



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel Meeting Summary

July 13, 2026

Advisory Panel Members: James Webber (RI), John Whiteside (MA)

ASMFC Staff: James Boyle

The AP met via webinar on July 13, 2026 to review a Conservation Equivalency proposal from the Northern Region states to consider a weekly trip limit instead of a daily trip limit for some harvesters.

Review of Conservation Equivalency Proposal

From Addendum III to the Spiny Dogfish FMP, the Board sets the daily trip limit for the Northern Region during specifications, and currently, the daily trip limit is 7,500 pounds.

The goals of the proposal are 1) to encourage additional effort in the fishery by providing for more economically viable fishing trips, thereby increasing the utilization of the Northern Region spiny dogfish quota; and 2) to provide data to inform the setting of future trip limits through the specification process. The proposal would allow the commercial harvest, possession, and landing of spiny dogfish at a weekly limit of 37,500 pounds during September 1, 2026–December 31, 2026, which coincides with the seasonal decline in the fishery as the stock moves farther offshore making trips more expensive.

The AP did not have any concerns with the weekly trip limit. John Whiteside echoed comments made at the PRT and TC meeting that they are implementing a communication system between the processor and the harvesters to alleviate any concerns about supply outpacing capacity. They noted that this process had already been established in the skate fishery and that with just a single processor on the coast, it would be a relatively simple process for spiny dogfish. **The AP recommends approval of the proposal.**