



**Atlantic States
Marine Fisheries**
COMMISSION

Draft Changes to the Rules and Regulations

ISFMP Policy Board

August 2026



Section 2 and 3

SECTION 2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the Chair; the Vice Chair; the respective chairs of the State Legislators SectionCommittee, and the Governors' Appointees SectionCommittee; and the chairs of the member state delegations not represented by the Chair and Vice Chair. The Executive Committee shall have full power to approve formal administrative policies of the Commission; to dismiss the Executive Director; to approve the formal position of the Commission on legislation; to provide for the orderly administration of the Commission's affairs; and generally to act in place of the Commission in the interim between meetings. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission shall serve respectively as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNORS' APPOINTEES. The Commissioners who are state legislators and Governor's appointees shall organize the State Legislators' Committee ~~Section~~ and the Governors' Appointees SectionCommittee. Each of these Committees ~~sections~~ shall elect its own chair, and vice chair. ~~who shall become Co-chairs when that position is vacated.~~ The Committees shall coordinate among its members to assure effective participation in and input to the Commission's decisions.



Section 5

SECTION 5. INTEREST IN FISHERY. A state shall be deemed to have an interest in a fishery if it meets either of the following criteria:

- (a) The species is found in the waters under the state's jurisdiction in at least two of the past five years, as documented with state or federal fishery-dependent or independent data or other credible evidence brought forth by the state (such as data from spawning migrations, peer-reviewed publications, eDNA, or other).
- (b) The state's fishery participants are recorded as having taken at least 1% of the total Atlantic coast commercial or recreational landings of the species in at least three of the past five years, as documented by state or federal statistics.

~~A state shall be deemed to have an interest in a fishery if, according to the latest published statistics or available records of the National Marine Fisheries Service 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.~~



Next Steps

- If changes to the Compact Rules and Regulations are approved:
 - Consider changes to the ISFMP Charter for the implementation of the changes to Section 5 Rules and regulations



Review of Declared Interest

- Reviews conducted by PRT as part of FMP reviews
- Occur every 2 years, but always within a year after benchmark assessment
- PRT advises board of any change in state's ability to meet criteria
- The board makes recommendations to the Policy Board regarding state eligibility.
- Policy Board would notify states of changes
- States can petition a Policy Board change at any time