

**Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
Commission**

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Robert E. Beal, Acting Executive Director



**Pennsylvania Fish & Boat
Commission**

1601 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9299

John A. Arway, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

August 28, 2012

TO: Those interested in the activities of: American Eel Management Board; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee; ACCSP Coordinating Council; Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee; Atlantic Herring Section; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board Executive Committee; Habitat Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Management & Science Committee; Shad and River Herring Management Board; South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board; Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks 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 *REB*
Acting Executive Director

RE: **71st Annual Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**
October 21-25, 2012 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 71st Annual Meeting will be held October 21-25, 2012 at the Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. This memorandum contains meeting details, including the preliminary agenda. All of the business meetings scheduled during this week (with the exception of closed sessions) are open to the public, free of charge. Please note the preliminary agenda is subject to change.

A block of rooms is being held at the **Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel**, 220 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA. Please call the **Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel** at 215.735.6000 as soon as possible and specifically mention the ASMFC Annual Meeting to obtain the group room rate of \$143.00 plus tax.

Online reservations can be made at www.radisson.com/philadelphiapa using the promotional code ASMFC. Hotel reservations must be made before **September 21, 2012**. **Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** Please be aware that you must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or one night's advance payment and you must notify the hotel of any cancellation by 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to arrival or you will be billed one night's room plus tax. Wireless Internet Access is complimentary in guestrooms. **If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Cindy at 703.842.0740 or crobertson@asmfc.org.**

Philadelphia is easily reached by car, plane, or train. The closest airport is Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), a 25-minute drive and approximately \$25 by taxi. Travel by taxi from the Amtrak 30th Street Station to the hotel is a quick one-mile ride. Self-parking is offered at a discounted rate of \$28/day for overnight guests. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740.



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 (October 1, 2012) will be included on the briefing CD.
2. Comments received by 5:00 PM on the Tuesday immediately preceding the scheduled ASMFC Meeting (in this case, the Tuesday deadline will be **October 16, 2012**) 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, October 16, 2012 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 agenda is subject to change. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of meetings. Interested parties should anticipate meetings starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

Sunday, October 21, 2011

2:00 – 5:30 p.m. Registration

Monday, October 22, 2012

7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Registration

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Atlantic Herring Section

9:15 – 11:15 a.m. American Lobster Management Board

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Tautog Management Board

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Law Enforcement Committee

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Steering Committee

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Winter Flounder Management Board

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Registration

3:15 – 5:15 p.m. Shad and River Herring Management Board

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Registration

8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Executive Committee (Closed Session begins at 9:30 a.m.)

8:30 a.m. – noon ACFHP Steering Committee (continued)

8:30 a.m. – noon Law Enforcement Committee (continued)

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Habitat Committee

1:45 – 2:45 p.m. Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Registration
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	American Eel Management Board
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Dinner at The National Constitution Center

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (Closed Session)	Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee
9:00 a.m. – noon	ACCSP Coordinating Council
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Legislators and Governors' Appointees <i>Blank Rome Workshop</i>
8:30 a.m. – noon	Habitat Committee (continued)
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Management and Science Committee
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Registration
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	Captain David H. Hart Award Luncheon
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Horseshoe Crab Management Board
2:45 – 5:00 p.m.	ISFMP Policy Board
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Business Session

Thursday, October 25, 2012

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Weakfish Management Board
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Lunch for Commissioners and Proxies
12:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.	ISFMP Policy Board (continued)
5:00 – 5:15 p.m.	Business Session (continued)