CT 06340  
Phone (day): (860)287-4384  
Phone (eve): (860)536-7668  
FAX: (860)536-7668  
[whittboat@comcast.net](mailto:whittboat@comcast.net)  
Appt Confirmed 2/21/06  
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10  
Confirmed Interest: 9/21

Vacancy (comm pot)

### **New York (2)**

George Doll (comm/inshore pot)  
70 Seaview Avenue  
Northport, New York 11768  
Phone: (631)261-1407  
FAX: (631)261-1407  
Appt. Confirmed: 11/29/00  
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/23/06  
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10

James Fox (comm/pot)  
152 Highland Drive  
Kings Park, NY 11754  
Phone: (631)361-7995  
[jcfox22@verizon.net](mailto:jcfox22@verizon.net)  
Appt. Confirmed: 10/16/01  
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/23/06  
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10

### **New Jersey (2)**

John Godwin (processor)  
1 Saint Louis Avenue  
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742  
Phone: 732.245.0148  
FAX: 732.892.3928  
[JOHN@POINTLOBSTER.COM](mailto:JOHN@POINTLOBSTER.COM)  
Appt Confirmed 11/2/15

Joe Fiorentino (rec diver)  
40 Beechwood Ct  
Bangor, PA 18013  
Phone: 610.704.2687  
[joefdive@gmail.com](mailto:joefdive@gmail.com)  
Appt Confirmed 2/3/26

### **Maryland**

Earl Gwin  
10448 Azalea Road  
Berlin, MD 21811  
Phone: (401) 251-3709  
Email: [sonnygwin@verizon.net](mailto:sonnygwin@verizon.net)  
Appt confirmed 11/1/15  
Confirmed Interest: 9/21



**ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**Advisory Panel Nomination Form**

This form is designed to help nominate Advisors to the Commission's Species Advisory Panels. The information on the returned form will be provided to the Commission's relevant species management board or section. Please answer the questions in the categories (All Nominees, Commercial Fisherman, Charter/Headboat Captain, Recreational Fisherman, Dealer/Processor, or Other Interested Parties) that pertain to the nominee's experience. If the nominee fits into more than one category, answer the questions for all categories that fit the situation. **Also, please fill in the sections which pertain to All Nominees (pages 1 and 2). In addition, nominee signatures are required to verify the provided information (page 4), and Commissioner signatures are requested to verify Commissioner consensus (page 4). Please print and use a black pen.**

Form submitted by: Raymond Kane State: MASS  
(your name)

Name of Nominee: Christopher Townsend

Address: 41 Highland Rd PO Box 645

City, State, Zip: North Truro, MA 02652

Please provide the appropriate numbers where the nominee can be reached:

Phone (day): 508-237-1797 Phone (evening): \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: captchevy@yahoo.com

.....  
**FOR ALL NOMINEES:**

1. Please list, in order of preference, the Advisory Panel for which you are nominating the above person.

- 1. Lobster AP
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Has the nominee been found in violation of criminal or civil federal fishery law or regulation or convicted of any felony or crime over the last three years?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no X

3. Is the nominee a member of any fishermen's organizations or clubs?

yes X no \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes," please list them below by name.

Mass Hubsterman's Association

4. What kinds (species) of fish and/or shellfish has the nominee fished for during the past year?

Lobster

5. What kinds (species) of fish and/or shellfish has the nominee fished for in the past?

Lobster

cod, haddock, pollock

TUNA

fluke

**FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN:**

1. How many years has the nominee been the commercial fishing business? 34 years

2. Is the nominee employed only in commercial fishing? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no X

3. What is the predominant gear type used by the nominee? lobster traps

4. What is the predominant geographic area fished by the nominee (i.e., inshore, offshore)? cape cod bay, outer cape, federal water/stellwagen bank

**FOR CHARTER/HEADBOAT CAPTAINS:**

1. How long has the nominee been employed in the charter/headboat business? \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. Is the nominee employed only in the charter/headboat industry? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

If "no," please list other type(s) of business(es) and/occupation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How many years has the nominee lived in the home port community? \_\_\_\_\_ years

If less than five years, please indicate the nominee's previous home port community.

\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN:**

1. How long has the nominee engaged in recreational fishing? \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. Is the nominee working, or has the nominee ever worked in any area related to the fishing industry? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes," please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR SEAFOOD PROCESSORS & DEALERS:**

1. How long has the nominee been employed in the business of seafood processing/dealing?  
5 years

2. Is the nominee employed only in the business of seafood processing/dealing?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no X If "no," please list other type(s) of business(es) and/or occupation(s):

lobster fisherman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FOR ALL NOMINEES:

3. How many years has the nominee lived in the home port community? \_\_\_\_\_ years

If less than five years, please indicate the nominee's previous home port community.

\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:**

1. How long has the nominee been interested in fishing and/or fisheries management? \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. Is the nominee employed in the fishing business or the field of fisheries management?  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

If "no," please list other type(s) of business(es) and/or occupation(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Signature: Chris Townsend

Name: Chris Townsend

(please print)

COMMISSIONER'S SIGN-OFF (not required for all interested individuals)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR ALL NOMINEES:**

In the space provided below, please provide the Commission with any additional information which you feel would assist us in making choosing new Advisors. You may use as many pages as needed.

I began lobster fishing in 1983 and started my own business in 1992.

I began with 100 traps and a small outboard boat and now have 800 traps and an offshore boat. I have fished area 1, OCHMA, and federal waters. I have also run educational lobster trips for over 20 years.

I owned a seafood market for 12 years as well as a "fish n chips" restaurant.

I have been a member of mass lobster mans association since I first started on my own in '92.

I have a broad circle of fishing friends from Maine + NJ and beyond to FL, the gulf coast and even Alaska. My daughter graduated from MMA and is heavily involved in fisheries mgt. I believe I bring a bi partisan view to fisheries management and my goal is to do whats best for the fishery as a whole,

Nominee Signature: Capt. Chris Townsend

Date: 3/12/2026

Name: CHRIS TOWNSEND  
(please print)

**COMMISSIONERS SIGN-OFF (not required for non-traditional stakeholders)**

Daniel J McKeever

State Director

Roger M. King

Governor's Appointee

Janet R. Pedke

(for Rep. Jennifer Armini)

State Legislator