

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

ISFMP Policy Board

July 14, 2020

1- 2 p.m.

Via Webinar

Webinar link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1705992754171840016>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information to connect to the webinar.

We strongly recommend connecting to the webinar using the computer audio (VoIP).

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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/Call to Order (<i>P. Keliher</i>) | 1:00 p.m. |
| 2. Board Consent (<i>p. Keliher</i>) | 1:00 p.m. |
| • Approval of Agenda | |
| 3. Public Comment | 1:05 p.m. |
| 4. Review and Consider Approval of Proposed Guidance on Adjusting Recreational Measures Due to COVID-19 Impacts (<i>T. Kerns</i>) Action | 1:15 p.m. |
| 5. Other Business | 1:55 p.m. |
| 6. Adjourn | 2:00 p.m. |

The meeting will be held via webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1705992754171840016>



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ISFMP Policy Board

FROM: Executive Committee

DATE: July 8, 2020

SUBJECT: Adjustments to Recreational Management Measures Due to COVID-19 Impacts

At the Commission's Spring Meeting several species boards discussed the overarching impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on recreational fisheries and the possibility of adjusting 2020 recreational measures to provide relief for lost fishing opportunities. The boards requested that the Executive Committee (Committee) develop guidance for states as they consider changes to 2020 recreational measures. Since May, the Committee has been discussing the appropriate process to review and consider approval of state proposals that address lost fishing opportunity due to COVID-19 restrictions. This memo is a synopsis of those discussions and guidance recommendations for the ISMFP Policy Board's consideration.

The lack of complete MRIP data for this spring makes evaluating potential proposals difficult and the degree to which fishery closures varied from state-to-state make a single set of measures challenging to define. For example, the Massachusetts for-hire industry was closed from April 27- May 24; the Connecticut for-hire industry was closed from March 24- May 20. In New York the opening date of the for-hire fishing varied by county.

The Committee recognizes the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on U.S. fisheries. The funds from the CARES Act will begin to provide some relief to the industry, including for-hire businesses within the recreational fishing sector, but the funds may not make those businesses whole. The Committee is recommending states be allowed to submit proposals to adjust individual species 2020 recreational measures. The Committee recognizes the precedence that could be set if measures were adjusted due to lost fishing opportunity. Therefore, proposals would be reviewed by the species technical committee and board and be limited to fisheries that meet the criteria below, and are specifically in response to the global pandemic (proposals that seek to adjust recreational measures due to poor weather conditions, limited fish availability, or other non-COVID related issues will not be considered).

- There was civil emergency action, or other state or federal action due to the COVID-19 pandemic that closed recreational fishing, this can include mode specific closures.
- Verification that the state made a good effort to enforce the closure.
- Proposals may only adjust season length, no other measures may be adjusted.
- The species is not overfished and/or overfishing is not occurring.