



ASMFC

FISHERIES *focus*

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission • 1444 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission May 2002 Meeting Week

Final Agenda*

*Dates and times are subject to change up to the times meetings are held

Monday, May 20, 2002

10:00 AM – Noon Management and Science Committee/Habitat Aquaculture Subcommittee

- Review comments submitted on Draft Aquaculture Guidelines Document
- Develop recommendation to Management and Science Committee

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM American Lobster Management Board

- Plan Review Team Report on state compliance
- Review & approve 2002 FMP Review
- Review reports of the Technical Committee, Advisory Panel Report, and Law Enforcement Committee (enforceability of current management measures for Amendment 3 through Addendum III)
- Review & discuss Draft Amendment 4 status
- Discuss issues for inclusion in Addendum IV, including review of Areas 2 and 3 LCMT proposals and Board directive to staff/PRT
- Discuss LCMT concerns and review LCMT Subcommittee Report
- Discuss Addendum III gauge size and marketing issues
- Election of Vice-Chair

12:30 PM – 4:00 PM Management and Science Committee

- Reports of the Peer Review Process Subcommittee, Technical Committee Evaluation Subcommittee, Aquaculture Subcommittee, Interstate Tagging Committee, Power Plant Subcommittee, Multispecies Subcommittee, Regulatory Discards Subcommittee, and Protected Species Subcommittee.
- Recommended priorities for Commission peer reviews
- Discussion of invasive species issues

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Weakfish Advisory Panel

- Review public comment on Amendment 4 Public Information Document
- Develop recommendations for Board on Amendment 4

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Asian Oyster Workshop

- Review scientific information
- Presentation of industry perspective
- Summary of position papers
- Identify potential risks and benefits
- Document agency viewpoints

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species. The fifteen member states of the Commission are: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Susan Shipman (GA), Chair
John I. Nelson (NH), Vice-Chair
John V. O'Shea, Executive Director
Robert E. Beal, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program
Dr. Lisa L. Kline, Director of Research & Statistics
Laura C. Leach, Director of Finance & Administration

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Upcoming Meetings

5/7 (9:30 AM - 5:00 PM):

ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee, Holiday Inn BWI, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland; (800) 465-4329.

5/14 & 16:

New England Fishery Management Council, Samoset Resort, Rockland, Maine.

5/20 - 23:

ASMFC Meeting Week, Watergate Swissotel, 2650 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Washington DC. (see pages 1, 5 & 7).

6/11 - 13:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, The Town Center, Silver Spring, Maryland.

6/17 - 21:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Wyndham Casa Marina, 1500 Reynolds Street, Key West, Florida; (800) 626-0777.

7/16 & 17:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Special Council Meeting on Red Porgy Management, Sheraton Grand New Bern, 100 Middle Street, New Bern, North Carolina; (800)325-3535.

7/23 - 25:

New England Fishery Management Council, DoubleTree Hotel, Portland, Maine.

7/24:

Joint Council Meeting (Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico) on Dolphin/Wahoo FMP, Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel, 4736 Best Road, Atlanta, Georgia; (888)627-7211.

8/6 - 8:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Shertaton Society Hill, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

8/18 - 22:

132nd American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Turning the Tide: Forging Partnerships to Enhance Fisheries, Baltimore, Maryland.

8/26 - 29:

ASMFC Meeting Week, Watergate Swissotel, 2650 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Washington DC.

I am delighted and excited to be following Jack Dunnigan as the Commission's new Executive Director. Jack has done a tremendous job during his tenure, and leaves me a wonderful staff and a house in good order. He has consistently demonstrated the highest qualities of integrity, professionalism, leadership, and fairness to all who he has dealt within the Commission process. With his departure, there can be no doubt that Jack has left the Commission better than he found it. I hope some day the same can be said of me. I know he'll bring the same energy and passion to the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, and will do a great job there.

My first order of business in this, my first column, is to pass on my thanks to all of you who have helped me during this transition process. I am grateful for the trust and confidence our Commissioners have placed in me by their selection. I am dedicated to exceeding their expectations, hoping very much to add value to the important work they do. Laura Leach has done a great job as Acting Executive Director since Jack's departure. She and our talented staff have kept all of the Commission's processes on track, without missing a beat. And, as you might expect, Laura has been terrific helping me settle in and learn the ropes; her corporate knowledge, and dedication have been invaluable. Although I have only been aboard a short time, it has been long enough for me to appreciate what a high caliber staff we have. They are smart, professional, and passionate, obviously dedicated to doing the best job possible for the Commission. On a personal note, they have been tremendously supportive, patiently walking me through many of the issues on their plates with energy and enthusiasm. It should be no wonder that I am delighted to be part of the team.

I also wanted to share with you my excitement about joining the Commission. I have had a wonderful career in the Coast Guard, doing all sorts of interesting and meaningful things, including working in the area of fisheries management. Having grown up on the water and gone to sea on both the East and West Coasts, I have seen first hand the magnificence and expanse of ocean productivity. I have seen the value of those resources, and their economic and recreational importance to those who harvest them. I have also watched the depletions with their sad consequences, and recognized the important responsibility we all share to be

good stewards of the resource. The ten years I spent in the area of fisheries law enforcement in the Coast Guard were both challenging and rewarding. But, at the end of the day, there can be no doubt that our efforts made a difference in helping fisheries managers and fishermen do their jobs -- whether it was effectively enforcing a closed area in support of a rebuilding plan or lifting a critically injured crewman off the deck of a fishing boat in the middle of a stormy night. What a great thing it is to work for a relevant organization. One of the important reasons I have joined the Commission is because I am convinced it is a relevant organization in the challenging world of marine fisheries management.

Consider this quote from the Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Charter: *"It is the policy of the Commission that its Interstate Fishery Management Program promote the conservation of Atlantic coast fishery resources, be based on the best scientific information available, and provide adequate opportunity for public participation."* These are the core principles of sound fisheries management policy...and it is our job at the Commission staff to help provide the forum and support to enable the Commissioners to carry out their important work in pursuit of this policy. On a more macro view, consider the underlying principal of the Commission itself. That is the notion that the states, through their collective cooperation, can achieve more in the area of fisheries management together than they could otherwise accomplish on their own. It seems to me that as our coastal populations grow, as our collective impacts on fisheries resources increase, and as our member states continue to face challenges in funding marine fisheries staffs, the Commission is more relevant than ever. So, I am excited about beginning a new chapter in my life, continuing to work in the area of public service and natural resource management.

My immediate priority is to establish credibility with our Commissioners, staff, and our stakeholders. I had a chance to meet most of the Commissioners in February, and appreciate very much their kind offers to help me get up to speed. I have already mentioned the staff, and I am looking for-

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From the Executive Director's Desk (continued from page 3)

ward to meeting you, our stakeholders, either at Commission meetings or through other forums as I travel along the coast. My focus will be on listening and learning. I know I can count on you all to help me with that. As for an operating philosophy, I think that is pretty straightforward as well -- to leave things better than I found them. Although my job is to focus on Commission processes, I also think about the bigger picture of the condition of the fisheries resources under our collective jurisdictions. Our efforts don't mean much, unless at the end of the day...as we move on, we can look back, and truly say, we are leaving, for the next generation, fisheries resources in better shape than we have found them. Hopefully, that's a goal we all should be able to agree on.

In a closing note, as I move in, Darren Benjamin is moving on to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he will be the coordinator for the Alaska Region. Darren has done a terrific job for us at the Commission, helping to get our socioeconomic analysis process up and running. We've all enjoyed working with Darren, and wish him well in his new position, which will keep him in the D.C. area. I know he'll really do a great job for them.

Habitat Committee Update

In April, the Habitat Committee met at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for two days to discuss topics ranging from submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) to the impacts of beach nourishment on fish habitat. The Committee received updates on several ASMFC projects including aquaculture, power plants, multispecies models, and the habitat information in ASMFC fishery management plans.

The Committee will be forwarding several issues to the ISFMP Policy Board for review in May. It will be asking the Policy Board to approve a draft Beach Nourishment paper as an ASMFC habitat background paper. It also will be presenting a Marine Managed Areas discussion paper to the Policy Board, with the recommendation that a subcommittee of the Habitat Committee be formed to explore how marine managed areas can be used to protect the habitat of ASMFC managed species.

The Committee discussed the habitat implications of introducing the Asian oyster to the Chesapeake Bay. Its concerns will be brought forward at an ASMFC workshop in May to discuss the possible introduction of this oyster.

The Committee continued its work on SAV and reviewed several State SAV Conservation Plans. The group will be ex-

tending the deadline for the states who have not yet turned in these plans until later this year, with the intention of distributing all the plans at the ASMFC Annual Meeting in November. The group also continued to discuss the next habitat type it will be addressing, namely molluscan shell substrate, which includes oysters and mussels, as well as other mollusks as an important habitat type to ASMFC managed species. For more information, please contact Carrie Selberg, Habitat Specialist, at (202)289-6400 or <cselberg@asmfc.org>

ASMFC Moves Forward on Aquaculture Guidance Document

Throughout late 2001 and into this year, the Commission has been working on the development of a draft document entitled, "Guidance Relative to Development of Responsible Aquaculture Activities in Atlantic Coast States." The intent of this document is to provide guidance to state fisheries management agencies to address industry development and other aquaculture activities within their jurisdiction. The document provides a list of issues that should be considered by those states that wish to develop more detailed procedures, protocols, or "codes of practice" documents. The guidelines presented in the document are voluntary and are not intended for use by the Commission in the development of aquaculture regulations.

In October 2001, the document was circulated to some ASMFC committees for comment and review. The comments received at that time suggested that the document did not support the states' needs and objectives for aquaculture and could lead to an overburden to the states. Significant changes have been made to the document to address these concerns. An Ad-hoc Subcommittee of Management and Science Committee and Habitat Committee members overseeing the revision of the document met in mid-April to review the changes and finalize the document for public comment.

Copies of the document can be obtained by contacting Laura Huggins, Administrative Assistant, at (202)289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org. Public comment will be accepted until May 15, 2002 and should be forwarded to Jeffrey Brust, Statistics Specialist, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC; (202) 289-6051 (fax) or <jbrust@asmfc.org>.

The draft will be reviewed by the Commission's Management & Science Committee and Interstate Fisheries management Program Policy Board during the Commission's meeting week in May. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Brust at (202) 289-6400.

ASMFC May 2002 Meeting Week Final Agenda (continued from page 4)



Monday, May 20, 2002 (continued)

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM Horseshoe Crab Management Board

- Reports of the Technical Committee, Benthic Trawl Survey Pilot Project, the Plan Review Team (state compliance and FMP Review), and Shorebird Technical Committee

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel

- ASMFC overview
- Background on ASMFC spiny dogfish management actions
- Review the Draft Interstate FMP
- Elect a Chair & Vice-Chair

8:30 AM – 1:00 PM Management and Science Committee (continued)

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM Weakfish Management Board

- Reports of the Technical Committee and Advisory Panel
- Review public comment on Amendment 4 Public Information Document
- Provide direction to PDT for Draft Amendment 4 development
- Elect Vice-Chair

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Law Enforcement Committee

- Nominations for LEC Vice-Chair
- Issues, letters and requests for the LEC members assigned to species management boards
- Update listing of the LEC representatives on species management boards
- Discuss issues of current management plans
- Request to review new Spiny Dogfish Plan
- Federal Agency Reports: National Marine Fisheries Service (Joint Enforcement Agreement issues); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (law enforcement issues); U.S. Coast Guard (training opportunities, law enforcement issues)
- Discuss proposed changes in “Guidelines For Resource Managers”
- LEC development of a short range plan: standardizing the reporting system to management boards, funding law enforcement databases that assist FMPs, creating action oriented meeting agendas, use of LEC Coordinator to meet needs of Committee

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board

- Report of the Technical Committee on stock status, risk analysis of management strategies and Draft FMP comments
- Report of the Advisory Panel on Draft FMP comments
- Review Draft Spiny Dogfish FMP
- Bottlenose Dolphin TRT update
- Discuss 2003 spiny dogfish stock assessment: select peer review process and approve membership to the Stock Assessment Subcommittee
- Scientific Research and Public Display Permits for Sharks
- Elect Vice-Chair

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Maury Osborn, ACCSP Director

A Letter from the ACCSP Director...

Dear Commissioners and agency staff:

It is with great excitement and eagerness that I begin my tenure as ACCSP Director. I have been an active participant in the Program since its inception in the mid-nineties, and have been amazed at how it has grown. As the Program moves out of the development phase and into implementation, I am resolved to see it become the resource that we all envisioned when this idea began.

One of my initial priorities is beginning a process to ensure accountability and success of projects that are funded by the ACCSP. We all recognize that there is much at stake. The fisheries of the Atlantic coast are both complicated and valuable. The ACCSP partners must do all they can to maximize the resources available and make projects succeed.

The ACCSP staff and I are here to support the partners in the implementation of Program standards and help provide solutions. Specifically, we plan to ensure success through more frequent communication with state and federal partners managing ACCSP-funded projects, identifying where we can assist, and through careful prioritization and scheduling of appropriate actions.

I also intend to increase communications between ACCSP staff and the partners regarding staff activities. I am very pleased to have such an enthusiastic and skilled staff, and thank them for their efforts to bring me up to speed. I want to share our progress with the partners and, thus, we will begin a monthly progress report to you starting with April activities.

There is still much to be done. With the launch of the online data management system in February, the Program has only begun its data management work, and the data collection modules are still in need of attention. In coming months, with partner input and feedback from relevant committees, I will begin development of a five-year implementation plan, based on the Coordinating Council's ACCSP Strategic Plan.

I would again like to thank the Council for allowing me this opportunity to serve. I will make the most of it.

Sincerely,
Maury Osborn



ASMFC Comings & Goings

Darren Benjamin -- Darren first joined the Commission staff in October 2000 as a Fisheries Research Specialist. In that capacity, Darren worked with the Commission's Committee on Economics and Social Sciences to begin to more fully integrate social and economic information into the Commission's fisheries management plans and research initiatives.

Beginning May 20, Darren will be working as a fisheries biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Branch of Fish & Wildlife Management Assistance, Washington Office, helping to restore and maintain the health of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources. He will be the liaison to Region 7 (Alaska), and will also be working on Alaska Subsistence Fisheries and Great Lakes issues. We wish Darren the best of luck in his new endeavors and thank him for all that he has done to make the Commission a better place.

Cecilia Butler -- This past April, Cecilia joined the Commission staff as an Administrative Assistant to the ISFMP and Research & Statistics Program. Cecilia brings to the Commission a positive attitude and a strong commitment to working well with other people. Welcome aboard, Cecilia; we look forward to working with you!

Vanessa Jones -- After five years of working as Administrative Assistant to our Research & Statistics Program and the ISFMP, Vanessa has left the Commission to pursue her dream of starting her own sewing business. During her time

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ASMFC May 2002 Meeting Week Final Agenda (continued from page 5)

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

7:30 AM – 10:00 AM South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board

- SEAMAP Update
- Review & approve final draft Red Drum Amendment 2
- Review & approve draft 2001 FMP Reviews for Red Drum, Atlantic Croaker, Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout
- Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee Report: Review of assessment, update on stock status

8:00 AM - Noon Law Enforcement Committee (continued)

8:00 AM – Noon Joint Meeting: NEAMAP Management Board and NEAMAP Operations Committee

- Update on Operations Committee activities
- Review draft NEAMAP Strategic Plan document: mission, goals and objectives, NEAMAP vs. Non-NEAMAP, long-term funding, outreach, cooperative agreement
- Review draft NEAMAP Operations Plan: NEAMAP priorities, Committee responsibilities, and new committee membership

10:00 AM – Noon Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

- Director's update
- Review & approve for-hire data collection program, ACCSP Strategic Plan, Outreach Strategic Plan, 2003 funding priorities, ACCSP commercial trip ticket standards, Operations Committee roles and responsibilities

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ISFMP Policy Board

- Management & Science Committee Report
 - Review & approve recommendations on Technical Support Group Policies and Modifications, Aquaculture Guidelines Document, and Tagging Certification Program
 - Discuss options for peer review process modifications and multispecies management options
- Review reports from the Law Enforcement Committee, Habitat Committee, and Committee on Economics and Social Sciences
- Discuss Compliance Efficiency White Paper
- Discuss Endangered Species Act Workshop

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel

- Technical Committee Report
- Review Public Hearing Draft of Amendment 6 and develop recommendations for the Board
- Discuss Virginia's commercial striped bass management program

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM Executive Committee

- Presentation of FY 2003 budget & Report of the Administrative Oversight Committee

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM Full Commission

Thursday, May 23, 2002

8:00 AM – Noon CESS Fishing Communities Subcommittee

- Continue development of fishing community standards

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

- Reports of the Technical Committee and Advisory Panel
- Review & approve Public Hearing Draft of Amendment 6
- Review & approve District of Columbia's proposed management changes
- Discuss Virginia commercial striped bass management program

ASMFC Comings & Goings (continued from page 7)

here, Vanessa did an incredible job of balancing and performing multiple tasks, while doing so with bubbly enthusiasm. She was always ready and willing to undertake any task that was asked of her, even when it meant increasing her workload and daily responsibilities. Her hard work and sunny disposition will be sorely missed. We wish her the very best of luck and success with her new business.

Joe Moran -- On May 3, Joe Moran will leave his current position as ACCSP Program Manager and join

the Commission staff, working with the Research & Statistics Program. Since February 1999, Joe has been the Program Manager for the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). Over that time, he oversaw an incredible expansion of the program, from full program development to the onset of implementation for many of the states and federal agencies. He played a major role in the establishing standards for the biological, discards and observer data collection portion of the program. He worked closely with several states in the implementation of their commercial and biological data collec-

tion programs, and oversaw the development of the ACCSP's confidentiality standards. But, above all, Joe worked hard to create a spirit of mutual cooperation among the 23 program partners.

In his new role with the Commission, Joe will be providing staff support to our economics and social sciences program, as well as providing leadership to other regional research initiatives.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
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Return Service Requested