

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Business Session

*November 4, 2015
1:45 – 2:45 p.m.
St. Augustine, Florida*

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Introductions (*L. Daniel*) 1:30 p.m.
2. Board Consent 1:35 p.m.
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2015
3. Public Comment 1:40 p.m.
4. Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair (*R. Beal*) **Action** 1:45 p.m.
5. Review 2015 Action Plan Update 2:00 p.m.
6. Review and Consider Approval of the 2016 ASMFC Action Plan **Action** 2:15 p.m.
7. Other Business/Adjourn 2:45 p.m.

The meeting will be held at:
World Golf Village Renaissance Saint Augustine Resort, 500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, Florida

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Business Session

*November 5, 2015
11:15 – 11:45 a.m.
St. Augustine, Florida*

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

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| 1. Welcome/Introductions (<i>L. Daniel</i>) | 11:15 a.m. |
| 2. Board Consent | 11:20 a.m. |
| • Approval of Agenda | |
| 3. Public Comment | 11:25 a.m. |
| 4. Resolutions Committee Report | 11:30 a.m. |
| 5. Review Non-Compliance Findings (if necessary) | 11:40 a.m. |
| 6. Other Business/Adjourn | 11:45 a.m. |

The meeting will be held at:
World Golf Village Renaissance Saint Augustine Resort, 500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, Florida

**DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
BUSINESS SESSION**

**The Westin Alexandria
Alexandria, Virginia
August 6, 2015**

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INDEX OF MOTIONS

1. **On behalf of the ISFMP Policy Board, I move the Commission find the State of Delaware out of compliance for not fully and effectively implementing and enforcing Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel. Delaware has not implemented the following regulations required by Addendum III:**
 - **9" minimum size for yellow eel recreational and commercial fisheries**
 - **½" x ½" min mesh size for yellow eel pots**
 - **Allowance of 4x4" escape panel in pots of ½" x ½" mesh for 3 years (beginning on January 1, 2014)**
 - **Recreational 25 fish bag limit per day per angler**
 - **Crew and Captain involved in for-hire are exempt and allowed 50 fish bag limit per day**

The implementation of these regulations is necessary to achieve the conservation goals and objectives of the FMP to rebuild the depleted American eel stock. In order to come back into compliance the State of Delaware must implement all measures listed above as contained in Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel. Motion by Dr. Daniel on behalf of the ISFMP Policy Board. Motion carries unanimously (Roll Call Vote: In favor – ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, PRFC, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL) (Page 1).

2. **Move to request NOAA Fisheries implement the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of the Jonah Crab FMP in federal waters pursuant to the authority of the Atlantic Coastal Act. Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries unanimously (Page 2).**
3. **On behalf of the American Lobster Board, I move that the full Commission accept the Jonah Crab Interstate Fishery Management Plan. Motion by Mr. McKiernan on behalf of the American Lobster Board. Motion carries unanimously (Page 2).**
4. **Motion to adjourn by Consent (Page 4).**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Terry Stockwell, ME, proxy for P. Keliher (AA)
Doug Grout, NH (AA)
Ritchie White, NH (GA)
Dennis Abbott, NH, proxy for Sen. Watters (LA)
Dr. David Pierce, MA (AA)
Bill Adler, MA (GA)
Robert Ballou, RI (AA)
Eric Reid, RI, proxy for Sen. Sosnowski (LA)
David Simpson, CT (AA)
Craig Miner, CT (GA)
Lance Stewart, CT (GA)
Katherine Heinlein, NY, proxy for Sen. Boyle (LA)
Jim Gilmore, NY (AA)
Emerson Hasbrouck, NY (GA)
Brandon Muffley, NJ, proxy for D. Chanda (AA)
Tom Fote, NJ (GA)
Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Rep. Andrzejczak (LA)
Loren Lustig, PA (GA)

Leroy Young, PA, proxy for J. Arway (AA)
Thomas Moore, PA, proxy for Rep. Vereb (LA)
John Clark, DE, proxy for D. Saveikis (AA)
Roy Miller, DE (GA)
Craig Pugh, DE, proxy for Rep. Carson (LA)
Lynn Gegley, MD, proxy for D. Goshorn (AA)
Bill Goldsborough, MD (GA)
David Sikorski, MD, proxy for Del. Stein (LA)
John Bull, VA, (AA)
Kathryn Davenport, VA (GA)
Louis Daniel, NC (AA)
Robert Boyles, Jr., SC (AA)
Ross Self, SC, proxy for R. Cromer (LA)
Patrick Geer, GA, proxy for Rep. Burns (LA)
Spud Woodward, AA (GA)
Jim Estes, FL, proxy for J. McCawley (AA)
Sen. Thad Altman, FL (LA)

(AA = Administrative Appointee; GA = Governor Appointee; LA = Legislative Appointee)

Ex-Officio Members

Staff

Bob Beal
Toni Kerns

Pat Campfield
Mike Waive

Guests

Wilson Laney, USFWS
Kelly Denit, NMFS

Martin Gary, PRFC

The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Edison Ballroom of The Westin Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia, August 6, 2015, and was called to order at 10:15 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Louis B. Daniel, III.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PRECEEDINGS SUMMER 2015

PUBLIC COMMENT

REVIEW NONCOMPLIANCE FINDINGS

CHAIRMAN LOUIS B. DANIEL, III: Welcome to the business meeting of the full commission. We have an agenda in our briefing books. I don't have with me, but we're dealing with the Jonah Crab FMP and we're dealing with the compliance finding of Delaware. We have an agenda and our proceedings from October. As long as everyone is comfortable with the agenda and minutes, they will stand approved by consensus. Not having seen public interest in speaking or nobody has signed up, I'm going to move first to the non-compliance finding on Delaware. Dave.

MR. DAVID SIMPSON: Just one brief thing to add to other business and that would be compliance reports. Is that appropriate for this session or should I have done it 30 seconds ago?

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: On behalf of the ISFMP Policy Board I move the commission find the State of Delaware out of compliance for not fully and effectively implementing and enforcing Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel. Delaware has not implemented the following regulations required by Addendum III: the nine-inch

minimum size for yellow eel recreational and commercial fisheries; half by half inch minimum mesh size for yellow eel pots; allowance of four inch by four inch escape panel in pots of half inch by half inch mesh for 3 years (beginning on January 1, 2014); recreational 25 fish bag limit per day per angler; crew and captain involved in for-hire are exempt and allowed 50 fish bag limit per day.

The implementation of these regulations is necessary to achieve the conservation goals and objectives of the FMP to rebuild the depleted American eel stock. In order to come back into compliance, the State of Delaware must implement all measures listed above as contained in Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel.

Just for the record, we had several folks provide additional information on the need for implementing these actions in the state of Delaware to the satisfaction of the Service. That is the motion in front of the full commission. Is there any discussion on the motion? All right, we will need to do this by roll call vote as well.

MS. KERNS: MS. KERNS: Maine.

MAINE: Yes.

MS. KERNS: New Hampshire.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Massachusetts.

MASSACHUSETTS: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Connecticut.

CONNECTICUT: Yes.

MS. KERNS: New York.

NEW YORK: Yes.

MS. KERNS: New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Delaware.

DELAWARE: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Maryland.

MARYLAND: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Virginia.

VIRGINIA: Yes.

MS. KERNS: North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA: Yes.

MS. KERNS: South Carolina.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Georgia.

GEORGIA: Yes.

MS. KERNS: Florida.

FLORIDA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, the motion carries unanimously.

**CONSIDER FINAL APPROVAL OF JONAH CRAB
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

MS. KERNS: For the Jonah Crab FMP, the Lobster Board forgot to discuss whether or not

we wanted to make any recommendations to NOAA Fisheries on the items that were approved through the Lobster Board's recommendations, anyway, before the full commission discusses whether or not they want to approve the full FMP. I'm going to turn to our Lobster Board Chair to bring this up.

MR. DOUGLAS E. GROUT: I'm not the Lobster Board Chair, but I'll be glad to make a motion. I move to request NOAA Fisheries implement the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of the Jonah Crab FMP in federal waters pursuant to the authority of the Atlantic Coastal Act.

MS. KERNS: And those provisions are the monitoring requirements as well as the management measures that are contained in the document. The management measures include things such as permit requirements, size limits, trip limits for non-directed gears, recreational limits. I think that covers the majority of them.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We have a motion from Mr. Grout; second from Mr. Adler. Any discussion on the motion? Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; the motion carries unanimously. Dan, would you care to make the motion to accept the full FMP for Jonah Crab?

MR. DAN MCKIERNAN: Do you want me to read the motion on the board?

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: No, that one we've already done. That was just a housekeeping item from the Lobster Board.

MR. MCKIERNAN: I'll move that the ASMFC Policy Board accept the Jonah Crab Fishery Management Plan as approved today by the board.

MS. KERNS: Dan, to help you perfect, on behalf of the Lobster Board you would recommend the full commission.

MR. McKIERNAN: On behalf of the American Lobster Board, I move that the full Commission accept the Jonah Crab Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion is on the floor and it does not need a second as it comes from our Lobster Board. Is there any discussion on the motion? Is there any objection to the motion? Seeing none; the motion carries unanimously. Is there any other business to come before the full commission? Dave.

OTHER BUSINESS

MR. SIMPSON: Related to my misunderstanding before, for a number of years I've expressed my frustration with compliance reports and how they aren't really effective at demonstrating compliance and it has more to do with reporting landings and other information. For example, our eel report that is due September 1, I think, is probably 30-some pages long. That causes me and staff to miss the fact that we weren't in compliance with the plan, which I thought we were.

Again, I'd urge that we rethink our compliance reports and have a very simple compliance report for states that when the commission or a board passes an addendum or an amendment that requires changes; that a letter go out from the commission that says you need to do this, this, and this; and that a letter comes back demonstrating that this, this and this was done with a copy of the statute, regulation, declaration, whatever it is that demonstrates that it was done; nice, simple, distinct from any of the other work that my staff and your staffs do to report on landings, report on trawl survey indices, all of that other stuff that isn't relevant and is also not timed with implementation or the time table for compliance. I just make that request one more time.

MS. KERNS: Dave, we'll definitely do that. We have revised the format for compliance reports and staff does their best to send memos out 90

days prior to the date that the compliance reports are due. I fully admit that sometimes those are late. We do in that memo outline the information that is needed under that plan.

A lot staff even go as far as to sort of have a fill-in-the-blank table that states need to fill out. Some states still are just filling in their last year's compliance reports; so they're just going back and refilling in the numbers and some of that information we're no longer asking for so if states could be careful to pay attention to those memos when we send them out.

I'll make my plug as I normally do. When there is confidential data in your compliance report, it needs to be on the cover highlighted so that staff realizes that there is confidential data in there and that the confidential data is highlighted within the report. Otherwise, it can be very difficult for us to find and then it could be released to the public; and we do not want to do that.

MR. SIMPSON: But still those reports that we put together in fact have very little to do with compliance. They're summaries of our trawl survey indices; they're summaries of our landings that are already available on the website. It is a very frustrating, time-consuming process for us that we're getting to a point where we can't afford that time anymore.

Our staff is diminished enough that I've got trawl survey people in the middle of 50-hour weeks that are having to write a compliance report that is a summary of National Marine Fisheries Service data that is on the website or the MRIP Site and trawl survey indices. We can provide those when they're needed for the assessment; but this is just the greatest example of I missed something and everyone else did, too, because it is lost in all this other stuff we provide that has nothing to do compliance.

MS. KERNS: Dave, in some cases that is required by the plan for the state to report, so

maybe we can sit down and look at the FMPs that have those types of compliance reports and then bring that up to each of those species' management boards and the species' management boards can decide whether or not they want to include it as part of the compliance report or as potentially part of submission of data for data updates or the stock assessments. Somehow we would need to have an indication that information is being collected and accounted for each year because the plan does require us to collect that information.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: I think the point David is making is right on, which is that we wait a long time to submit the compliance reports because we're waiting data to be available on landings and other things; but that delays the review of the state regulations to make sure they're consistent with the FMP.

We've had that conversation in the past; and we said, well, if we do two reports per year per plan, that might be better; and a lot of sort of technical-level folks rolled their eyes and they go two reports, I don't want to do two reports. Maybe we do need two reports every time we change management through an addendum or an amendment, something like that; so maybe on sort of a case-by-case basis we have to do special reports that allow us to review compliance.

Once an FMP is up and running and really no states are changing regulations, we probably don't need the two reports and we can wait later in the year until the landings' data is available. It may be on a case-by-case basis, but we can report out something and sort of research it and see where we are.

MR. SIMPSON: Yes; I think that's it. You know, summer flounder, fluke, scup, every year by some date, February/March/April we need to be in compliance; so a quick this is what it is, what did you do when an addendum is passed. You don't need to revisit it every year, but my

staff has to go through and find a copy of the regulation and paste it in and it is five years old.

Again, we're required to report our recreational data. I've offered I'll do all the states because it is no more work do all the states than one. I get it off the website and I could put it on a table and I could do for you. Another state could do the commercial. We're not adding anything except for a provisional number which is a mistake to publish anyway.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay, any other business. I have one just quick update on an issue that has been of interest to a lot of you, which is the lawsuit that was filed by the North Carolina Fisheries Association against the recreational fishery for turtle interactions that had the potential of actually enjoining the recreational fisheries possibly all the way into the Gulf of Mexico.

That lawsuit was dismissed on all parties for lack of standing by the Fisheries Association in that case. The decision by the judge is very interesting and one that certainly you would want to get a hold of a copy of and read, because it has got some very interesting findings in there that could impact case law for some time. Very good news from our perspective.

The document does make it look like there is much of a chance for an appeal to be successful but you never know; and whether or not they're going to file an appeal or not, we don't know at this time. Just for the commission's information, that case is out there and it is a good one to read. Anything else? If not, we'll adjourn the full commission.

ADJOURN

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 o'clock a.m., August 6, 2015.)

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ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Draft 2016 Action Plan For Business Session Review



October 14, 2015

Goal 1 - Rebuild, maintain and fairly allocate Atlantic coastal fisheries

Goal 1 focuses on the responsibility of the states to conserve and manage Atlantic coastal fishery resources for sustainable use. Commission members will advocate decisions to achieve the long-term benefits of conservation, while balancing the socio-economic interests of coastal communities. Inherent in this is the recognition that healthy and vibrant resources mean more jobs and more opportunity for those that live along the coast. The states are committed to proactive management, with a focus on integrating ecosystem services, socio-economic impacts, habitat issues, bycatch and discard reduction measures, and protected species interactions into well-defined fishery management plans. Fishery management plans will also address fair (equitable) allocation of fishery resources among the states. Understanding global climate change and its impact on fishery productivity and distribution is an elevated priority. Improving cooperation and coordination with federal partners and stakeholders can streamline efficiency, transparency, and, ultimately, success. In the next five years, the Commission is committed to making significant progress on rebuilding overfished or depleted Atlantic fish stocks.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

- 1.1 Manage interstate resources that provide for productive, sustainable fisheries using sound science.

American Eel

Task 1.1.1 – Monitor and implement Addendum IV (changes to the glass, silver and yellow eel fisheries). Assist states in implementing and monitoring yellow eel quotas in 2016 if triggered.

Task 1.1.2 – Continue to work with Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) on monitoring poaching and illegal sale of glass eels (see Task 3.1.2).

Task 1.1.3 – Develop Memorandum of Understanding on management and scientific collaboration with Great Lakes Fishery Commission, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). **Explore collaboration with DFO on the next Benchmark Stock Assessment.**

Task 1.1.4 – Monitor and respond if necessary to the classification of eel under the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Task 1.1.5 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Task 1.1.7 – Work with the Technical Committee to finalize and implement a life cycle survey in the State of Maine to estimate incremental survival across life stages. Review any additional life cycle survey proposals if submitted by a state. Update the young of the year surveys with 2015 data.

Task 1.1.8 – Work with the Technical Committee and the Fish Passage Work Group to annually update the board on fish passage improvements and current issues including hydropower dam issues. States can use this information when leveraging partnerships to reduce passage impacts on eel and other anadromous species. (See Task 2.2.13)

American Lobster and Jonah Crab

American Lobster

Task 1.1.9 – Develop an addendum for Southern New England to respond to the results of the 2015 benchmark stock assessment in Lobster Conservation Management Areas 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Task 1.1.10 – Monitor the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) actions on habitat area closures for impacts to the lobster fishery, respond if necessary.

Task 1.1.11 – Address lobster trap design, focusing on improvement to escapement of lobster from derelict traps. (See Task 2.4.5)

Task 1.1.12 – Monitor the implementation of the lobster trap database to track trap tag transfers.

Task 1.1.13 – Update the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Data Warehouse with landings information and monitor landings patterns in both the trap and non-trap fisheries.

Task 1.1.14 – Continue to monitor progress towards implementing more complete catch reporting as recommended by the stock assessment peer review panel.

Task 1.1.15 – Monitor trap tag production and distribution.

Task 1.1.16 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance. Continue to work with the federal government to ensure consistency between regulations in state and federal waters.

Jonah Crab

Task 1.1.17 – Implement Jonah Crab FMP and work with NOAA Fisheries to ensure consistent regulations between state and federal waters.

Task 1.1.18 – Monitor the NEFMC actions on habitat area closures for impacts to the lobster fishery, respond if necessary.

Task 1.1.19 – Monitor NEFMC actions regarding a possible development of a federal Jonah Crab FMP.

Task 1.1.20 – Develop a Jonah crab addendum to address crab-only pot-only fishermen.

Task 1.1.21 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance. Continue to work with the federal government to ensure consistency between regulations in state and federal waters.

Atlantic Herring

Task 1.1.22 – Review operational assessment results and consider management response. Set specifications for 2016-2018.

Task 1.1.23 – Monitor activities of the NEFMC and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) regarding complementary FMP actions, including but not limited to ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM), Amendment 8 issues and, river herring bycatch avoidance program. Consider complementary action where necessary.

Task 1.1.24 – Hold meetings as necessary to establish state effort control (days-out) programs for Areas 1A and 1B.

Task 1.1.25 – Continue development, finalize and implement measures included in Amendment 3, which proposes management options for spawning area efficacy, fixed gear rollover provision, and empty fish hold provision.

Task 1.1.26 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Atlantic Menhaden

Task 1.1.27 – Continue work with the Technical Committee and Ecological Reference Points Working Group to develop ecosystem reference points based on Board-defined goals and objectives. (See Task 2.4.1).

Task 1.1.28 – Develop draft Amendment 3 to revisit quota allocation and address ecosystem-based reference points.

Task 1.1.29 – Participate on the NEFMC EBFM Plan Development Team to draft a Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Task 1.1.30 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Atlantic Striped Bass

Task 1.1.31 – Continue the development of fleet-specific reference points and consider management response to findings.

Task 1.1.32 – Consider management response to 2015 stock assessment update, if necessary.

Task 1.1.33 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Atlantic Sturgeon

Task 1.1.34 – Continue development of the 2017 benchmark stock assessment. Collaborate with federal agencies to analyze bycatch data and prioritize/process genetic samples for use in the assessment.

Task 1.1.35 – Monitor state and federal activities in response to ESA listing of Atlantic sturgeon.

Task 1.1.36 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Bluefish

Task 1.1.37 – Work in collaboration with Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) to complete a stock assessment update. Consider management response to the update findings in conjunction with MAFMC, if necessary.

Task 1.1.38 – Review specifications for 2017-2018 in cooperation with the MAFMC.

Task 1.1.39 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Coastal Sharks

Task 1.1.40 – Establish specifications for 2017 and later.

Task 1.1.41 – Determine appropriate Commission management response to Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Amendment 6. Monitor and engage in the development of Amendment 9 (smoothhound management) and Amendment 5b (dusky shark management).

Task 1.1.42 – Review and consider dusky shark benchmark stock assessment for management and consider management response to the assessment findings.

Task 1.1.43 – Monitor activities of NMFS and HMS with regards to coastal shark management actions for consistency.

Task 1.1.44 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Horseshoe Crab

Task 1.1.45 – Review and modify the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework methodology, as necessary. Establish the 2017 specifications using the ARM Framework and quota allocation methodology.

Task 1.1.46 – Engage federal stakeholders, the biomedical community, and shorebird interest groups to secure long-term funding to support data collection for use in the ARM Framework, including the Horseshoe Crab Benthic Trawl Survey. (Task 6.2.3)

Task 1.1.47 – Engage the biomedical community toward finding a solution regarding confidential data use in order to enhance stock assessments and scientific advice for management.

Task 1.1.48 – Initiate development of 2017 benchmark stock assessment.

Task 1.1.49 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance for both the bait and biomedical industries.

Northern Shrimp

Task 1.1.50 – Continue development of new assessment approaches in response to 2014 benchmark assessment results.

Task 1.1.51 – Continue development of measures to be included in draft Amendment 3, which proposes limited entry in the northern shrimp fishery

Task 1.1.52 – Establish specifications for the 2016/2017 season. Consider industry test tows to collect biological data as resources allow.

Task 1.1.53 – Work with the states and industry to conduct test tows collecting biological data.

Task 1.1.54 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Shad and River Herring

Task 1.1.55 – Initiate development of the 2017 river herring benchmark stock assessment.

Task 1.1.56 – Monitor activities of the NEFMC and the MAFMC management actions including but not limited to shad and river herring catch caps and bycatch avoidance programs (see Task 1.2.5).

Task 1.1.57 – Review products of the River Herring Technical Expert Working Group and consider for management use.

Task 1.1.58 – Review and update sustainable fisheries plans and/or habitat plans as required by Amendment 3, if necessary.

Task 1.1.59 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

South Atlantic Species

Atlantic Croaker

Task 1.1.60 – Complete the 2016 benchmark stock assessment and consider management response to the assessment findings.

Task 1.1.61 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Black Drum

Task 1.1.62 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Red Drum

Task 1.1.63 – Complete the 2016 benchmark stock assessment and consider management response to the assessment findings.

Task 1.1.64 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Spanish Mackerel

Task 1.1.65 – Review annual report from North Carolina concerning Addendum I to the FMP. Consider changes to the management program, if necessary.

Task 1.1.66 – Monitor activities of the SAFMC to ensure consistency between state and federal management programs.

Task 1.1.67 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Spot

Task 1.1.68 – Complete the 2016 benchmark stock assessment and consider management response to the assessment findings.

Task 1.1.69 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Spotted Seatrout

Task 1.1.70 – Evaluate applicability of interstate management approach given the localized nature of spotted seatrout.

Task 1.1.71 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Spiny Dogfish

Task 1.1.72 – Review recent assessment information and establish specifications beginning in 2017/2018.

Task 1.1.73 – Participate in annual stock status update, as needed.

Task 1.1.74 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

Summer Flounder

Task 1.1.75 – Continue development of the comprehensive summer flounder amendment, considering changes to both commercial and recreational management in coordination with MAFMC. Consider technical committee recommendations on climate change impacts on species distribution and allocation.

Task 1.1.76 – Finalize regulations for 2016 recreational fishery.

Task 1.1.77 – Review 2017-2018 specifications in collaboration with the MAFMC.

Task 1.1.78 – Work in collaboration with NMFS and NEFSC to complete a stock status update.

Task 1.1.79 – Work in collaboration with the MAFMC, NMFS, NEFSC and industry to determine the viability of a sex-specific modeling approach.

Task 1.1.80 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Scup

Task 1.1.81 – Collaborate with MAFMC to initiate an amendment to address recreational/commercial allocation as well as commercial winter/summer allocation considering the results of the completed economic study.

Task 1.1.82 – Collaborate with NEFSC to complete a stock status update.

Task 1.1.83 – Finalize regulations for 2016 recreational fishery.

Task 1.1.84 – Review 2017-2018 specifications in collaboration with the MAFMC.

Task 1.1.85 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Black Sea Bass

Task 1.1.86 – Finalize regulations for 2016 recreational fishery.

Task 1.1.85 – Review 2017-2018 specifications in collaboration with the MAFMC.

Task 1.1.87 – Collaborate with the MAFMC and NEFSC to complete the 2016 benchmark stock assessment.

Task 1.1.88 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Tautog

Task 1.1.89 – Finalize and implement Amendment 2, which proposes regional stock areas, increased monitoring and a commercial tagging program to address illegal harvest.

Task 1.1.90 – Review Long Island Sound Stock Assessment. Develop New York-New Jersey coastal stock assessment. Consider management response to the assessment findings.

Task 1.1.91 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Weakfish

Task 1.1.92 – Complete the 2016 benchmark stock assessment and consider management response to the assessment findings.

Task 1.1.93 – Review bycatch reduction requirements in shrimp trawls.

Task 1.1.94 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

Winter Flounder

Task 1.1.95 – Consider management response to the GARM stock assessment for both SNE/MA and GOM stock assessment findings.

Task 1.1.96 – Monitor NEFSC stock assessment activities for inshore winter flounder stocks and review specifications for 2017-2018.

Task 1.1.97 – Continue to monitor federal common pool landings and regulations. Review state landings and make changes to fishery specifications if necessary.

Task 1.1.98 – Work through the Northeast Regional Coordinating Council (NRCC) to improve communication between ASMFC, NEFMC, GARFO and the NEFSC to identify stock rebuilding opportunities.

Task 1.1.99 – Monitor fishery for consistency with management program and state compliance.

1.2 Strengthen state and federal partnerships to improve comprehensive management of shared fishery resources.

Task 1.2.1 – Participate as a non-voting member and liaison between the East Coast Regional Fishery Management Councils and the Commission on matters of mutual interest.

Task 1.2.2 – Participate on the NRCC and SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) Steering Committee to set state/federal management and assessment priorities

Task 1.2.3 – Work with the Regional Fishery Management Councils and NMFS to improve alignment between state and federal fishery management programs.

Task 1.2.4 – Work with NOAA Headquarters and regional leadership to improve alignment of state/federal budget priorities.

Task 1.2.5 – Continue to work with NEFMC and MAFMC on evaluating and mitigating shad and river herring bycatch. (See Task 1.1.55)

Task 1.2.6 – Continue to work with NEFMC and MAFMC on habitat amendments and impacts to the American lobster fishery.

1.3 Adapt management to address emerging issues.

Task 1.3.1 – Continue to monitor developments related to climate change, ocean acidification, stock distributions, ocean planning and potential fisheries reallocations.

Task 1.3.2 – Identify common resource issues – protected species interactions, bycatch/discards, shifting population distributions, ecosystem services – that are cross-cutting among the Commission’s interstate fishery management plans.

1.4 Practice efficient, transparent, and accountable management processes.

Task 1.4.1 – Continue to track status of stocks relative to biological reference points to evaluate and drive improvement and results in the Commission’s fisheries management process.

Task 1.4.2 – Continue the use of decision documents and working groups to structure Board discussion on complex management decisions and increase transparency of pending board action.

Task 1.4.3 – Continue to focus Board attention on developing clear problem statements prior to initiating management changes.

Task 1.4.4 – Continue to use roll call voting procedures for Commission final actions.

Task 1.4.5 – Revise ASMFC guiding documents to reflect current operations and decision-making procedures.

1.5 Evaluate progress towards rebuilding fisheries.

Task 1.5.1 – Conduct annual Commissioner assessment of progress towards achieving the Commission’s mission, vision, and goals using an on-line survey. Report findings to the ISFMP Policy Board.

Task 1.5.2 – Continue the use of the annual performance of the stock to evaluate species rebuilding progress. Report findings to the ISFMP Policy Board.

1.6 Strengthen interactions and input among stakeholders, technical, advisory, and management groups.

Task 1.6.1 – Engage American lobster, Jonah crab, striped bass, weakfish, summer flounder, scup, red drum, tautog, menhaden and northern shrimp advisory panels (APs) in the development of FMPs and Amendments. Solicit state membership of current active APs and appoint new membership where necessary.

Task 1.6.2 – Continue communication with non-active advisory panels (species in the maintenance mode).

Task 1.6.3 – Integrate non-traditional constituents into Advisory Panels (See Task 5.2.3).

Goal 2 – Provide the scientific foundation for and conduct stock assessments to support informed management actions

Sustainable management of fisheries relies on accurate and timely scientific advice. The Commission strives to produce sound, actionable science through a technically rigorous, independently peer-reviewed stock assessment process. Assessments are developed using a broad suite of fishery-independent surveys and fishery-dependent monitoring, as well as research products developed by a vast network of fisheries scientists at state, federal, and academic institutions along the coast. The goal encompasses the development of new, innovative scientific research and methodology, and the enhancement of the states' stock assessment capabilities. It provides for the administration, coordination, and expansion of collaborative research and data collection programs. Achieving the goal will ensure sound science is available to serve as the foundation for the Commission's evaluation of stock status and adaptive management actions.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

- 2.1 Conduct stock assessments based on comprehensive data sources and rigorous technical analysis.

Task 2.1.1 – Address data deficiencies and priorities for stocks with limited data or stocks of unknown status. Collect more comprehensive information for data poor stocks in order to transition from problematic to more certain assessment models. Focal areas include sciaenid bycatch data, black sea bass fishery-independent data, menhaden fishery-independent data, river herring at-sea and in-river monitoring, horseshoe crab trawl survey, improved tautog indices, black drum biological sampling and fishery-independent monitoring of mature fish, American eel surveys covering all life stages, and **red drum recreational discard size composition. Conduct Jonah crab tagging study to evaluate migration, stock connectivity and growth. (Supported by NOAA Cooperative Agreement).**

Task 2.1.2 – Complete benchmark stock assessments for red drum, weakfish, **black sea bass, spot, and croaker. Complete assessment updates for bluefish, horseshoe crab, northern shrimp, and tautog.** Continue development of the Atlantic sturgeon stock assessment.

Task 2.1.3 – Conduct independent peer reviews of the weakfish, **spot, and croaker** stock assessments; **coordinate with NEFSC on the SARC review of black sea bass.**

Task 2.1.4 – Conduct a workshop with North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida to review the North Carolina Southern Flounder Stock Assessment and compile available data to determine feasibility of a regional stock assessment.

Task 2.1.5 – Through the Assessment Science Committee (ASC) and Management and Science Committee (MSC), develop the long-term stock assessment and peer review

schedule to prioritize stocks by management need; present tradeoffs to the Policy Board when assessment scheduling changes are requested.

Task 2.1.6 – Track assessment scientists’ workloads in order to complete 2016-2017 stock assessments; using the guidance of the ASC, develop new policies and approaches to better match assessment demand with assessment scientists’ capacity.

Task 2.1.7 – Maintain Fishery-Independent Survey Database to promote efficient assessment report compilation.

Task 2.1.8 – Serve as members of the Weakfish, Atlantic Sturgeon, Multispecies, Northern Shrimp, Tautog, Bluefish, Horseshoe Crab, Red Drum, Spot, and Atlantic Croaker Technical Committees and Stock Assessment Subcommittees to assist in completion of benchmark assessments and annual assessment updates. Utilize the ASC for guidance with assessment methods as necessary.

Task 2.1.9 – Continue to work with state and federal stock assessment scientists and staff of the ACCSP to increase use of ACCSP data in the Commission’s technical work.

Task 2.1.10 – Through the MSC, and using ASC guidance, develop a Commission policy regarding risk and uncertainty, in consideration of Council approaches, and provide to the ISFMP Policy Board for consideration.

Task 2.1.11 – MSC review and update the conservation equivalency policy to reflect current practices.

2.2 Proactively address research priorities through cooperative state and regional data collection programs and collaborative research projects

Task 2.2.1 – Maintain the master list of ASMFC Research Priorities by species as benchmark assessments are completed and new priorities emerge.

Task 2.2.2 – Participate in proposal reviews for MARFIN, MARMAP, NMFS Cooperative Research Programs, Saltonstall-Kennedy, and ACCSP, when requested, to evaluate projects and monitor new research activities to promote the states’ needs.

Subtask 2.2.2.1 – Develop and communicate research priorities for review and approval by species management boards, and provide to funding programs.

Subtask 2.2.2.2 – Work closely with federal partners to ensure completed funded projects are reviewed and transmitted to appropriate technical committees and boards.

Subtask 2.2.2.3 – Monitor and participate in the MAFMC redesign of the Research Set-Aside Program (RSA) to ensure state interests are incorporated.

Task 2.2.3 – Communicate with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to review research priorities and funding opportunities (e.g., fish passage, catch shares). Participate in NFWF proposal reviews for the Fisheries Innovation Fund.

Task 2.2.4 – Participate on the ACCSP’s Coordinating Council, Operations Committee, Bycatch Prioritization Committee, Biological Review Panel, Recreational and Commercial Technical Committees, Outreach Committee and the Computer Technical Committee.

Subtask 2.2.4.1 – Submit ASMFC changes to the ACCSP Bycatch Prioritization Listing. Consult Fishing Gear Technology Work Group regarding ASMFC input to Bycatch Prioritization.

Task 2.2.5 – Coordinate and implement the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP).

Subtask 2.2.5.1 – Administer funding to conduct 2016 NEAMAP Nearshore Trawl Surveys.

Subtask 2.2.5.2 – Support continuation of the NEAMAP Nearshore Trawl Surveys through coordination with survey leads and all NEAMAP committees: NEAMAP Board, Operations, Data Management, Analytical, and Trawl Technical Committees

Subtask 2.2.5.3 – Conduct NEAMAP Summit to improve coordination among the committees, assess need for changes in program structure and committee functions.

Subtask 2.2.5.4 – Develop the 2017 NEAMAP Operations Plan.

Subtask 2.2.5.5 – Provide NEAMAP data to coastwide stock assessments; track and demonstrate data use, and report to the ISFMP Policy Board, NEFSC, and Congress; maintain the NEAMAP website as a tool for distributing program information and requesting data.

Task 2.2.6 – Coordinate the South Atlantic component of the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP).

Subtask 2.2.6.1 – Coordinate all research components of SEAMAP-South Atlantic: Coastal Trawl Survey, Coastal Longline Surveys, Pamlico Sound Survey, Reef Fish Survey, Southeast Regional Taxonomic Center, and the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise. Coordinate all current workgroups including the Bottom Mapping, Fish Habitat Characterization and Assessment Data Management, Crustacean, Coastal Trawl Survey, and the Coastal Longline Survey Workgroups.

Subtask 2.2.6.2 – **Implement the new 5-year SEAMAP Management Plan (2016-2020)**; track and demonstrate data use for coastwide stock assessments, and report

to the South Atlantic Board and Congress; maintain the SEAMAP website hosted by ASMFC.

Subtask 2.2.6.3 – Participate in the expansion of SEAMAP-South Atlantic fishery-independent data coordination and mapping, as resources allow.

Subtask 2.2.6.4 – Coordinate South Atlantic activities with the Gulf and Caribbean components of SEAMAP.

Subtask 2.2.6.5 – Purchase and deploy new electronic measuring boards for the Coastal Trawl Survey and the Pamlico Sound Survey. (Supported by NOAA Cooperative Agreement).

Task 2.2.7 – Continue the Tagging Certification Program and support the use of tagging data in ASMFC stock assessments. Develop tagging registration programs, update and maintain the tagging resource website, link acoustic tagging information to the Atlantic Coastal Tagging (ACT) network website to improve the efficiency and quality of tagging efforts along the coast; **secure telemetry tagging data for use in assessments.**

Task 2.2.8 – Develop long-term strategy for collecting striped bass tagging data, including funding, administration, and at-sea support. **Initiate a multi-estuary striped bass telemetry study to determine migration rates and relative contributions to the coast wide stock. (Supported by NOAA Cooperative Agreement).**

Task 2.2.9 – Continue to participate in the development and implementation of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), with ASMFC staff serving on Executive Steering Committee, Operations Team, Transition Team, and Angler Registry Team. Report progress to the ISFMP Policy Board, and scientific oversight committees (MSC, ASC).

Task 2.2.10 – Coordinate fish ageing activities among Atlantic coast states and university laboratories in order to provide consistent, accurate age data to stock assessments.

Subtask 2.2.10.1 – Conduct age sample exchanges and an ageing workshop for **American eel** to prepare ageing laboratories for providing new age data consistent with historical age data.

Subtask 2.2.10.2 – Conduct an annual ageing quality control workshop using age sample reference collections for multiple species to maintain consistency among state and university ageing technicians.

Subtask 2.2.10.3 – Continue cooperative angler carcass donation programs with the states to collect age samples toward improving age data for assessments.

Subtask 2.2.10.4 – Initiate a coast wide black drum age sampling plan to address deficiency in age data from older fish, for use in future stock assessments. (Supported by NOAA Cooperative Agreement)

Subtask 2.2.10.5 – Distribute to all ageing labs the finalized Atlantic and Gulf coasts fish ageing manual with fish ageing protocols.

Task 2.2.11 – Continue coordination of the ASMFC Observer Program for Mid-Atlantic small-mesh otter trawl fisheries through the Northeast Fishery Observer Program. **Evaluate Observer Program impacts in collaboration with target species' assessment scientists and NEFOP on a long-term sample size analysis. Adjust program according to evaluation to maximize sampling effort. Identify a long-term funding source.**

Task 2.2.12 – Coordinate the activities of the Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (CESS).

Subtask 2.2.12.1 – Develop and provide basic socioeconomic information for inclusion in fishery management plans, amendments, and addenda.

Subtask 2.2.12.2 – Provide technical recommendations to the social and economic data collection and data management programs of the ASMFC and ACCSP.

Subtask 2.2.12.3 – Serve as a steering committee for ASMFC socioeconomic studies. Develop and distribute socioeconomic Requests for Proposals, evaluate proposals, and select a contract research team; conduct Atlantic menhaden socioeconomic study in 2016.

Task 2.2.13 – Coordinate the activities of the Fish Passage Working Group (FPWG) to carry out priority tasks as defined by the ISFMP Policy Board. Promote development of effective fish passage approaches and projects through state and federal collaboration.

Subtask 2.2.13.1 – Maintain a coastwide database of dams, dam removals, fishways, and passage efficiency studies. Collaborate with NGOs to incorporate the database in their passage prioritization tools.

Subtask 2.2.13.2 – Implement the fish passage prioritization protocol, maintain a coastwide list of passage project priorities, and develop performance criteria to evaluate passage projects' success.

Subtask 2.2.13.3 – Establish coastwide fish passage targets and add to diadromous species FMPs as amendments/addenda are developed; **assist in developing targets for the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing on the Santee-Cooper River system.**

Subtask 2.2.13.4 – Monitor and participate in upcoming FERC relicensing projects; develop guidance for state staff for navigating the FERC dam relicensing process, in order to more effectively improve passage in relicensing prescriptions.

Subtask 2.2.13.5 – Develop an East Coast Fish Passage Plan.

Subtask 2.2.13.6 – Summarize and distribute results of survey describing positive and negative consequences of providing fish passage through consultation with the diadromous technical committees.

Subtask 2.2.13.7 – Respond to state requests for information on fish passage, including FERC relicensing issues, fishway design, and restoration/escapement guidelines.

2.3 Facilitate stakeholder involvement in research initiatives and the stock assessment process.

Task 2.3.1 – Seek stakeholder input at data workshops during development of stock assessments.

Task 2.3.2 – Promote scientifically sound tagging practices and certification of angler-based tagging programs through the Interstate Tagging Committee.

Task 2.3.3 – Develop outreach materials that highlight opportunities for public engagement in the Commission’s fisheries management and stock assessment processes. (See Task 5.2.4)

2.4 Promote data collection and research to support ecosystem-based management

Task 2.4.1 – Ecological Reference Points Workgroup will continue to develop and present options for board consideration on ecosystem-based reference points that **align with Board-approved management objectives for Atlantic menhaden**. (See Task 1.1.27)

Task 2.4.2 – Continue to improve multispecies modeling efforts to support single-species assessments, including development of a new multispecies statistical catch-at-age model. Examine ecosystem-based reference points as an alternative to single species reference points, **through the development of Amendment 3 for Atlantic menhaden**.

Task 2.4.3 – Identify opportunities to collaborate with state, federal, and university researchers to use existing data collection platforms to advance ASMFC ecosystem models (e.g. diet studies, surveys of spawning and nursery habitats).

Task 2.4.4 – Identify common resource issues - protected species interactions, bycatch/discards, shifting population distributions, ecosystem services – that are cross-cutting among the Commission’s interstate fishery management plans. Develop recommendations for ISFMP Policy Board consideration to address common issues while maintaining sustainable fisheries in state waters.

Task 2.4.5 – Convene the Fishing Gear Technology Work Group (FGTWG) to evaluate the efficacy of bycatch reduction devices in southern shrimp trawl fisheries to reduce Sciaenid bycatch; **conduct FGTWG evaluation of the efficacy of lobster trap design to ensure escapement from derelict gear. (See Task 1.1.11)**

Task 2.4.6 – Participate as members of the Chesapeake Bay Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team and Forage Fish Workgroup.

2.5 Provide stock assessment training to improve the expertise and involvement of state and staff scientists.

Task 2.5.1 – Conduct intermediate and advanced stock assessment methods training workshops.

Task 2.5.2 – Conduct a Commissioner workshop on management risk and uncertainty.

Task 2.5.2 – Support external stock assessment training opportunities for staff and state scientists.

Goal 3 – Promote compliance with fishery management plans to ensure sustainable use of Atlantic coast fisheries

Fisheries managers, law enforcement personnel, and stakeholders have a shared responsibility to promote compliance with fisheries management measures. Activities under the goal seek to increase and improve compliance with fishery management plans. This requires the successful coordination of both management and enforcement activities among state and federal agencies. Commission members recognize that adequate and consistent enforcement of fisheries rules is required to keep pace with increasingly complex management activity and emerging technologies. Achieving the goal will improve the effectiveness of the Commission’s fishery management plans.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

3.1 Develop practical compliance requirements that foster stakeholder buy-in.

Task 3.1.1 – Identify and explore fishery management measures that maximize stakeholder buy-in.

Task 3.1.2 – Evaluate and report on compliance issues associated with newly implemented regulatory measures for Atlantic striped bass, American eel, and Jonah crab.

Task 3.1.3 – Assist MAFMC in identifying strategies to address violations and illegal harvest involved in RSA programs.

3.2 Evaluate the enforceability of management measures and the effectiveness of law enforcement programs.

Task 3.2.1 – Work with LEC Coordinator to ensure the input of the LEC throughout the management process on the enforceability of management options proposed in FMPs, amendments, addenda and conservation equivalency proposals.

Task 3.2.2 – Incorporate and reference the revised “Guidelines for Resource Managers” in reviews and evaluations of proposed changes to management programs.

Task 3.2.3 – Report on the enforceability of existing FMPs as part of the annual compliance review for each species.

Task 3.2.4 – Engage and support NMFS and USFWS Offices of Law Enforcement, **U.S. Department of Justice** and U.S. Coast Guard to **facilitate the enforceability of Commission FMPs.**

Task 3.2.5 – Evaluate the effectiveness of current case-tracking systems for monitoring and responding to evolving enforcement needs.

Task 3.2.6 – Exchange information and best practices related to the enforcement of protected and endangered species regulations.

Task 3.2.7 – Annually review and comment on (as needed) NMFS enforcement priorities to ensure they support the enforceability and effectiveness of Commission management programs.

Task 3.2.8 – Develop an enforcement strategy to ensure compliance with efforts controls in offshore Lobster Conservation Management Areas.

3.3 Promote coordination and expand existing partnerships with state and federal natural resource law enforcement agencies.

Task 3.3.1 – Provide a forum to promote and facilitate interjurisdictional enforcement operations targeting specific fishery resources (e.g. Atlantic striped bass, tautog, American eel). (See Task 1.1.2)

Task 3.3.2 – Maintain communications with the law enforcement advisory committees of the regional fishery management councils, interstate commissions, and other conservation organizations to seek opportunities for collaboration and ensure consistent law enforcement strategies.

Task 3.3.3 – Develop strategies to improve communications among state and federal enforcement agencies prior to regional enforcement activities.

Task 3.3.4 – **Exchange information regarding** enforcement actions and facilitate discussions on joint efforts that can assist in fisheries enforcement.

Task 3.3.5 – Share enforcement techniques and law enforcement success stories and provide regional training sessions (if resources allow) to enhance law enforcement efficiency along the Atlantic coast.

Task 3.3.6 – Share information and resources for locating and obtaining enforcement related grants.

3.4 Enhance stakeholder awareness of management measures through education and outreach.

Task 3.4.1 – Continue to highlight the outcomes of law enforcement investigations (penalties and fines) through various outreach tools (website, social media, press releases, fact sheets).

3.5 Use emerging communication platforms to deliver real time information regarding regulations and the outcomes of law enforcement investigations.

Task 3.5.1 – Report on enforcement issues associated with differing federal, interstate, and state regulations using social media and timely press releases.

Task 3.5.2 – Provide forum for enforcement agencies to display successful development and use of enforcement technologies.

Goal 4 – Protect and enhance fish habitat and ecosystem health through partnerships and education

Goal 4 aims to conserve and improve coastal, marine, and riverine habitat to enhance the benefits of sustainable Atlantic coastal fisheries and resilient coastal communities in the face of changing ecosystems. Habitat loss and degradation have been identified as significant factors affecting the long-term sustainability and productivity of our nation’s fisheries. The Commission’s Habitat Program develops objectives, sets priorities, and produces tools to guide fisheries habitat conservation efforts directed towards ecosystem-based management.

The challenge for the Commission and its state members is maintaining fish habitat in the absence of specific regulatory authority for habitat protection or enhancement. Therefore, the Commission will work cooperatively with state, federal, and stakeholder partnerships to achieve this goal. The Commission and its Habitat Program endorses the National Fish Habitat Partnership, and will continue to work cooperatively with the program to improve aquatic habitat along the Atlantic coast. Since 2008, the Commission has invested considerable resources, as both a partner and administrative home, to the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP), a coastwide collaborative effort to accelerate the conservation and restoration of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

4.1 Identify critical habitat through fisheries management programs and partnerships.

Task 4.1.1 – Finalize the sciaenid habitat source document working closely with technical committees, other species experts, and staff.

Task 4.1.2 – Prioritize and publicize important habitat types for Commission-managed species as identified in the ACFHP Strategic Plan and Habitat Committee Guidance Document.

Task 4.1.3 – Update species habitat factsheets for publishing in early 2016.

Task 4.1.4 – Coordinate artificial reef activities among the Atlantic coast states, and between the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions.

4.2 Educate Commissioners, stakeholders, and the general public about the importance of habitat to healthy fisheries and ecosystems.

Task 4.2.1 – Facilitate coordination and distribution of information for ecosystem-based management and marine protected area activities, and the potential consequences of significant anthropogenic activities on habitats of concern.

Task 4.2.2 – Participate in regional and national habitat meetings and scientific conferences to facilitate increased communication with agencies and programs that have jurisdiction over habitat.

Task 4.2.3 – Publish annual issue of *Habitat Hotline Atlantic*.

Task 4.2.4 – Develop next installment of the **Habitat Management Series: *Climate Change Impacts on Fish Habitats*** for ISFMP Policy Board review and acceptance. Identify a subsequent topic (e.g. sand mining, power plant impingement).

4.3 Engage local, state and regional governments in mutually beneficial habitat protection and enhancement programs through partnerships

Task 4.3.1 – Work with ACFHP to foster partnerships with like-minded organizations at local levels to further common habitat goals.

Task 4.3.2 – Provide stakeholders with the tools to effectively communicate, promote and accomplish habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement programs at the local level.

Task 4.3.3 – Serve as a point of contact and information conduit at the Commission for energy-related issues affecting fish habitat.

Task 4.3.4 – Continue to provide coordination support for ACFHP, under the direction of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) Board.

Subtask 4.3.4.1 – Facilitate communication and outreach with ACFHP partners, overlapping partnerships, and new partners. Develop outreach materials and maintain the ACFHP website.

Subtask 4.3.4.2 – Coordinate the implementation of the 5-year ACFHP Conservation Strategic Plan, including development of an Implementation Plan outlining tasks by year to achieve the goals, objectives, and actions in the Strategic Plan.

Subtask 4.3.4.3 – Support the completion of priority ACFHP Science and Data projects - acquire and analyze fish population, habitat, and human impact data; complete winter flounder GIS habitat assessment and initiate river herring habitat assessment; make results available to Partners for the purpose of strategic coastal habitat conservation.

Subtask 4.3.4.4 – Through ACFHP, and in cooperation with other Fish Habitat Partnerships and the National Fish Habitat Board, work with partners to develop monitoring and data standards for assessment of coastal habitat condition and fishery resource status prior to and following alteration projects.

4.4 Foster partnerships with management agencies, researchers, and habitat stakeholders to leverage regulatory, political, and financial support.

Task 4.4.1 – Provide information or comment on Atlantic coast projects and permits in accordance with ASMFC project review protocol.

Task 4.4.2 – Facilitate funding and partnership opportunities to promote habitat research in the states.

Task 4.4.3 – Identify partnership opportunities and forge additional relationships with organizations – such as non-governmental organizations and the recreational fishing community – to facilitate the promotion of fish habitat through a collaboration of strengths of different stakeholder groups.

Task 4.4.5 – Maintain habitat managers network to disseminate information about important habitat areas identified in Habitat Committee products. Use social media to connect with regional and local decision makers.

4.5 Identify mechanisms to evaluate ecosystem health.

Task 4.5.1 – Review habitat program goals and evaluate accomplishments annually.

Task 4.5.2 – Work with state and federal agencies, the Councils, and non-governmental organizations to build on existing efforts to populate coastwide GIS databases of fish habitat resources, to identify important fish habitats for Commission managed species as defined in the ACFHP Species-Habitat matrix.

4.6 Engage in state and federal agency efforts to ensure climate change response strategies are included in habitat conservation efforts.

Task 4.6.1 – As revisions to habitat sections of FMPs are made include recommendations to mitigate climate change impacts on habitat.

Task 4.6.2 – Identify inconsistencies in state coastal regulatory planning programs and develop recommendations for improvements to the ISFMP Board.

Goal 5 – Strengthen stakeholder and public support for the Commission

Stakeholder and public acceptance of Commission decisions are critical to our ultimate success. For the Commission to be effective, these groups must have a clear understanding of our mission, vision, and decision-making processes. The goal seeks to do so through expanded outreach and education efforts about Commission programs, decision-making processes, and its management successes and challenges. It aims to engage stakeholders in the process of fisheries management, and promote the activities and accomplishments of the Commission. Achieving the goal will increase stakeholder participation, understanding, and acceptance of Commission activities.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

5.1 Increase public understanding and support of activities through expanded outreach at the local, state, and federal levels.

Task 5.1.1 – Publish bi-monthly issues of *Fisheries Focus*. Continue to reduce mailing/printing costs through greater electronic distribution.

Task 5.1.2 – Use website to promote ASMFC activities to state and federal partners and stakeholders.

Task 5.1.3 – Promote ASMFC through attendance at fisheries-related trade shows and conferences.

Task 5.1.4 – Promote Commission activities regarding recently assessed and/or high profile species, habitat and law enforcement activities, as well as emerging issues such as fishery allocations and shifting populations due to climate change, to a broader constituency through mechanisms such as targeted press releases, informational brochures, webpage highlights and conference/trade show participation.

Task 5.1.5 – Develop and distribute youth-based educational materials designed to increase awareness of fisheries science and understating of fisheries management to key venues (e.g., teacher kits, Eco-camps, charter boat operations, aquatic educators) to help promote marine stewardship and ocean literacy.

Task 5.1.6 – Collaborate with East Coast Aquaria (New England, Baltimore, North Carolina) and relevant partners to promote interstate fisheries management and science activities at the aquaria.

Task 5.1.7 – Promote Commission’s mission and programs through outreach meetings with various marine policy and marine science graduate programs.

Task 5.1.8 – Participate in the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils Marine Resource Education Program.

Task 5.1.9 – Prepare benchmark stock assessment board presentations (weakfish, black sea bass, Atlantic croaker, red drum, spot) for posting on YouTube and ASMFC Fisheries Science 101 webpage.

Task 5.1.10 – Conduct Fisheries Science 101 webinars to increase stakeholder and public understanding of basic fisheries science principles and concepts.

5.2 Clearly define Commission processes to facilitate stakeholder participation, as well as transparency and accountability.

Task 5.2.1 – Publish and distribute **2015 Annual Report** to Congress, state legislators, and stakeholders to provide overview of our activities and progress in carrying out the Commission’s mission and public trust responsibilities.

Task 5.2.2 – Prepare Stock Assessment Briefs (in layman’s terms) for major benchmark stock assessments to facilitate stakeholder understanding of the science behind our management decisions. **Focal species for 2016 are weakfish, black sea bass, Atlantic croaker, red drum, spot.**

Task 5.2.3 – Enhance engagement in advisory panels and through solicitation of new members and increased participation of existing members (See Tasks 1.6.1 and 1.6.3).

Task 5.2.4 – Develop outreach materials that highlight opportunities for public engagement in the Commission’s fisheries management and stock assessment processes. (See Task 2.3.3)

Task 5.2.5 – Develop a guide to fisheries management entities along the Atlantic coast.

5.3 Strengthen national, regional, and local media relations to increase coverage of Commission actions.

Task 5.3.1 – Track media communications and coverage through ASMFC-related news clippings and media tracking sheet.

Task 5.3.2 – Conduct media training workshop for science and ISFMP staff to improve communication skills and strengthen promotion of Commission key messages.

Task 5.3.3 – Conduct annual meeting of Atlantic Coast Fisheries Communication Group, comprised of Public Information Officers from the Councils, states and federal agencies, to share successful tools, identify key media contacts and work cooperatively on joint projects.

5.4 Use new technologies and communication platforms to more fully engage the broader public in the Commission’s activities and actions.

Task 5.4.1 – Use social media tools to increase ASMFC visibility and improve stakeholder engagement.

Task 5.4.2. – Use website capabilities (e.g., video clips) to promote Fisheries Science 101 webinars, videos of fisheries surveys and state on-the-ground projects.

Task 5.4.3 – Monitor the success of website and social media platforms in reaching broader constituency and effectively communicating ASMFC mission, programs and activities.

Goal 6 – Advance Commission and member states’ priorities through a proactive legislative policy agenda

Although states are positioned to achieve many of the national goals for marine fisheries through cooperative efforts, state fisheries interests are often underrepresented at the national level. This is due, in part, to the fact that policy formulation is often disconnected from the processes that provide the support, organization, and resources necessary to implement the policies. The capabilities and input of the states are an important aspect of developing national fisheries policy, and the goal seeks to increase the states’ role in national policy formulation. Additionally, the goal emphasizes the importance of achieving management goals consistent with productive commercial and recreational fisheries and healthy ecosystems.

The Commission recognizes the need to work with Congress in all phases of policy formulation. Several important fishery-related laws will be reauthorized over the next couple of years (i.e., Atlantic Coastal Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, and Anadromous Fish Conservation Act). The Commission will be vigilant in advocating the states' interests to Congress as these laws are reauthorized and other fishery-related pieces of legislation are considered.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

6.1 Increase the Commission's profile and support in the U.S. Congress by developing relationships between Members and their staff and Commissioners, the Executive Director, and Commission staff.

Task 6.1.1 – Provide opportunities for in person Commissioner interactions with Members and congressional staff at our Winter and Spring Meetings.

Task 6.1.2 – Provide opportunities for the Executive Director to meet with congressional staff on a regular basis.

Task 6.1.3 – Focus interactions on Members of Congress from Atlantic coast states that serve on committees of importance to the Commission:

- House and Senate Commerce Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittees
- House Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee
- Senate Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

6.2 Communicate the Commission's federal funding needs to Congress and advocate for sufficient appropriations.

Task 6.2.1 – Clearly convey our funding needs as part of our communication with congressional staff.

Task 6.2.2 – Justify the need for federal dollars by the Commission through demonstrating the social, economic, and ecological benefits of Commission activities.

Task 6.2.3 – Work with Commissioners **and the Federal Funding Working Group** to identify funding needs and develop a strategy to secure funding for priority programs (Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act Grants, Stock Assessments line item, Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration, and Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership).

Seek funding for long-term monitoring surveys including Horseshoe Crab Benthic Trawl, NEAMAP, and SEAMAP. (See Task 1.1.46)

Task 6.2.4 – Demonstrate the value of the Commission as an effective management entity and resource to Members of Congress and their staffs.

Task 6.2.5 – Provide state-specific perspectives to staff and Members in meetings, especially management successes and challenges.

Task 6.2.6 – Contact home state Commissioners before communicating with Members or Congressional staff to get a local perspective.

Task 6.2.7 – Coordinate with the Gulf, Pacific, and Great Lakes Commissions on policy items of mutual interest including federal funding for fisheries programs. Executive Directors should continue providing unified positions on funding and legislative priorities to lawmakers and federal agencies, where appropriate.

Task 6.2.8 – Communicate Commission funding needs to NMFS.

6.3 Engage Congress on fishery-related legislation affecting the Atlantic coast.

Task 6.3.1 – Monitor federal legislation affecting the Commission, including policy and annual appropriations bills and develop Commission positions on pending federal legislation, including the **Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act , Anadromous Fish Conservation Act , Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act**, in addition to new legislation addressing emerging issues such as **marine national monuments** and **hydropower**.

Task 6.3.2 – Update Commissioners on pending congressional actions that may affect fisheries management as appropriate.

Task 6.3.3 – Coordinate with the Legislative Committee and Government Relations firm to identify relevant policy and legislative issues.

Task 6.3.4 – Monitor congressional hearings related to fisheries issues, and testify or provide statements for the record when appropriate.

Task 6.3.5 – Engage Commissioners in the formulation of the Commission’s position on federal legislative policy.

6.4 Promote member states’ collective interests at the regional and national levels

Task 6.4.1 – Communicate member states’ needs to Congress and our management partners.

Subtask 6.4.1.1 – Contact Commissioners before and after congressional meetings.

Subtask 6.4.1.2 – Facilitate opportunities for Commissioners to communicate directly with their Legislators and staff.

Task 6.4.2 – Participate with national organizations and management partners to address issues of mutual interest.

Subtask 6.4.2.1 – Conduct interagency coordination meetings (Memorandum of Understanding) under ACFCMA to improve state-federal partnerships.

Subtask 6.4.2.2 – Continue to serve as an advisor to Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC).

Subtask 6.4.2.3 – Continue to participate as a member on the Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) panel.

Subtask 6.4.2.4 – Increase participation with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

6.5 Promote economic benefits of the Commission’s actions (return on investment).

Task 6.5.1 – Provide state-specific economic and jobs statistics related to commercial and recreational marine fishing to lawmakers and staff.

Task 6.5.2 – Use specific examples to show successful management can be linked to economic success and increased jobs.

Task 6.5.3 – Demonstrate the differences between federal and state fishery management tools and the economic benefits of the state management approach (flexibility, closer to stakeholders, quicker response time).

Goal 7 – Ensure the fiscal stability & efficient administration of the Commission

Goal 7 will ensure that the business affairs of the Commission are managed effectively and efficiently, including workload balancing through the development of annual action plans to support the Commission’s management process. It also highlights the need for the Commission to efficiently manage its resources. The goal promotes the efficient use of legal advice to proactively review policies and react to litigation as necessary. It also promotes human resource policies that attract talented and committed individuals to conduct the work of the Commission. The goal highlights the need for the Commission as an organization to continually expand its skill set through training and educational opportunities. It calls for Commissioners and Commission staff to maintain and increase the institutional knowledge of the Commission

through periods of transition. Achieving this goal will build core strengths, enabling the Commission to respond to increasingly difficult and complex fisheries management issues.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

7.1 Conservatively manage the Commission's operations and budgets to ensure fiscal stability.

Task 7.1.1 – Monitor and update as necessary guidelines for cost effective meeting locations and meeting attendee travel policies.

Task 7.1.2 – Responsibly manage and review as necessary the Commission's reserve fund according to the approved investment policy. Review investments annually with AOC.

Task 7.1.3 – Submit a Certification of Indirect Cost to the Department of Commerce.

Task 7.1.4 – Monitor expenditures on a monthly basis and project variances to ensure complete and timely use of available funds relative to grant cycles. Distribute monthly financial report to Senior Staff.

Task. 7.1.5 – Respond to recommendations from 2015 audit regarding improvements to Commission travel documentation, management of staff leave balances, and linking staff salaries to source grants.

Task 7.1.6 – Identify new CPA firm to conduct annual audit. Prepare for and work cooperatively with CPA firm to conduct annual audit.

Task 7.1.7 – Maintain catalogue of physical inventory.

Task 7.1.8 – Provide administrative support to MRIP Dockside Survey (APAIS), including human resources and meeting management, grant and financial monitoring and office space. **Finalize hiring of new APAIS staff and update state agreements as funding becomes available.**

Task 7.1.9 – Provide administrative support to NMFS At-Sea Observer Program.

Task 7.1.10 – Provide administrative support to the ACCSP, including human resource and meeting management, grant and financial monitoring and office space. **Incorporate new ACCSP governance structure into existing Commission structure and update guiding documents and procedures (if necessary).**

Task 7.1.11 – Continue to provide administrative support to the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP), including logistical support for committee meetings and other Partnership activities. Assist in obtaining future funding to support ACFHP operations and fish habitat conservation projects.

Task 7.1.12 – Explore costs to the Commission of providing a health insurance benefit to retired Commission staff. Provide options to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Task 7.1.13 – Ensure adequate administrative staff support, including new hires if necessary, to manage significant additional workload associated with increased contracts and cooperative agreements.

7.2 Utilize new information technology to improve meeting and workload efficiencies, and enhance communications.

Task 7.2.1 – Attend information technology seminars/trade shows to remain abreast of current and future technologies.

Task 7.2.2 – Ensure consistency of software across the Commission and continue to cross-train administrative staff.

Task 7.2.3 – Provide targeted staff training for full use of office equipment and software.

Task 7.2.4 – Document standards for electronic record retention and develop site map of Commission electronic filing system for internal use.

Task 7.2.5 – Continue to document standard operating practices and procedures (SOPPs).

Task 7.2.6 – Continue to live stream Commission meetings and seek improvements to process.

7.3 Refine strategies to recruit professional staff, and enhance growth and learning opportunities for Commission and state personnel.

Task 7.3.1 – Promote Commission’s programs and activities and recruit new talent by conducting seminars to graduate level marine programs.

Task 7.3.2 – Provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to participate in internships at the Commission.

Task 7.3.3 – Review and revise position descriptions as necessary.

Task 7.3.4 – Review vacancy announcement distribution list and update as necessary.

Task 7.3.5 – Conduct stock assessment methods training workshops. (See Task 2.5.1)

Task 7.3.6 – Conduct Commissioner workshops on management risk and uncertainty and meeting management skills. (See Task 2.5.2)

Task 7.3.7 – Conduct meeting management training for committee chairs.

Task 7.3.8 – Facilitate staff participation at national and regional conferences; provide professional training opportunities.

Task 7.3.9 – Facilitate educational opportunities targeted to specific staff based on job responsibilities.

Task 7.3.10 – Conduct annual meeting with financial advisor to review retirement program performance with staff and provide opportunities for staff to meet individually with financial advisor to match financial goals with investment choices for retirement.

7.4 Fully engage new Commissioners in the Commission process and document institutional knowledge.

Task 7.4.1 – Work with Executive Committee to determine the appropriate transition and orientation program for new Commissioners.

Task 7.4.2 – Update and distribute, as necessary, the Commissioner Manual.

Task 7.4.3 – Continue to provide orientation materials for new members of Commission supporting committees.

Task 7.4.4 – Revise *Forging Knowledge into Change* for distribution at the Commission's 75th Annual Meeting.

7.5 Utilize legal advice on new management strategies and policies, and respond to litigation as necessary.

Task 7.5.1 – Respond as needed to litigation regarding challenges to Commission FMPs, and assist states with fisheries litigation as appropriate.

Task 7.5.2 – Work with Commission attorney to develop a potential information request policy for consideration by full Commission (FOIA equivalent).

Task 7.5.3 – Ensure annual submission of Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest forms by Legislative and Governor Appointee Commissioners and their proxies.

Task 7.5.4 – Consult human resources attorney to ensure liability is addressed for Commission employees working in our member states; address benefit requirements for part-time and seasonal employees; and seek guidance on requirements for hiring contract employees.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Proposed 2016 Action Plan Budget (Programmable Funds)

Budget Overview

NOTE: Detailed budgets for each task can be found following this overview.

Goal 1: Regulatory Planning		ACFCMA	IJF	W/B	SEAMAP	FHP	Total
Task 1.1	Meeting Weeks	\$ 275,000	\$ 50,000				\$ 325,000
	Contingency Fund	\$ 10,000					\$ 10,000
Task 1.1.1-7	American Eel	\$ 6,525					\$ 6,525
Task 1.1.8-17	American Lobster	\$ 23,900					\$ 23,900
Task 1.1.18-23	Atlantic Herring	\$ 8,900					\$ 8,900
Task 1.1.24-26	Atlantic Menhaden	\$ 5,900					\$ 5,900
Task 1.1.27-29	Atlantic Striped Bass	\$ 8,950					\$ 8,950
Task 1.1.30-32	Atlantic Sturgeon	\$ 24,800					\$ 24,800
Task 1.1.33-35	Bluefish	\$ 1,800					\$ 1,800
Task 1.1.36-41	Coastal Sharks	\$ 2,925					\$ 2,925
Task 1.1.42-48	Horseshoe Crab	\$ 7,525					\$ 7,525
Task 1.1.49-52	Northern Shrimp	\$ 21,400					\$ 21,400
Task 1.1.53-57	Shad and River Herring	\$ 13,675					\$ 13,675
Task 1.1.58-60	Atlantic Croaker	\$ 16,250					\$ 16,250
Task 1.1.61-62	Black Drum	\$ 25					\$ 25
Task 1.1.63-64	Red Drum	\$ 1,650					\$ 1,650
Task 1.1.65-66	Spanish Mackerel	\$ 525					\$ 525
Task 1.1.67-69	Spot	\$ 11,925					\$ 11,925
Task 1.1.70	Spotted Sea Trout	\$ 25					\$ 25
Task 1.1.71-73	Spiny Dogfish	\$ 900					\$ 900
Task 1.1.74-87	Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass	\$ 44,950					\$ 44,950
Task 1.1.88-89	Tautog	\$ 9,850					\$ 9,850
Task 1.1.90-92	Weakfish	\$ 6,225					\$ 6,225
Task 1.1.93-95	Winter Flounder	\$ 2,650					\$ 2,650
Task 1.2	NRCC/SEDAR	\$ 2,000					\$ 2,000
	ISFMP staff conference registrations	\$ 5,000					\$ 5,000
Goal 2: Cooperative Research		ACFCMA	IJF	W/B	SEAMAP	FHP	Total
Task 2.1	Stock Assessment Support	\$ 9,170					\$ 9,170
Task 2.1.4	Stock Assessment Reviews	\$ 66,925					\$ 66,925
Task 2.2.5	NEAMAP	\$ 17,050					\$ 17,050

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Task 2.2.6	SEAMAP		\$ 14,800	\$ 14,800
Task 2.2.7	Tagging Program	\$ 100		\$ 100
Task 2.2.10	Fish Ageing	\$ 15,300		\$ 15,300
Task 2.2.13	Fisheries Economics & Social Sciences	\$ 23,350		\$ 23,350
Task 2.2.14	Fish Passage Working Group	\$ 8,550		\$ 8,550
Task 2.4.1	Multispecies/Ecological Ref Pts	\$ 13,300		\$ 13,300
Task 2.4.5	Fishing Gear Technology	\$ 2,650		\$ 2,650
Task 2.5.1	Stock Assessment Training	\$ 47,700		\$ 47,700
Task 2.5.2	Scientist Training/Conferences	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000

Goal 3: Compliance

Task 3.1-3.2	Law Enforcement Coordinator	\$20,000		\$20,000
Task 3.3.4	Monitor IAFWA and CLECA	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000

Goal 4: Habitat

Task 4.3.4	Fish Habitat Partnership		\$ 29,300	\$ 29,300
Task 4.1.4	Artificial Reef Committee		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Task 4.2	Coordinate Coastwide Habitat Activities	\$ 12,000		\$ 12,000
Task 4.2.3-4	Develop & Distribute Habitat Information	\$ 800		\$ 800

Goal 5: Outreach

Task 5.1	Information & Education	\$ 10,000		\$ 21,000
Task 5.1.5	Printing Materials	\$ 5,000		
Task 5.3.2	Media Training Workshop	\$ 6,000		

Goal 7: Administration and Finance

Task 7.3.6	Commissioner Training	\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000
Task 7.3.7	Meeting Management Training for TC Chairs	\$ 11,750		\$ 11,750

Budget Overview Totals:	\$ 796,920	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 14,800	\$ 29,300	\$ 901,020
Executive Directorate	\$ 308,000	\$ 50,000				\$ 358,000
ISFMP	\$ 260,075	\$ -	\$ 10,000			\$ 270,075
Science	\$ 209,095	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,800	\$ 29,300	\$ 253,195
Finance & Administration	\$ 19,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,750

Budget Details

2016 ISFMP Budget Details		ACFCMA	IJF	W/B	SEAMAP	FHP	Total
Goal 1: Regulatory Planning							
Task 1.1.1-8	Board (3 meetings in meeting weeks)						\$ 6,525
American Eel	Technical Committee (22 members; 1-1 day meeting, 4 conference calls)	\$ 5,900					
	Advisory Panel (15 members; 1 conference call)	\$ 100					
	Plan Review Team (3 members; 1 conference call)	\$ 25					
	Staff travel (ESA meetings)	\$ 500					
Task 1.1.9-21	Board (4 meetings in meeting weeks)						\$ 23,900
American Lobster	Technical Committee (10 members; 2-1 day and 1-2 day meetings, 4 conference calls)	\$ 8,300					
(Includes Jonah Crab)	Advisory Panel (16 members; 1-1 day meeting; 2 conference calls)	\$ 4,150					
	Plan Review Team (5 members; 3 conference call)	\$ 75					
	Plan Development Team (5 members; 2-2 day meetings 4 conference calls)	\$ 4,100					
	Trap Tag and database calls	\$ 100					
	LCMT and Trade Meetings (staff travel to 1 mtgs)	\$ 600					
	Public Hearings (5 hearings)	\$ 1,500					
	Subcommittee (15 members; 1-1 day meeting; 3 conference calls)	\$ 3,075					
Jonah Crab	Public Hearings (5 hearings)	\$1,500					
	Staff travel to NEFMC	\$500					
Task 1.1.22-26							\$ 8,900
Atlantic Herring	Section (3 meetings in meeting weeks, 1 outside)	\$ 700					
	Technical Committee (5 members; 1 day meeting; 3 conference calls)	\$ 1,325					
	Plan Development Team (6 members; 1 meeting; 3 conference calls)	\$ 825					
	Advisory Panel (10 members; 1 meeting; 3 conf calls)	\$ 2,575					
	Plan Review Team (4 members; 2 conference calls)	\$ 50					
	Staff travel (coord w/ NEFMC)	\$ 800					
	"Days Out" Meetings (10 members; 2 Meetings; 5 calls)	\$ 1,125					
	Public Hearings (6 hearings)	\$1,500					

Task 1.1.27-30	Board (4 meetings in meeting weeks)			\$	5,900
Atlantic Menhaden	Technical Committee (15 members x 1-1 day meetings, 3 conference calls)	\$	3,575		
	Advisory Panel (19 members; 1 conference calls)	\$	75		
	Plan Review Team (5 members; 1 conference calls)	\$	25		
	Plan Development Team (5 members; 1 meeting; 4 conference calls)	\$	1,225		
	Staff Travel (NEFMC EBFM)		\$1,000		
Task 1.1.31-33	Board (4 meetings in meeting weeks)			\$	8,950
Atlantic Striped Bass	Technical Committee (20 members; 1 meetings, 4 conference calls)	\$	4,150		
	SASC (8 members; 2 confernce calls)	\$	75		
	Advisory Panel (23 members; 2 conference calls)	\$	50		
	Plan Development Team (5 members; 5 conf calls)	\$	125		
	Plan Review Team (2 conference call)	\$	50		
	staff travel striped bass tagging	\$	1,000		
	Public Hearings (11 Hearings)	\$	3,500		
Task 1.1.34-36	Board (1 meeting in meeting weeks)			\$	24,800
Atlantic Sturgeon	Technical Committee (26 members x 1 meeting, 8 conference calls)	\$	4,600		
	Stock assessment subcommittee (16 members x 1-4 day meetings, 9 conference calls)	\$	20,150		
	Plan Review Team (2 conference calls)	\$	50		
Task 1.1.37-39	Board (1 outside)	\$	1,500	\$	1,800
Bluefish	Technical Committee (16 member; 2 conference calls)	\$	50		
	Advisory Panel (20 members; 2 conf call)	\$	50		
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25		
	Plan Development Team (1 conference calls)	\$	25		
	SSC meeting	\$	150		
Task 1.1.40-44	Board (2 meeting in meeting weeks)				
Coastal Sharks	Technical Committee (13 members; 1 1 day meeting; 2 confernce calls)	\$	2,075	\$	2,925
	HMS Advisory Panel (staff travel)	\$	50		
	Plan Review Team (1 call)	\$	25		
	Plan Development Team (6 members; 2 conf calls)	\$	50		
	Staff travel Sedar (1 3 day meeting)	\$	675		
	Staff travel ICCAT	\$	50		

Task 1.1.45-49	Board (2 meetings in meeting weeks)		\$	7,525
Horseshoe Crab	HSC Technical Committee (16 members x1-1 day meetings and 3 conf calls)	\$	3,575	
	ARM Subcomm. (8 members, 1 meeting; 3 conf call)	\$	1,825	
	HSC Advisory Panel (15 members; 2 conference calls)	\$	50	
	Shorebird Advisory Panel (1 conference calls)	\$	25	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25	
	SASC (7 members; 1-2 day meeting; 3 conference calls)	\$	1,825	
	Staff travel (survey)	\$	200	
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Task 1.1.50-54				
Northern Shrimp	Section (3 meetings 1 conf calls)	\$	5,450	\$ 21,400
	Technical Committee (6 members x 1 meetings, 5 conference calls)	\$	2,800	
	Advisory Panel (10 members x 2 meetings, 1 conference call)	\$	1,225	
	Plan Review Team (1conference call)	\$	25	
	Plan Development Team (4 conference calls)	\$	100	
	Public Hearings (3 hearings)	\$	1,000	
	Staff Travel (survey cruise and Maine Fish. Forum)	\$	800	
	Conduct Test Tows	\$	10,000	
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Task 1.1.55-59				
Shad and River Herring	Board (1 meetings in meeting weeks)			\$ 13,675
	Technical Committee (20 members; 1-2 day meetings, 4 conference calls)	\$	9,075	
	SASC (8 members;1-2 daymeeting, 3 conference calls)	\$	4,075	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25	
	Staff Travel (2 Meetings)	\$	500	
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Task 1.1.60-71: South Atlantic Species				
Atlantic Croaker	Board (4 meetings in meeting weeks)			\$ 16,250
	Technical Committee (10 members; 1 -2 day meeting; 4 conference calls)	\$	5,100	
	Stock Assessment Committee (8 members; 1-4 day meeting; 5 conference calls)	\$	8,125	

	South Atlantic Advisory Panel (12 members; 1 day meeting)	\$	3,000	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25	
Black Drum	Board (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)			\$ 25
	Advisory Panel (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)			
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25	
Red Drum	Board (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)			\$ 1,650
	Technical Committee (11 members; 3 conf calls)	\$	75	
	Public Hearings (5 Hearings)	\$	1,500	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25	
	Plan Development Team (2 Conference Calls)	\$	50	
	Advisory Panel (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)	\$	-	
Spanish Mackerel	Board (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)			\$ 525
	Plan Review Team (3 members x 1 conference call)	\$	25	
	Advisory Panel (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)			
	Staff travel to SAFMC	\$	500	
Spot	Board (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)	\$	-	\$ 11,925
	Technical Committee (8 members; 1- 4 day meeting; 2 conference calls)	\$	4,600	
	Stock Assessment Committee (8 members; 1-4 day meeting; 4 conference calls)	\$	7,300	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25	
	Advisory Panel (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)	\$	-	
Spotted Seatrout	Board (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)	\$	-	\$ 25
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25	
	Advisory Panel (budgeted under Atlantic croaker)	\$	-	
Task 1.1.72-74	Board (2 meetings in meeting week)			\$ 900
Spiny Dogfish	Technical Committee (17 members x 2 conference calls)	\$	50	
	Advisory Panel (8 member 1 conference call)	\$	25	
	Plan Review Team (1 conference calls)	\$	25	
	Staff Travel to NEFMC/MAFMC/HMS AP/SSC	\$	800	

Task 1.1.75-88	Board (2 meetings in meeting week, 2 outside)	\$	2,700	\$	44,950
Summer	Technical Committee (12 members x 1-3 day and 1-				
Flounder	2day meetings, 7 conference calls)	\$	12,675		
(Includes Black	Advisory Panel (10 members x 1 meetings, 2				
sea bass and	conference calls)	\$	3,050		
scup)	Plan Development Team (4 conference call)	\$	100		
	Plan Review Team (3 conference call)	\$	75		
	Staff Travel (6 meetings) (MAFMC/FMAT)	\$	1,500		
	Public Hearings (10 hearings)	\$	3,500		
	Stock Assessment Committee (6 members; 3-3 day				
	and 2-2day meetings; 12 calls)	\$	17,850		
	FMAT	\$	1,000		
	Public Hearings	\$	2,000		
	SSC	\$	500		
Scup	Budget combined with Summer Flounder	\$	-	\$	-
Black Sea Bass	Budget combined with Summer Flounder	\$	-	\$	-
Task 1.1.89-91	Board (3 meetings in meeting week)			\$	9,850
Tautog	Technical Committee (12 members; 2 meetings; 4				
	conference calls)	\$	4,600		
	Public Hearings (7 Hearings)	\$	2,000		
	Advisory Panel (8 members x 1 meeting, 2 conf call)	\$	1,625		
	Plan Review Team (1 conference calls)	\$	25		
	Plan Development Team (4 conf calls)	\$	100		
	Enforcement Subcommittee (6 members	\$	1,500		
Task 1.1.92-94	Board (2 meetings in meeting weeks)			\$	6,225
Weakfish	Technical Committee (14 members; 1-2 day meeting;				
	3 conference calls)	\$	4,575		
	SASC (8 members; 2 calls)	\$	50		
	Advisory Panel (19 members; 1 conference call)	\$	25		
	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25		
	Plan Development Team (2 confrence calls)	\$	50		
	Public Hearings (5 hearings)	\$	1,500		
Task 1.1.95-99	Board (2 meetings in meeting weeks)			\$	2,650
Winter Flounder	Technical Committee (11 members; 4 conference calls)	\$	100		
	Advisory Panel (8 members; 1 meeting; 1 conf call)	\$	2,025		

	Plan Review Team (1 conference call)	\$	25		
	Staff travel (NEFMC)	\$	500		
Task 1.2	ISFMP staff conference registrations	\$	5,000		\$ 7,000
	NRCC/SEDAR	\$	2,000		
Goal 3 LEC					
	Law Enforcement Coordinator	\$	20,000		\$20,000
	Monitor AFWA and CLECA	\$	1,000		\$ 1,000
Goal 4 Habitat					
	Artificial Reef Committee (1- 2 day meeting; AR conference; 2 calls)			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	Coordinate Coastwide Habitat Activities (2 meetings; 5 calls; contract work)	\$	12,000		\$ 12,000
	Develop & Distribute Habitat Information	\$	800		\$ 800
Subtotal:		\$	262,075	\$ -	\$ 10,000
					\$ 272,075

2016 Fisheries Science Budget Details		ACFCMA	IJF	W/B	SEAMAP	FHP	Total
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Goal 2: Fisheries Research & Stock Assessment							
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Task 2.1.4	Stock Assessment Reviews						\$ 66,925
	<i>Weakfish</i>	\$	22,850				
	<i>Spot & Croaker</i>	\$	24,275				
	<i>SEDAR/SARC (Black Sea Bass)</i>	\$	4,000				
	<i>Southern Flounder Assessment Collaboration Workshop</i>	\$	15,800				
Task 2.1.5-6	Assessment Science Committee	\$	9,170				\$ 9,170
Task 2.2.4	Tagging Program	\$	100				\$ 100
Task 2.2.5	NEAMAP						\$ 17,050
	<i>NEAMAP Board</i>	\$	4,050				
	<i>Analytical Committee</i>	\$	3,050				
	<i>Operations Committee</i>	\$	3,150				
	<i>Trawl Technical Workshop</i>	\$	6,800				
Task 2.2.6	SEAMAP						\$ 14,800
	<i>SEAMAP South Atlantic Committee</i>				\$	6,900	
	<i>Longline Survey Workgroup</i>				\$	100	
	<i>Data Management Workgroup</i>				\$	200	
	<i>Bottom Mapping Workgroup</i>				\$	5,050	
	<i>Crustacean Workgroup</i>				\$	2,550	
Task 2.2.10	Fish Ageing Exchanges and Workshop	\$	15,300				\$ 15,300
Task 2.2.13	Fisheries Economics & Social Sciences						\$ 23,350
	<i>Committee on Economics & Social Sciences</i>	\$	3,350				
	<i>Menhaden Bait Fishery Socioeconomic Study</i>	\$	20,000				

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Task 2.2.14	Fish Passage Working Group	\$ 8,550	\$ 8,550
Task 2.4.1	Multispecies TC / Ecological Ref Pts WG	\$ 13,300	\$ 13,300
Task 2.4.5	Fishing Gear Technology	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,650
Task 2.5.1	Stock Assessment Training	\$ 47,700	\$ 47,700
	Scientist Training/Conferences	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
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Goal 4: Habitat			
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Task 4.1.2	Fish Habitat Partnership		\$ 29,300
	<i>Steering Committee</i>	\$ 21,500	
	<i>Work Groups</i>	\$ 6,650	
	<i>National and Regional Initiatives</i>	\$ 1,150	