

From: [James O'Connell](#)
To: [Tina Berger](#)
Subject: [New] [External] Re: ASMFC 2026 Summer Meeting Final Agenda and Materials Now Available
Date: Friday, July 24, 2026 11:39:19 AM

Hi Tina

My registration for the three days has been accepted. I am not sure where to send my comment

I have what I believe is a vitally important idea for a regulation for the lobstermen assessment team, that if adopted would create exponential growth for the lobster population. I would love to be able to interact with the team and field any questions they are bound to have. I know I am a little late in sending this comment as is but could you read it and tell me what options I have and where exactly I should send my comment?

Thank you, I will copy my comment below

Jim O'Connell

Attn. ASMFC Stock Assessment Team.

Dear Lobster Stock Assessment Team

I have an idea for a regulatory change that creates exponential growth every 7th year. It should work in both the US and with Canada's Seasonal fishery. It is based on the most common sexually mature 88mm female. It will even benefit the relatively few warm water lobsters such as Gaspé and the coldest water lobsters like the Bay of Fundy. The Maine coast and Southern Nova Scotia benefit the most. It will be easy to enforce with a gauging tool set at 82.5 for males, 101 for females, which is the size the female will be after she hatches her first batch of eggs and she sheds, and 116mm max for both male and females. Since a 101mm female lobster becomes >116mm the next time it sheds there will never be a reason to notch any lobsters. An estimated 10% that become >116mm females will then become young proliferating jumbos, protected by the gauge, capable of producing 30-40,000 eggs.

The most immediate benefit to the lobstermen is the doubling of the weight of every female he was previously exploiting. That is doubling the value of half the catch. This yearly benefit becomes a reality after a 3 year transition period. This fact alone is what makes this an attractive regulation to the lobstermen. This added weight benefit will happen every year and increase exponentially every seven years. But that gain in weight benefit is hardly comparable to the mathematical reality that will take place in 7 years after the time this new regulation is set in place.

For ease of explaining the numbers look at a year where 100 Million lbs were landed. 50M males and 50M females.

If you allow all 50 M lbs of females to spawn then after 7-9 years you will net 50M keepers. This takes the initial 100M lbs to 150M lbs. The increase to the

jumbo stock adds approximately 5 M more lbs. Then, considering the weight gain on the initial 50M females as an 80% gain in weight, you must add another 40M lbs. That is an increase of nearly 90M lbs. In 7 yrs you would be rewarded with a record smashing 190 Million lbs landed and those numbers can only go up every 7 years.

The most amazing thing is, if the initial 100M lbs in 7yrs becomes 190 M lbs. What is the rate of the exponential growth every 7 years? There are more and more females added every 7 years. Does it double every 7 years? If so the numbers become absurd. Better minds are needed.

14yrs = 360 M lbs

21yrs 684 M lbs

28 yrs 1.2 Billion lbs

I was reading about the history of lobster regulations and noticed Canada in 1872 used this same 101mm, 1¾ lb minimum regulation that I am proposing to rescue the live lobster market from it's ultimate

demise due to the canning industry paying 1 penny per lobster for ½ lb lobsters. No lobsters were growing old enough to spawn. This emergency regulation ran for about 20 years and the canning business adjusted. But the live market still remained a challenge due to the lack of refrigeration until about 1926 when the refrigerated truck enabled lobsters to be shipped live to the US market. Canneries which produced an inferior product in the long run then went out of business. My grandpa got involved with the wholesale retail at this time buying lobsters from James Hook in Boston and supplying restaurants from Boston to Cape Cod. He built a retail store where me and my 8 siblings worked for my dad. It stood for over 80 years.

My dad built possibly the first successful inland recirculating lobster pound in the world.

That said. Thank You for sharing this plan. I am writing a paper on this plan in much more detail that has many interesting and verifiable science research references. I would like to eventually send it to your team. I sincerely hope you see the logic in switching to a more sustainable stewardship operation as opposed to a questionably sustainable exploitive method.

Both Canada and the US have seen a 50% drop in landings over the past 10 years. The lower it goes the harder it will be to come back. It is time to act.

I would love to weigh the facts with anyone out there with equal concerns for the success of the lobster fishery.

Thank You for your consideration,

Jim O'Connell

Bar Harbor

3rd generation retail wholesale shellfish
bdoconnell123@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 22, 2026, at 2:25 PM, Tina Berger <TBerger@asmfc.org> wrote:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 22, 2026
PRESS CONTACT, TINA BERGER, 703.842.049

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 room block is now closed; if you need assistance reserving a room, please contact Lisa Carty at lcarty@asmfc.org.

The final agenda and meeting materials for the Summer Meeting are now available at <https://asmfc.org/events/2026-summer-meeting/>; click on the relevant Board/Committee name to access the documents for that Board/Committee. For ease of access, materials for all boards have been combined into one document – <https://asmfc.org/resources/management-meeting-materials/2026-summer-meeting-materials-august-2026/>. Supplemental materials will be posted to the website on **Wednesday, July 29**.

Other resources (TA, Roster, Reimbursement Guidelines, etc.) are available near the top of the page in the Background Materials accordion under Meeting Information.

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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**