



Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission

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Dr. Louis B. Daniel, III, (NC), Chair

Douglas E. Grout (NH), Vice-Chair


Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

January 23, 2015

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council; ACCSP Executive Committee; Atlantic Herring Section; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Executive Committee; ISFMP Policy Board; Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Board; Shad and River Herring Management Board; South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board; Tautog Management Board; Weakfish Management Board; Winter Flounder Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal 
Executive Director

RE: Winter Meeting: February 3-5, 2015 (TA # 15-025)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Winter Meeting will be February 3-5, 2015 at **The Westin Alexandria** (Telephone: 703.253.8600) located at 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA. Directions to the hotel is attached. When completing travel voucher forms, the reimbursement rate for privately owned vehicles (POV) as of January 2015 is 0.575 cents per mile. The reserved hotel room block is now closed; please call Cindy Robertson if you have difficulty obtaining a room.

Supplemental materials will be available on the Commission website on January 28th at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2015-winter-meeting>. CDs containing all supplemental materials will also be available at the meeting in limited quantities. The following pages contain the Winter Meeting Agenda.

Board/Section meeting proceedings will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning at 8 a.m. on February 3rd, continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be 4:00 p.m.) on February 5th. The webinar will allow registrants to listen to board/section deliberations and view presentations and motions as they occur. No comments or questions will be accepted via the webinar. Should technical difficulties arise while streaming the broadcast, the boards/sections will continue their deliberations without interruption. We will attempt to resume the broadcast as soon as possible. To register for the webinar, please go to <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/6630124748723038466>.

We look forward to seeing you at the Winter Meeting. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740.

Enclosures: Winter Meeting Agenda
Directions to The Westin Alexandria Hotel



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Winter Meeting

February 3-5, 2015

The Westin Alexandria

Alexandria, Virginia

Public Comment Guidelines

With the intent of developing policies in the Commission's procedures for public participation that result in a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board has approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings:

For issues that are not on the agenda, management boards will continue to provide opportunity to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will use a speaker sign-up list in deciding how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

For topics that are on the agenda, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic. Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comment will not provide additional insight to the board.

For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

In addition, the following timeline has been established for the **submission of written comment for issues for which the Commission has NOT established a specific public comment period** (i.e., in response to proposed management action).

1. Comments received 3 weeks prior to the start of a meeting week will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5:00 PM on the Tuesday immediately preceding the scheduled ASMFC Meeting (in this case, the Tuesday deadline will be January 27, 2015) will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting and a limited number of copies will be provided at the meeting.
3. Following the Tuesday, January 27, 2015 5:00 PM deadline, the commenter will be responsible for distributing the information to the management board prior to the board meeting or providing enough copies for the management board consideration at the meeting (a minimum of 50 copies).

The submitted comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution. As with other public comment, it will be accepted via mail, fax, and email.

Final Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Winter Flounder Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware

Other Members: NMFS, USFWS

Chair: Gibson

Other Participants: Blanchard, Brown, Correia

Staff: Yuen

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Gibson*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Consider 2014 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance (*M. Yuen*) **Action**
5. Review and Set Winter Flounder Specifications for 2015 (*M. Gibson*)
Final Action
 - Technical Committee Report (*S. Correia*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*H. Brown*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Atlantic Herring Section

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey

Other Participants: Eastman, Zobel, Dean, Robson

Chair: Stockwell

Staff: Yuen

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*T. Stockwell*)
2. Section Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Draft Amendment 3 for Public Comment (*M. Yuen*) **Action**
 - Technical Report on Spawning Characterization using GSI-Based Monitoring System (*M. Dean*)
 - Review Options (*M. Yuen*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*M. Yuen*)
 - Law Enforcement Committee Report (*M. Robson*)
5. Update on New England Fishery Management Council Herring Committee Activities (*M. Yuen*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

American Lobster Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

Other Members: NMFS

Chair: McKiernan

Other Participants: Glenn, Cornish

Staff: Hawk

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. McKiernan*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Consider Approval of Draft Addendum XXIV for Public Comment (*M. Hawk*) **Action**
5. Review and Consider LCMA 5 Request for a Review of the Season Closure Approved in October 2014 (*T. O'Connell*) **Final Action**
6. Update on Trap Transfer Database (*D. McKiernan*)
7. Review Maine Pilot Trap Tag Project (*P. Keliher*) **Action**
8. Update Progress on Draft Jonah Crab Interstate Fishery Management Plan (*M. Hawk*)
9. Review and Populate Jonah Crab Advisory Panel (*M. Hawk*) **Action**
10. Other Business/Adjourn

1:45 – 5:15 p.m.

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: PRFC, NMFS, USFWS

Other Participants: Dean, Ingerson, Jones, McNamee, Schueller

Chair: Boyles

Staff: Waive

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*R. Boyles, Jr.*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. 2015 Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment and Peer Review Reports **Action**
 - Presentation of Stock Assessment Report (*A. Schueller*)
 - Presentation of Ecological Reference Points Report (*J. McNamee*)
 - Presentation of Peer Review Panel Report (*M. Jones*)
 - Consider Acceptance of Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report for Management Use
5. Discuss Next Steps for Management in Response to the Benchmark Assessment and Ecological Reference Points Term of Reference (*R. Boyles, Jr.*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

**Executive Committee (*Breakfast will be served at 7:45 a.m.*)
(*A portion of this meeting may be a closed session for Executive Committee members only*)**

Members: Abbott, Ballou, Boyles, Bull, Chanda, Clark, Daniel, Diodati, Estes, Gilmore, Grout, Keliher, O'Connell, Rhodes, Simpson, Woodward, Young

Chair: Daniel

Staff: Leach

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*L. Daniel*)
2. Committee Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Meeting Summary from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Discuss Staff Tenure and Workload (*R. Beal*)
5. Review and Consider Approval of Indirect Cost Policy
6. Review Suggested Changes to Commission Guidance Documents
7. Update on 2015 Annual Meeting (*L. Leach*)
8. Other Business/Adjourn

9:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: DC, NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Other Participants: Brewster-Geisz, Lapointe

Chair: Daniel

Staff: Kerns

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*L. Daniel*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Discuss Voting Procedures Used by the Northern Shrimp Section (*T. Kerns*)
5. Discuss Updating the Roles and Responsibilities of the Committee on Economics and Social Science (*S. Madsen*)
6. Review and Consider Comment on the Highly Migratory Species Shark Draft Amendment 6 (*K. Brewster-Geisz*) **Action**
7. Review and Consider Revisions to Stock Status Definitions (*T. Kerns*) **Action**
8. Review and Discuss the Northeast Regional Ocean Council Spatial Characterization of Commercial Fisheries (*G. Lapointe*)
9. Other Business/Adjourn

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Weakfish Management Board

Member States: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: PRFC, NMFS, USFWS

Chair: Allen

Other Participants: Anthony, Cimino

Staff: Hawk

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*R. Allen*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Consider Approval of 2015 Weakfish Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (*K. Drew*) **Action**
5. Consider 2014 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance (*M. Hawk*) **Action**
6. Other Business/Adjourn

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) Board

Members: Alexander, Allen, Armstrong, Brown, Fegley, Gary, Gibson, Heins, Kellogg, Michels, Patterson, Roman, Seagraves, West, White

Other Participants: Bonzek, Gartland, Cieri

Chair: Heins

Staff: Madsen

1. Welcome and Introductions (*S. Heins*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes from February 2014
3. Public Comment
4. NEAMAP Survey Reports
 - NEAMAP Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Nearshore Trawl Survey (*C. Bonzek, J. Gartland*)
 - Maine-New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey (*M. Cieri*)
 - Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Bottom Trawl Survey (*M. Armstrong*)
5. NEAMAP Committee Reports
 - Data Management (*C. Bonzek*)
 - Operations (*J. Gartland*)
6. Review and Consider Approval of NEAMAP 2015 Operations Plan (*J. Gartland*) **Action**
7. Discuss Creation of NEAMAP Industry Advisory Panel (*C. Bonzek*)
8. Elect Vice-Chair **Action**
9. Other Business/Adjourn

1:15 – 3:15 p.m.

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

Member States: New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: PRFC, NMFS, USFWS, SAFMC

Other Participants: Lewis, McDonough, Murphy, Powers, Zimmerman, Jones

Chair: Geer

Staff: Rootes-Murdy

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Geer*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 2014
3. Public Comment
4. 2015 Black Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Reports **Action**
 - Presentation of Stock Assessment Report (*J. Kipp*)
 - Presentation of Peer Review Panel Report (*C. Jones*)
 - Consider Acceptance of Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Reports for Management Use
5. Discuss Next Steps for Management in Response to the Benchmark Assessment (*P. Geer*)
6. Update on Southern Flounder Management (*L. Daniel*)
7. Consider 2014 Fishery Management Plan Reviews and State Compliance (*K. Rootes-Murdy*) **Action**
 - Spot
 - Spotted Seatrout
 - Spanish Mackerel
8. Other Business/Adjourn

3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

Other Members: NMFS, PRFC, USFWS

Chair: Pierce

Other Participants: Snellbaker, Maniscalco

Staff: Rootes-Murdy

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Pierce*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Draft Addendum XXVI for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review Options (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
 - Public Comment Summary (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
 - Consider Final Approval of Addendum XXVI

5. Consider Approval of State 2015 Black Sea Bass Recreational Proposals
(*K. Rootes-Murdy*) **Final Action**
 - Technical Committee Report (*J. Maniscalco*)
6. Consider Approval of State 2015 Scup Recreational Proposals (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
Final Action
 - Technical Committee Report (*J. Maniscalco*)
7. Other Business/Adjourn

Thursday, February 5, 2015

8:00 a.m. – Noon

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina
Other Members: PRFC, DC, NMFS, USFWS
Other Participants: Place, Blanchard, Godwin, Robson
Chair: Grout
Staff: Waine

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*D. Grout*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Consider Addendum IV State Implementation Plans and Conservation Equivalency Proposals **Final Action**
 - Review of Implementation Plans (*M. Waine*)
 - Technical Committee Report (*C. Godwin*)
 - Law Enforcement Committee Report (*M. Robson*)
 - Consider Approval of State Implementation Plans and Conservation Equivalency Proposals
5. Other Business/Adjourn

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Tautog Management Board

Member States: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia
Other Members: NMFS, USFWS
Chair: Gilmore
Other Participants: Donnelly, McNamee, Snellbaker, Jones, Brust
Staff: Yuen

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Gilmore*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from May 2013
3. Public Comment

4. 2015 Tautog Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Reports **Action**
 - Presentation of Stock Assessment Report (*J. Brust*)
 - Presentation of Peer Review Report (*C. Jones*)
 - Consider Acceptance of Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report for Management Use
5. Discuss Next Steps for Management in Response to the Benchmark Assessment (*J. Gilmore*)
6. Consider 2014 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance (*M. Yuen*) **Action**
7. Other Business/Adjourn

12:45 – 2:15 p.m.

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee

(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Committee members only)

Members: Alexander, Beal, Boyles, Carmichael, Colvin, Cyr, Diodati, Laney, Patterson

Chair: Patterson

Staff: Cahall

1. Welcome/Introductions (*C. Patterson*)
2. Public Comment
3. Committee Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
4. Program Status Updates
 - Program Status (*M. Cahall*)
 - MRIP Transition Status (*M. Cahall*)
5. Review Action Items from Previous Meeting
 - At the end of the Coordinating Council meeting C. Patterson will meet with the Northeast States with G. Colvin to make a decision on NROC's use of eTRIPS/m. **Done**
 - E. Wyatt will send a welcome package to John Carmichael for his new position on the Executive Committee and the Coordinating Council.
 - L. Leach will do research to find a gift for B. Mahood for his service on the Executive Committee and the Coordinating Council. She will report back to C. Patterson. **Done**
 - R. Boyles, Jr. will present the Governance survey results at the next meeting in February per request from G. Colvin.
 - B. Beal will present the Funding Subcommittee white paper results on funding dispersal for proposals at the February Coordinating Council meeting.
 - M. Cahall will present the progress of completion of the IPR recommendations at the February Coordinating Council meeting.
 - Once the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document is finalized the Coordinating Council will review the document yearly to ensure relevance.

- The Coordinating Council will discuss at the next meeting giving the Operations Committee more authority to recommend a different funding split than the 75/25 when necessary.
6. **Closed Session**
 7. Other Business/Adjourn

2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Shad and River Herring Management Board

Member States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Other Members: DC, PRFC, USFWS, NMFS

Other Participants: Gromen, Enterline, Furlong, Didden

Chair: Stockwell

Staff: Hawk

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*T. Stockwell*)
2. Board Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 2014
3. Public Comment
4. Consider 2014 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance (*M. Hawk*) **Action**
5. Review and Consider Approval of the New Hampshire Taylor River Monitoring Proposal (*D. Grout*) **Action**
 - Technical Committee Report (*C. Enterline*)
 - Consider Approval of the New Hampshire Proposal to Discontinue Monitoring on the Taylor River
6. Update on NEFMC and MAFMC Actions (*J. Didden*)
7. Update on River Herring Technical Expert Working Group Activities (*M. Hawk*)
8. Other Business/Adjourn

4:15 – 5:45 p.m.

ACCSP Coordinating Council

Members: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, PRFC, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, ASMFC, NOAA Fisheries, NEFSC, GARFO, SEFSC, SERO, USFWS, NEFMC, MAFMC, SAFMC

Chair: Patterson

Staff: Cahall

1. Welcome/Introductions (*C. Patterson*)
2. Public Comment
3. Council Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from October 2014
4. ACCSP Status Report
 - Program Update (*M. Cahall*)
 - MRIP Transition Update (*M. Cahall*)

- Committee Updates (*T. Hoopes*)
 - Independent Program Review (IPR) Update (*M. Cahall*)
5. Discussion on Giving the Operations Committee more Authority to Recommend a Different Funding Split than the 75/25 When Necessary
 6. Other Business/Adjourn