



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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James J. Gilmore, Jr., (NY), Chair

Patrick C. Keliher., (ME), Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2018

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council; Atlantic Herring Section; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board; Bluefish Management Board; Coastal Sharks Management Board; Executive Committee; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Shad and River Herring Management Board; South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board; Winter Flounder Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal *REB*
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Spring Meeting: April 30 – May 3, 2018 (TA 18-081)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spring Meeting will be held April 30-May 3, 2018 at **The Westin Crystal City**. A brief, preliminary agenda and directions to the hotel are included with this memorandum. Transportation options are included in the hotel directions. Materials will be available on April 18, 2018 on the Commission website at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2018-spring-meeting>.

Please note: The preliminary agenda has been revised with the following changes: (1) a Northern Shrimp Section meeting has been added on May 1 to run concurrently with the ACCSP Coordinating Council; (2) the Atlantic Sturgeon Board, previously scheduled for May 2, has been cancelled; (3) additional time has been added to the Atlantic Menhaden Board meeting on May 2, shifting the start times of the American Lobster and Winter Flounder Board meetings scheduled later that day; and (4) a Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board meeting has been added on May 3 after the Business Session and before the South Atlantic Board, shifting the start time of the South Atlantic Board from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

The room block is now closed. Please notify Cindy Robertson (crobertson@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740) if you need assistance reserving a room.

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



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Spring Meeting

April 30 – May 3, 2018

The Westin Crystal City

Arlington, 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 **April 24, 2018**) 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, **April 24, 2018 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.

Preliminary Agenda

Please note: The preliminary agenda has been revised with the following changes: (1) a Northern Shrimp Section meeting has been added on May 1 to run concurrently with the ACCSP Coordinating Council; (2) the Atlantic Sturgeon Board, previously scheduled for May 2, has been cancelled; (3) additional time has been added to the Atlantic Menhaden Board meeting on May 2, shifting the start times of the American Lobster and Winter Flounder Board meetings scheduled later that day; and (4) a Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board meeting has been added on May 3 after the Business Session and before the South Atlantic Board, shifting the start time of the South Atlantic Board from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided below. 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.

Monday, April 30

10:00 a.m. – Noon
& 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board Jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Consider Approval of Summer Flounder Draft Amendment for Public Comment
- Review Alternatives for Black Sea Bass Framework/Addendum on Recreational Issues
- Review Black Sea Bass February Recreational Fishery Harvest

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Bluefish Management Board Jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Review and Consider Approval of Public Information Document/Scoping Document for Allocation Amendment

Tuesday, May 1

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Coastal Sharks Management Board

- Review Results of North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Stock Assessment
 - Discuss Potential Management Response
- Review Results of Sandbar Shark Stock Assessment
- Update on Endangered Species Act Listing Status for Oceanic Whitetip Shark
- Review and Consider 2016 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Law Enforcement Committee**

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

- Review and Comment on Ropeless Fishing Technologies
- Review of 2018 Action Plan Items
- ASMFC Species Management Issues
- Federal Agency Reports
- State Agency Reports

- 11:15 a.m. – Noon **Shad & River Herring Management Board**
- Consider Approval of Shad and River Herring Sustainable Fishery Management Plans
 - Technical Committee Report
 - Massachusetts (Merrimack River)
 - Report on the Funded Research Proposal on Blueback Herring
 - Review and Consider 2018 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports
- Noon – 1:15 p.m. **Legislators and Governors’ Appointees Luncheon**
- Introductions
 - General Comments/Discussion
 - Discuss Non-compliance
- 1:15 – 2:45 p.m. **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**
- Provide Guidance to Stock Assessment Subcommittee Regarding Biological Reference Point Development for the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment
- 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. **Atlantic Herring Section**
- Discuss Potential Impact of River Herring/Shad Caps and Mackerel Fishery Possession Limits on Atlantic Herring Fishery
 - Review Technical Committee Report on Scaling Up of Spawning Fish Samples Involving Less than One Hundred Fish
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM **Northern Shrimp Section**
(Meeting will not be available via webinar but interested parties may listen to proceedings via conference call)
- Discuss Potential Inclusion of a Second Management Issue in Draft Addendum I to Extend the Current Fishing Season
- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council**
- ACCSP Status Report
 - Program Status and Committee Updates
 - Review and Consider Approval of FY19 Request for Proposals Package
 - Accountability Standards
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Annual Awards of Excellence Reception**

Wednesday, May 2

- 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Executive Committee**
(A portion of this meeting may be a closed session for Committee members and Commissioners only)
- Report of the Administrative Oversight Committee
 - Presentation of FY19 Budget
 - Discuss Appeals Process

- Discuss Conservation Equivalency Process
- Discuss Commissioner Conflict of Interest
- Future Annual Meetings Updates
- CLOSED SESSION: Executive Director Performance Review

10:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

- Review and Consider Approval of Terms of Reference for the 2019 Atlantic Menhaden-Specific and Ecosystem-Based Benchmark Stock Assessments and Peer Reviews
- Review and Consider Approval of Stock Assessment Subcommittee Membership
- Review and Consider 2018 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports
 - Review Final 2018 Commercial Quotas

1:15 – 3:15 p.m. **American Lobster Management Board**

- Review Lobster Conservation Management Teams Proposals to Reduce Latent Effort
- Law Enforcement Committee Report on Enforceability of Ropeless Fishing
- Plan Development Team Update on Development and Timeline of American Lobster Draft Addendum XXVII

3:30 – 4:15 p.m. **Winter Flounder Management Board**

- Review and Consider Rhode Island’s Conservation Equivalency Proposal
 - Technical Committee Report

Thursday, May 3

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board**

- Review and Consider Northern Region Appeal of Addendum XXX to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan
- Committee Reports
 - Law Enforcement Committee
 - Artificial Reef Committee
- Horseshoe Crab
 - Update on 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment and Timeline
 - Consider Approval of Non-traditional Stakeholder Nominations

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Business Session**

- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations (If Necessary)

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

- Consider ISFMP Policy Board Recommendation Regarding Northern Region Addendum XXX Appeal, If Necessary

11:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

- Review Public Comment on Draft Addendum I to the Black Drum Fishery Management Plan
 - Consider Draft Addendum I to the Fishery Management Plan for Final Approval
- Consider Management Action Based on Technical Committee/Plan Review Team Recommended Updates to the Annual Traffic Light Analyses for Atlantic Croaker and Spot
- Updates on SEDAR 58 Cobia Stock Identification Workshop and Board Tasking of Cobia Technical Committee from February 2018 Meeting
- Discuss Request to the Secretary of Commerce to Implement Cobia Regulations in Federal Waters in the Absence of a Federal Fishery Management Plan
- Elect Vice-Chair