



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0740 • [asmfc.org](http://asmfc.org)

*Daniel McKiernan (MD), Chair*

*Doug Haymans (GA), Vice-Chair*

*Robert E. Beal, Executive Director*

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*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

## MEMORANDUM

June 18, 2026

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Herring Management Board; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Coastal Pelagics Management Board; Committee of Economics and Social Sciences, Executive Committee; ISFMP Policy Board; Spiny Dogfish Management Board; Tautog Management Board; and Winter Flounder Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal  
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Summer Meeting: August 4 – 6, 2026 (TA 26-028)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Meeting will be **August 4 – 6, 2026** at **The Westin Crystal City**. This will be a hybrid meeting (both in-person and remote) to allow for participation by Commissioners and interested stakeholders; the details of which will be provided two weeks prior to the meeting. A brief, preliminary agenda and public comment guidelines are included with this memorandum. Materials will be available July 22 on the Commission website at <https://asmfc.org/events/2026-summer-meeting/>.

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.**

**Also of note, the Commission will be considering changes to its Rules and Regulations regarding guidelines on states declared interest on species management boards.**

A block of rooms is being held at The Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. Please [click here](#) to complete the Attendance and Accommodations Form. This form ensures we have accurate information on meeting attendance. **Lisa Carty will make Commissioner/Proxy reservations. Please notify her of any changes to your travel plans that may impact your hotel reservations, otherwise you will incur no-show penalties.** We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

For all other attendees, please reserve your room online via our group link at [Book your group rate for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Meeting](#) or call Marriott directly at 888.236.2427 as soon as possible and mention the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to obtain the group room rate of \$183 plus tax single/dbl. Please be aware you must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or one night's advance payment. **Hotel reservations must be made by Friday, July 3. Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** If you are being reimbursed by ASMFC for your travel, please make your reservation directly with the hotel. Reservations made through travel websites do not apply toward our minimum number of required reservations with the hotel. **Please note, cancellations at The Westin must be made by 4 PM two days before arrival to avoid penalty and an early departure fee of \$183+ tax will apply when checking out before the confirmed date.** If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Lisa Carty at 703.842.0713 or [lcarty@asmfc.org](mailto:lcarty@asmfc.org).

We look forward to seeing you at the Summer Meeting. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740.

# Summer Meeting

August 4 – 6, 2026

## The Westin Crystal City

Arlington, Virginia

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### Public Comment Guidelines

To provide a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board has approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings:

**For issues that are not on the agenda**, management boards will continue to provide opportunities to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will ask members of the public to raise their hands to let the chair know they would like to speak. Depending upon the number of commenters, the board chair will decide how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

**For topics that are on the agenda**, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic. Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comments will not provide additional insight to the board.

**For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment**, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

In addition, the following timeline has been established for the **submission of written comments for issues for which the Commission has NOT established a specific public comment period** (i.e., in response to proposed management action).

1. Comments received three weeks prior to the start of a meeting week (**July 13**) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by **5 PM on Tuesday, July 28** will be included in supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by **10 AM on Friday, July 31** will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting.

The submitted comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution. As with other public comment, it will be accepted via mail and email.

## Preliminary Agenda

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.** Also of note, the Commission will be considering changes to its Rules and Regulations regarding guidelines on states declared interest on species management boards.

### Tuesday, August 4

#### 10 – 11 a.m. Atlantic Herring Management Board

- Review 2025 Benchmark and 2026 Management Track Assessments

#### 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. American Lobster Management Board

- Update on Steering Committee Progress
- Report from Lobster Conservation Management Team 5 on Proposed Closure Changes
- Reports from Gulf of Maine States on Industry Surveys and Meetings
- Update on NOAA's Request for Information on Alternative Gear Marking Framework

#### 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch Break

#### 1 – 4 p.m. Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (CESS)

- Updates on Ongoing Tasks
- Updates from Atlantic Striped Bass Recreation Demand Model Modelers
- Discuss AI and Economics
- Discuss Process for Better Utilizing CESS Expertise
- Outline Risk and Uncertainty Changes for the Risk and Uncertainty Work Group

#### 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Winter Flounder Management Board

- Consider Technical Committee Report on Potential Impacts of Increasing Bag Limit in Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic
- Review New England Fishery Management Council's Groundfish Specification Process

#### 2:45 – 4:45 p.m. Tautog Management Board

- Consider Approval of Draft Addendum I for Public Comment: Measures to Address Changes in Stock Status for New Jersey-New York Bight and Delaware-Maryland-Virginia Stock Units
- Review Risk and Uncertainty Decision Tool Scores

#### 5 – 6 PM ASMFC Public Outreach (Westin Lobby)

- Informational Exchange among Commission Members, Staff, and Meeting Attendees; All are Welcome; Light Snacks

## Wednesday, August 5

8 – 9 a.m.

**Executive Committee**

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (continued)**

9:45 – 11 a.m.

**Spiny Dogfish Management Board**

- Consider Northern Region Conservation Equivalency Proposal
  - Proposed Weekly Trip Limit
- Review Accountability Measures Proposed Rule
- Review CESS Report

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Coastal Pelagics Management Board**

- Set Cobia Fishery Specifications
- Update on Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Consider Cobia Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for 2025 Fishing Year

12:30 – 2 p.m.

**Luncheon for Legislative and Governor Appointee Commissioners**

12:30 – 2 p.m.

**Lunch Break for Commissioners & Proxies**

2 – 5:30 p.m.

**Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

- Consider Approval of Draft Addendum II for Public Comment: Modifying the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap
  - Review Work Group and Technical Committee Report on Board Task
- Review CESS Report on Board Task
  - Impacts to Bait Fishery from Changes in Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap
- Consider Guidance to Technical Committee on 2027-2029 Specifications

## Thursday, August 6

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

**Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

- Consider Comments to NOAA Fisheries on its Document: *Charting A Course for Striped Bass: Science and Regulatory Innovation for Offshore Aquaculture*
- Consider Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for 2025 Fishing Year

9:45 – 11:45 a.m.

**Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board**

- Review Commission Guiding Documents
- Discuss *De Minimis* Guidance
- Committee Reports: Assessment Science Committee and Committee on Economics and Social Sciences
- Update on Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID)
- Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary

**11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Commission Business Session**

- Consider Changes to Commission Rules and Regulations
- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary