

# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Business Session

*February 21, 2013  
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.  
Alexandria, Virginia*

## 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/Call to Order ( <i>P. Diodati</i> )   | 1:30 p.m. |
| 2. Board Consent                                 | 1:30 p.m. |
| • Approval of Agenda                             |           |
| • Approval of Proceedings from October 2012      |           |
| 3. Public Comment                                | 1:35 p.m. |
| 4. Review Non-Compliance Findings (If Necessary) | 1:45 p.m. |
| 5. Other Business/Adjourn                        | 2:00 p.m. |

The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia; 703-683-6000

*Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015*

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

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

**Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
October 24, 2012**

**These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Commissioners  
during their next Business Session**

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## INDEX OF MOTIONS

1. **Approval of Agenda** by consent (Page 1).
2. **Move to nominate Mr. Paul Diodati as the ASMFC Chair** (Page 6). Motion by Jack Travelstead on behalf of the Nominations Committee. Motion approved (Page 6).
3. **Move to nominate Mr. Louis Daniel as the ASMFC Vice-Chair** (Page 6). Motion by Jack Travelstead on behalf of the Nominations Committee. Motion approved (Page 6).
4. **Move to Adjourn** by consent (Page 7).

## ATTENDANCE

### Board Members

Terry Stockwell, ME, proxy for P. Keliher (AA)	Bernie Pankowski, DE, proxy for Sen. Venables (LA)
Dennis Abbott, NH, proxy for Rep. Watters (LA)	Roy Miller, DE (GA)
G. Ritchie White, NH (GA)	David Saveikis, DE (AA)
Douglas Grout, NH (AA)	Tom O'Connell, MD (AA)
Paul Diodati, MA (AA)	Bill Goldsborough, MD (GA)
Bill Adler, MA (GA)	Russell Dize, MD, proxy for Sen. Colburn (LA)
Robert Ballou, RI (AA)	Jack Travelstead, VA (AA)
David Simpson, CT (AA)	Cathy Davenport, VA (GA)
Lance Stewart, CT (GA)	Kyle Schick, VA, proxy for Sen. Stuart (LA)
Rep. Craig Miner, CT (LA)	Louis Daniel, NC (AA)
Jim Gilmore, NY (AA)	Bill Cole, NC (GA)
Pat Augustine, NY (GA)	Robert Boyles, SC (LA)
Tom McCloy, NJ, proxy for D. Chanda (AA)	Patrick Geer, GA, proxy for S. Woodward (AA)
Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Asm. Albano (LA)	Jim Estes, FL, proxy for J. McCawley (AA)
Tom Fote, NJ (GA)	A.C. Carpenter, PRFC
Leroy Young, PA, proxy for J. Arway (AA)	Wilson Laney, USFWS
Loren Lustig, PA (GA)	Kelly Denit, NMFS
Mitchell Feigenbaum, PA, proxy for Rep. Vereb (LA)	

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

### Ex-Officio Members

#### Staff

Robert Beal	Toni Kerns
Laura Leach	

#### Guests

Gordon Colvin, NOAA	Janice Plante, Commercial Fisheries News
Kim Damon Randall, NOAA	Ellen Cosby, PRFC
Patrick Geer, GA DNR	Bob VanDolah, SC DNR
Jim Estes, FL FWC	Megan Caldwell, Charlotte, NC
Russ Allen, NJ DFW	Lynn Fegley, MD DNR
Peter Himchak, NJ DFW	Dan McKiernan, MA DMF
Raymond Kane, CHOIR	Nichola Meserve, MA DMF

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during their next Business Session**

The Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 24, 2012, and was called to order at 5:12 p.m. by Chairman Paul Diodati.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIRMAN PAUL DIODATI: We will start our business meeting. You should have the agenda handy; and without objection we will approve the agenda. I don't see any hands going up.

### **APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIRMAN PAUL DIODATI: Also, the minutes or proceedings from the May 2012 business meeting; you should have those. Without objection, I will consider those approved. Is there any public comment? Seeing none, we are going to move to the Action Plan. Louis.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE 2012 ASMFC ACTION PLAN**

DR. LOUIS DANIEL: Louis is going to call on Laura to go over the Action Plan.

MS. LAURA LEACH: We're going to go very quickly through the Action Plan. You have had it for about a week and a half now to review. We're only going to hit the highlights. Toni is going to start with Goal 1.

MS. TONI KERNS: Goal 1 is rebuild and restore the depleted Atlantic Coastal Fisheries and maintain and fairly allocate recovered fisheries through cooperative regulatory planning. First is American eel and we are going to complete Addendum III in response to the 2012 benchmark stock assessment as well as work with the Law Enforcement Committee on monitoring poaching and illegal sale of glass eels.

We will also be monitoring action by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service on the petition to list American eel. For American lobster we're going to develop an addendum to adjust the fishery effort to the size of the resource for LCMA's 4, 5 and 6 and explore long-term funding options for fishery-independent and dependent data collection, as well as to continue to work on the data and assessment workshops for the 2014 lobster stock assessment.

For Atlantic menhaden we're going to review state compliance with the implementation of Amendment

2, which should be finalized at the December meeting as well as secure adequate assessment expertise and initiate data compilation and modeling efforts to support a 2014 benchmark stock assessment and peer review.

For Atlantic striped bass we're going to be completing the benchmark stock assessment and peer review for July of 2013 through SARC 57 and then consider any initiation of addenda to respond to those assessment findings. Also, we will be reviewing the 2012 law enforcement efforts, results and interagency cooperation regarding the illegal harvest of striped bass in state waters.

For Atlantic sturgeon we will be developing and submitting a petition to NOAA Fisheries to down-list or delist Atlantic sturgeon as well as initiate the development of a benchmark stock assessment for peer review in 2014. Also, we will be monitoring state and federal activities to respond to the ESA listing of Atlantic sturgeon, including the review of the biological opinions and critical habitat designations.

For black drum we will complete the development and initiate implementation of the FMP for black drum as well as hold data and assessment workshops to continue the benchmark stock assessment. For northern shrimp we will continue the development of an addendum to consider limited entry for the northern shrimp fishery as well as complete the benchmark assessment in December of 2013 for peer review by the SARC.

For summer flounder, work in collaboration with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to complete a benchmark stock assessment for peer review in July of 2013. Under scup we will be collaborating with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to develop an amendment to address recreational and commercial allocation as well as allocation between the commercial fishery in the winter and summer periods, using some of the results from the economic study that was completed this past year through the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

For black sea bass we will be developing an addendum to address the allocation of black sea bass in the recreational fishery for 2013. Under Atlantic croaker we will be developing an addendum to consider alternative trigger mechanisms for croaker management. Under Atlantic herring we will monitor the activities of the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils in response to the legal decision regarding small-mesh bycatch.

We will also be considering an addendum to establish and/or modify spawning area closures including the Nantucket Shoals Spawning Area. Under bluefish we will work in collaboration with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to update the stock assessment and work on the benchmark assessment, which will be completed in June of 2014.

For horseshoe crab we will be implementing Addendum VII that incorporates the ARM Framework and quota allocation methodology and complete the development of best management practices to reduce mortality associated with biomedical bleeding. Also under horseshoe crab we will be working with the horseshoe crab communities to secure funding for the trawl survey.

Under shad and river herring, monitoring activities of both councils in response to the legal decision under small-mesh fisheries and consider FMP management changes in response to the actions taken by the councils in consideration of shad and river herring as stocks in the fishery within their FMPs. We will also be monitoring National Marine Fisheries Service on the petition to list river herring under the Endangered Species Act.

For Spanish mackerel we will be monitoring the implementation of the South Atlantic Council's actions in Amendment 19 and 20 and follow the SEDAR 28 benchmark stock assessment. For coastal sharks we will be developing and implementing Addendum III to modify fin-to-carcass ratio for smooth dogfish; also monitor and engage in the development of Amendment 5 and 6 by HMS and continue to engage with the Humane Society for commercial fishing representatives and other groups to address the legislative initiatives for shark finning. Under tautog we will continue to sample exchange work to reconcile with different aging techniques and incorporate those into the 2014 benchmark stock assessment and peer review. Under winter flounder we will be completing Addendum III, which provides the board flexibility to react to federal annual catch limits, accountability measures and any assessment updates.

Under manage responsibly when facing uncertainty, we will be developing commission policy regarding risk and uncertainty in consideration of and in coordination with council approaches for Management and Science to draft a policy for board consideration.

MS. LEACH: Are there any questions on 1.1 and 1.2?

MR. ROBERT BALLOU: I guess more a comment or suggested clarification rather than a question, and that is under scup, 1.1.8, collaborate with the Mid to develop an amendment to address recreational/commercial allocation as well as commercial winter/summer allocation in the scup fishery considering the results of the completed economic study.

I believe that is out for – there are two points there. One is the study I think was not well received. Secondly, I think it is out for peer review, so at the very least I would want it conditioned upon pending peer review. I'm even wondering if it should even be in there given how poorly it was received when we met on it. Thank you.

MS. KERNS: Bob, I think the Mid is still considering how and if it would be peer reviewed. I am not a hundred percent sure on that, but I do know that for the amendment, the way the motion was done we're not required to use the study but we could consider it in the development of the options, but options could be also done through the direction of the council and board.

MR. DOUGLAS GROUT: Toni, under lobster I know we just initiated a new addendum concerning Closed Area 2, and is that something that needs to be added into the Action Plan even though we were talking about piggybacking meetings and hearings with some of the other addendums we were talking about in 2013?

MS. KERNS: We do need to add it into the Action Plan. If the document is done at the same time as the other planned actions, then it will not cost additional dollars; but if it is not done in conjunction, then we would need to budget additional dollars for that addendum.

MR. GROUT: So clearly we need to add that in there in some form.

MR. WILLIAM A. ADLER: On that same thing, Toni, did I hear you put Addendum XX aside from the addendum that Doug just spoke of, the other one they were coming back in February with the rest of 18. Remember, you mentioned something about an addendum in February, Area 2 stuff.

MS. KERNS: Addendum XX in the Action Plan was what we intended to be to establish the measures for the transferability for Area 2 and 3, but then at the board meeting we turned XX into the addendum that would reflect the agreement between the trawl fishery sector and the lobster industry, so XXI will then turn

into the transferability measures. As long as those two addenda are going forward together, it will not cost us extra dollars; but if they separate, then we will not have all the dollars allocated.

CHAIRMAN DIODATI: Okay, I think you can go on. Pat.

MR. PATRICK CAMPFIELD: Mr. Chairman, I'll pick up a couple of tasks here. Under encourage the use of monitoring programs, we will have some new activity regarding expanding the freezer program that occurs in some states like Virginia and Georgia to additional states and species to become more efficient in obtaining biological samples.

Under 1.7.2, engage the commission's fishing gear technology workgroup to provide input to the ACCSP bycatch prioritization. Under 1.8, implementing full commercial and recreational catch and landings reporting; the Assessment Science Committee will work the ACCSP Commercial Technical Committee to go species by species and see what levels of catch reporting we currently have and report those findings to the Policy Board.

Moving down to 1.11 regarding the commission's fish passage activities, some new specific activities regarding under 1.11.2.1 developing a consistent and objective protocol for prioritizing fish passage projects across the states. The next bolded task is as amendments or addenda are developed, update diadromous management plans to include passage targets and contribute to FERC relicensing prescriptions. If there are no questions, I will pass it back to Toni.

MS. KERNS: Under Task 1.1.2 through 1.1.5 most of the tasks there are continuations of projects that we have been doing. The one that I will note is that we're going to continue to work with both councils on evaluating and mitigating shad and river herring bycatch in small-mesh ocean fisheries.

MS. LEACH: Are there any more questions on Goal 1? Okay, Pat.

MR. CAMPFIELD: Under the first strategy, development of sound science and develop of quantitative assessments for stocks of unknown status, we going to initiate the sturgeon benchmark stock assessment as well as continue work on the black drum assessment. Under addressing data priorities for species with limited data, try to move the ball forward with improving bycatch data for species like weakfish, spot and other cyanides. There

are others listed there, but some focal areas for improving fishery-independent data.

Under the NEAMAP strategy, the only new activity is the development of a NEAMAP Analytical Committee now that the survey is several years underway, to put together a group of analysts to guide the use of those data as the time series is now five-plus years. Moving down to 2.2.4 regarding fish tagging activities, there are new studies and new monitoring gong on coastwide regarding acoustic tagging, so the commission is going to plug into that and the Atlantic Coastal Tagging Network, including sharing information via the commission's tagging website.

Under 2.2.6, participate in the MRIP PSE Workshop to try to define guidelines for acceptable levels of variance in recreational catch estimates. Also under MRIP the commission has taken on the administration of site registry grants for a number of the states. Moving down to 2.3, strengthen the quality and credibility of commission assessments, just a quick list of the benchmark assessments coming up for 2013, small coastal sharks, striped bass, fluke and northern shrimp.

Moving down to 2.4, develop cooperative programs to address the commission's research priorities; focusing on 2.4.4 regarding fish aging activities, we plan to host a shad and river herring aging workshop to develop consistent aging of those species coastwide as well as going back and checking historical tautog age samples among the states in preparation for the stock assessment due in 2014.

Finally under 2.11, participate as a partner to fully implement ACCSP, have the science staff and other state technical folks act as liaisons between ACCSP and the states when compiling landings for assessments to identify discrepancies and ensure consistency across data sources. Are there any questions? Doug.

MR. GROUT: Just a quick question on the shad and river herring aging workshop; in my time here I think this is probably about the fourth or fifth shad and river herring aging workshop. Are there new ideas or we just have new people that we're just trying to get consistent – did this come from the recommendation from the technical committee that this is something needed or the stock assessment committee?

MR. CAMPFIELD: Yes, my understanding is there has been at least one and it may have been only limited to shad, and this recommendation comes both out of the technical committee and the review panel

for the recently completed river herring assessment, that there needs to be improvement specifically in how river herring are aged, but because the species are related, to include both shad and river herring.

MS. KERNS: Moving on to Goal 3, we are going to try to ensure that the Law Enforcement Committee is engaged throughout the FMP process. We're also going to be engaging the support not only of NMFS Office of Law Enforcement but also add in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service chief to improve coordination and communication.

We're looking to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of Addendum III to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan; and lastly to explore the addition of the U.S. Department of Justice representative to the Law Enforcement Committee. Are there any questions?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: The Law Enforcement Committee, as they discussed these priorities this week – and they endorsed them all – they wanted to add language to 3.1.1 that would allow them to evaluate the enforcement resources that are available and are needed to address new or proposed regulations. They would look at the regulations from enforceability – technically can it be enforced – and then from the resource side, do they have the resources to enforce it. We will add that language to 3.1.1.

MS. KERNS: Okay, moving on to Goal 4, looking at habitat and ACFHP activities. We will be taking the lead to updating the FMP Habitat Sections for American lobster and black drum, and the habitat sections will describe limitations creating a bottleneck to the recovery of a species of concern; developing an approach for describing habitat limitations creating a bottleneck to the recovery of commission-managed species with a poor stock status as well as recommendations to address the habitat limitations would also be explored for those poor stock status.

MR. CAMPFIELD: Under the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, ongoing activity but to increase engagement with NGOs and the recreational fishing community; for example, organizations like the CCA; and also in cooperation with the national fish habitat partnerships work with partners to develop monitoring and data standards for habitat assessments. I think it comes back to the habitat program, but to update habitat managers' data base to make sure we're getting information to the right people involved in fish habitat work.

MS. KERNS: And lastly, the Habitat Committee will develop the next installment of the habitat management series.

MS. LEACH: Are there any questions on Goal 4? Okay, we're going to go to Goal 5, which is strengthening the support for the commission's mission, vision and actions. I'm going to run through just the highlights. In January or February we're going to launch the redesigned commission website. We're excited about that. Tina has been very hard at work on that and it is coming together great so look for that launch early next year.

We intend to conduct webinars of fishery science principles and concepts that will be geared towards stakeholders and the general public so that more people can understand stock assessments and science principles. We intend to develop procedures and guidelines for the use of social media. Everybody is into social media so we need to see what it is all about.

Then everything else in 5.5 is ongoing. We're also going to redesign the species fact sheets. We're just about out of that, so that will be next year's project, also. Are there any questions on Goal 5? Okay, Goal 6 is representing the member states' interests at regional and national levels. Most of the work in there is ongoing.

We will develop a strategy to respond to the administration and congressional changes as a result of next month's election. We will also schedule a meeting between the executive committee and our government relations firm to develop and implement strategies to promote commission and state interests in budget and legislative activities.

We're also going to work on the tri-commission initiative with the Gulf and the Pacific states, working together with them on national budget and legislative interests. We're going to develop strategies to promote increased cooperation between coastal states to address issues of mutual concern. That is it for Goal 6. Ritchie.

MR. G. RITCHIE WHITE: Might it make sense for the Policy Board to meet with our government relations firm, to include the LGAs in that where we have been interacting with them.

MS. LEACH: Sure, we can do that. Are there any other questions on Goal 6? Okay, Goal 7 is the human resources goal. Again, most of the tasks in this one are ongoing. We do intend next year to conduct meetings' management training for

committee chairs and also a legislative strategic workshop for commissioners during one of next year's meeting weeks. Those are really the two new tasks of note. Are there any questions on Goal 7?

Goal 8 then is providing the efficient administration of the commission's business affairs. As we all know, we're going to be developing the 2014 to 2018 Strategic Plan next year. Really exciting from my standpoint is we're going to pay off the remaining balance on the floating portion of the office mortgage, which means that in eight years from last month we will own the office completely, having paid it off in ten years. After we pay the floating portion, our monthly payment will only be \$15,000 a month. Again, I would like to thank you all for making the decision to buy the office space. It was a great decision.

There was building fire at our off-site storage archives, so we're still trying to find out what we lost, which is actually pretty serious, so in response to that we're going to figure out a different way of archiving materials, and that will be electronically, obviously. We're also going to implement live streaming of our commission meetings at the winter meeting. Are there any questions on Goal 8? Bob.

MR. BALLOU: Actually it is a question back on Goal 7, subscribe to online access to fisheries journals and make those available to state personnel; how would that work; can you explain that? It sounds awesome but I'm just wondering how that would work.

MR. CAMPFIELD: We would investigate and then if it is allowable within the budget, get sort of a blanket access to electronic journals maybe through a university library or other opportunities, AFS, for example, but the point being to provide journal access both to our staff who seem to have a clear need and also the state technical folks who don't have access.

MR. BALLOU: I just want to thank you for that effort. It is something that at the state level – and I am sure I speak for many – the first thing that gets cut is access to those sorts of materials and the extent to which the commission can help facilitate that would be very welcome. Thank you.

MS. LEACH: Are there any questions on Goal 8?

DR. DANIEL: I have one comment that I would like to make and then I will make a motion on behalf of the Administrative Oversight Committee to approve the Action Plan. I meant to bring this up at the South

Atlantic Board Meeting the other day, but I failed to do so. In reviewing and listening to the presentation today and looking at a lot of the issues that we're dealing with and trying to focus on in terms of sciaenid bycatch, looking at croaker assessments, the potential for kingfish assessments, the issue with weakfish, the issues with croaker, one big issue there that we have sort of rested on our laurels on since 1995 is the issue of shrimp trawl bycatch.

I am not saying that we need to get back into shrimp trawl bycatch right now, but one of the things, if we're going to task the Management and Science Committee with something, one of the big confusions right now in the literature and within at least my state is the impact of shrimp trawl bycatch on these individual species.

Is it truly hampering recovery or do those species have such high natural mortality that it really doesn't make a big difference? We know with the weakfish stock assessment they told us not to use the shrimp trawl bycatch because it was so highly variable; yet in the croaker assessment they said we needed an estimate of shrimp trawl bycatch in order to get good estimates of biomass.

I think it would behoove us – and we can talk about this at another time, but I just wanted to get it on the record that I think asking the Management and Science Committee to look at some of the bycatch information that we have or try to come up with any kind of statements that we can make on the impacts of the magnitude of shrimp trawl bycatch on the recovery of a lot of these species that we going to be dealing with over the next couple of years as we move forward with these stock assessments.

I'll work with staff and such and I would like to talk with the South Atlantic Board members as well because they have a vested interest obviously in the shrimp trawl fishery, but I just wanted the board to be in the loop on those thoughts. If anybody has any ideas or if any states have done any work on this, it would be very helpful for us right now.

We're in the process of doing a shrimp amendment in North Carolina and bycatch has raised its ugly head again and the calls for banning trawling and the various things that are going on and a lot of misinformation out there, so I think that is going to just continue as we start to see croaker slide; and if weakfish don't get the recovery we're looking for, there is going to be a renewed interest in questioning bycatch in shrimp trawls. With that, the Administrative Oversight Committee discussed the Action Plan. It has been presented to you and on

behalf of the AOC I would make the motion that we approve the 2013 Action Plan.

CHAIRMAN DIODATI: Good, no second needed coming from the committee, so is there objection to approving the Action Plan? Seeing none, we will consider it approved. I think we have just a couple of more items. Going over the Action Plan is not that high level action, is it, and not as much as carrying it out. I going to have Jack and Bob – Jack is Chair of the Nomination Committee and it is time for our annual election of officers. I will turn it over to Bob to run this portion of the meeting.

### **ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: I would like to call on Mr. Travelstead for the report out from the Nominations Committee.

MR. JACK TRAVELSTEAD: Mr. Chairman, my fellow members of the Nominating Committee, who are Dennis Abbott and Spud Woodward, and I made contact with all of the commission members in their respective regions to determine if there was any interest on the part of any one of them to be nominated for either chair or vice-chair. We have completed that process and would offer to nominate Mr. Paul Diodati for commission chair.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Thank you, Jack. We have a motion to nominate Paul Diodati as the ASMFC Chair. That does not require a second since it is on behalf of the Nominations Committee. Are there any other nominations that the floor would like to offer? Seeing none, is there any objection to the motion from the Nominations Committee? Seeing no objections, congratulations, Paul. (Applause)

### **ELECTION OF COMMISSION VICE-CHAIR**

MR. TRAVELSTEAD: Vice-Chair, likewise we have one candidate, Dr. Louis Daniel.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Thank you, Jack. Are there any other nominations for vice-chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission? Seeing none, is there any objection to the motion on behalf of the Nominations Committee to elect Dr. Louis Daniel as the vice-chair of ASMFC? Seeing no objections, congratulations, Louis. (Applause) I will turn the meeting back over to you, Paul.

### **RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

CHAIRMAN DIODATI: Thank you. The final piece of business tonight will be for Jim Gilmore to report on behalf of the Resolutions Committee. You look surprised, Jim. I hope you're not going to make this up as you go. (Laughter)

MR. JAMES GILMORE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the 2012 resolution of appreciation to the host state:

WHEREAS, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission conducted its 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in the birthplace of our great Nation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania which provided a spectacular backdrop for the Commissioners, Commission staff, and Law Enforcement, Management and Science, Habitat and ACFHP Committee members to deliberate on issues of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS, the weather was spectacularly gorgeous with warm and glorious autumn days; and

WHEREAS, the opening reception provided the opportunity for many to enjoy their first Philly Cheesesteak, as well as sumptuous desserts provided by Classic Cakes and Mitch Feigenbaum; and

WHEREAS, the opening reception provided the opportunity to recognize Dr. Wilson Laney with the presentation of the first ACFHP Melissa Laser Conservation Award, and to anyone's memory nearly rendered Dr. Laney speechless; and

WHEREAS, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament provided intrepid anglers the opportunity to fish for trout in Wissahickon Creek where a full moon was observed during daylight hours; and

WHEREAS, at the Annual Dinner at the National Constitution Center we were able to view one of one hundred copies of the Constitution (we learned from Chairman Diodati that the original is not at the NCC, as would seem logical, but is housed at the National Archives); and

WHEREAS, we were shown a film at the NCC that was instructive and inspiring, including some definitive statements of our Founding Fathers such as "New Jersey will never agree to anything" ; (nothing has changed); and ,

WHEREAS, many Commissioners "met" the drafters and signers of the Constitution, who despite seeming to be stiff and immobile consented to have their photos taken with said Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Dinner at the NCC Chairman Diodati was able to articulate and illuminate his vision for the ASMFC, even while standing in the dark; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee appointed Bob Beal as the Commission's new Executive Director, which was greeted with a standing ovation upon its announcement; and

WHEREAS, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual David H. Hart Award recognized George Lapointe for his tremendous contributions to the successful management of marine fisheries along the Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners' annual photo was taken on a small spiral staircase making it look like we are standing inside a chambered nautilus (a species NOT managed by ASMFC) to record for posterity this auspicious meeting and event; NOW

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission expresses its deep appreciation to the Pennsylvania Commissioners – John Arway, Mike Vereb and Loren Lustig -- and their proxies, Leroy Young and Mitch Feigenbaum – and especially Gloria Gayster – for their terrific assistance in the planning and execution of this outstanding 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in the City of Brotherly Love! (Standing Ovation)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

CHAIRMAN DIODATI: Excellent as always; very good! Is there other business to come before the commission? Seeing none, we will adjourn.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 o'clock p.m., October 24, 2012.)