

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

*May 1, 2012
8:30 – 10:00 a.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 (*T. O'Connell*) 8:30 a.m.
2. Board Consent 8:30 a.m.
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from February 7, 2012
3. Public Comment 8:35 a.m.
4. Review Draft Addendum III for Public Comment **Action** 8:40 a.m.
 - Review of Draft Addendum III (*K. Taylor*)
 - Review Law Enforcement Committee Recommendations (*M. Robson*)
 - Consider Draft Addendum III for Public Comment
5. Technical Committee Report (*A. Sharov*) 9:45 a.m.
6. Review & Populate Tagging Sub-Committee Membership (*K. Taylor*) **Action** 9:55 a.m.
7. Other Business/Adjourn 10:00 a.m.

The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-683-6000

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

MEETING OVERVIEW

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board Meeting
Tuesday May 1, 2012
8:30 - 10:0 a.m.
Alexandria, Virginia

Chair: Tom O’Connell (MD) Assumed Chairmanship: 02/12	Technical Committee Chair: Alexei Sharov (MD)	Law Enforcement Committee Rep: Kurt Blanchard (RI)
Vice Chair: Dour Grout	Advisory Panel Chair: Kelly Place (VA)	Previous Board Meeting: February 7, 2012
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, PRFC, VA, NC, NMFS, USFWS (16 votes)		

2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from February 7, 2012

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting, public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance, the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Review Draft Addendum III (8:40 – 9:45 a.m.) Action

Background

- At the November 2011 Board meeting the Board was briefed by members of the Interstate Watershed Task Force (IWTF) on the successful investigation of illegal striped bass harvest and sale in the Chesapeake Bay area. This investigation occurred from 2003-2009 and resulted in 19 individuals and three corporations being prosecuted on over 1 million pounds of illegally harvested striped bass. The investigation revealed that some of the control measures in place for regulating the harvest of striped bass were ineffective or inadequately designed to maximize compliance. The LEC has developed prioritized recommendations to the Board to increase enforcement capabilities and reduce illegal harvest of striped bass (**Briefing CD**).
- At the February 2012 Board meeting the Board tasked a working group comprised of a subset of Board member, and including representation from the advisory panel, to develop Draft Addendum III. The objective of the addendum is to incorporate the recommendations from the IWTF and Law Enforcement Committee in order to reduce the illegal harvest of striped bass (**Briefing CD**).

Presentations

- Overview of Draft Addendum III for Public Comment by K. Taylor (**Briefing CD**).
- Review of Law Enforcement Recommendations by M. Robson

Board actions for consideration at this meeting

- Approve Draft Addendum III for Public Comment

5. Technical Committee Report (9:45 – 10:55 a.m.)

Background

- At the February 2012 Board Meeting the Technical Committee was tasked with estimating the potential reduction in fishing mortality that would be necessary in order to prevent reaching an overfished status by 2017, as was estimated in the 2011 stock assessment update.

Presentations

- Technical Committee Report by A. Sharov

6. Review & Populate Stock Assessment Committee Membership (9:55– 10:00 a.m.)

Background

- Angela Giuliano has been nominated to the Striped Bass Tagging Subcommittee

Presentations

- Nominations by K. Taylor

Board actions for consideration at this meeting
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- Approve nomination

7. Other Business/Adjourn



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Paul J. Diodati, (MA), Chair

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

John V. O'Shea, Executive Director

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

TO: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

FROM: Robert Beal, ISFMP Director

DATE: 25 April 2012

RE: H.R. 3906, To amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act to allow recreational fishing for Atlantic Striped Bass in the Block Island Sound transit zone

On February 6, 2012, Representative Tim Bishop (D-NY, 1st District) introduced H.R. 3906, which would amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act to allow recreational fishing for Atlantic Striped Bass in the Block Island Sound transit zone. This transit zone is defined within the bill as the exclusive economic zone within Block Island Sound, north of a line connecting Montauk Light, Montauk Point, New York, and Block Island Southeast Light, Block Island, Rhode Island; and west of a line connecting Point Judith Light, Point Judith, Rhode Island, and Block Island Southeast Light, Block Island, Rhode Island. This bill was referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs.

On April 17, 2012, the bill was written into an amendment (House Amendment 1010) for H.R. 4089, the Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2010, and brought up for consideration on the House floor. During debate on the House floor, Representative Doc Hastings (R-WA, 4th District), Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, requested Rep. Bishop withdraw the amendment from consideration. As part of Rep. Hastings' request, he committed to holding a hearing on this issue as part of a larger consideration of the Striped Bass Conservation Act, which expired in 2011.

As a result of this interaction, we expect Rep. Bishop's bill to be part of a broader legislative hearing. Staff will track any actions by the Committee and forward along additional information that may become available. As the Board has considered the issue of opening the Exclusive Economic Zone to striped bass fishing in the past, it is an important issue for the Board to monitor.

If you have further questions, please contact Danielle Chesky. Thank you for your time.