



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee
FROM: Robert E. Beal
DATE: July 25, 2016
SUBJECT: Plan Development Team Membership

At the May Executive Committee meeting, a question was raised regarding board member participation on plan development teams (PDTs). Concern was expressed that if board members were on PDTs then they would have or would be perceived to have more opportunity to influence the outcome of the management process. There was not sufficient time to address the question at the May meeting, but the committee tasked staff with outlining current PDT guidance in Commission documents and providing possible options for additional guidance.

The ISFMP Charter and Technical Support Guidance Document give guidance on the composition, role, and responsibility of the PDT (see ISFMP Charter language below). PDTs are responsible for the development of a fishery management plan, amendment, or addendum. PDTs are appointed by boards/sections and comprised of personnel from state and federal agencies who have scientific and management ability, knowledge of the species and its habitat, and from a state/agency/jurisdiction with an interest in the species management program. Regional fishery management council staff, academicians, and others as appropriate may be included on a PDT. The size of the PDT shall be based on specific need for expertise but should generally be kept to a maximum of six persons. In general, most states typically appoint technical committee (TC) members to PDTs. TC members bring scientific expertise to the PDT but have less experience in writing regulatory/policy language. Often the PDT lacks members with management/regulatory expertise. When board members have been appointed to PDTs they bring this expertise, creating a more comprehensive group. In limited cases, some appointed PDT members are not board or TC members but have policy expertise.

Options for Consideration:

For the purposes of the options provided below, a board member is defined as a person or proxy on the species management board for the species in which a management document is being developed.

Option 1: Board members may participate on PDTs.

Option 2: Board members may participate on PDTs, but when the issue or management document addressed by the PDT is brought before the board, the board member must abstain

from voting on that issue/management document. They may still participate in the discussion leading up to the vote but they may not make or second any of the motions.

Option 3: Board members may participate on PDTs, but the board member must abstain from voting on any final action on the issues/management documents brought forward by the PDT. They may still participate in the discussion leading up to the votes and they may make or second any of the votes.

Option 4: Board members may not participate on PDTs.

Section 5 (c) of the ISFMP Charter:

PDTs shall be appointed by the management boards/sections to draft FMPs, amendments and addenda.

(1) PDTs shall be comprised of personnel from state and federal agencies who have scientific and management ability, knowledge of a species and its habitat, and an interest in the management of a species under the jurisdiction of the relevant management board. Personnel from Regional Fishery Management Councils, academicians, and others as appropriate may be included on a PDT. The size of the PDT shall be based on specific need for expertise but shall generally be kept to a maximum of six persons.

(2) It shall be the responsibility of a PDT to prepare all documentation necessary for the development of an FMP, amendment, or addendum using the best scientific information available and the most current stock assessment information. Each FMP, amendment, or addendum shall be developed by the PDT in conformance with Section Six of the ISFMP Charter.

(3) PDTs shall be tasked directly by the management boards/sections. In carrying out its activities, the PDT shall seek advisement from the appropriate technical committee, stock assessment subcommittee, advisory panel, Committee on Economics and Social Sciences, and the Assessment Science, Habitat, Artificial Reef and Law Enforcement Committees, where appropriate.

(4) Following completion of its charge, the PDT will be disbanded unless otherwise determined by the board/section.