



Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission

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Douglas E. Grout (NH), Chair James J. Gilmore, Jr., (NY), Vice-Chair Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

December 9, 2015

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Eel Management Board; 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; Atlantic Sturgeon; Coastal Sharks Management Board; Executive Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board; Spiny Dogfish Management Board; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board; Tautog Management Board, Winter Flounder Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal *REB*
Executive Director

RE: Winter Meeting: February 2-4, 2016 (TA # 16-006)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Winter Meeting will be February 2-4, 2016 at **The Westin Alexandria**. A brief, preliminary agenda and directions to the hotel are included with this memorandum. The hotel directions will provide transportation options. **Please note the preliminary agenda is subject to change.** Materials will be available on January 21, 2016 on the Commission website at <http://www.asmf.org/home/2016-winter-meeting>. Briefing CDs will be sent by request only.

A block of rooms is being held at **The Westin Alexandria**, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA 22314. Cindy Robertson will make Commissioner/Proxy reservations and will contact you regarding the details of your accommodations. **Please notify Cindy of any changes to your travel plans that will impact your hotel reservations, otherwise you will incur no-show penalties.** We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

For all other attendees, please call **The Westin Alexandria** at 886.837.4210 or 703.253.8600 as soon as possible and specifically mention the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to obtain the group room rate of \$177.00 plus tax single/dbl.

Please be aware that you must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or one night's advance payment. **Hotel reservations must be made before December 29, 2015. Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** Please note cancellations at The Westin must be made prior to 72 hours of arrival to avoid penalty. If you have any problems at all regarding accommodations please contact Cindy at 703.842.0740 or crobertson@asmfc.org.

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.

cc: Interested Parties
Attachments: Preliminary Agenda, The Westin Alexandria Directions, TA#16-006, and Travel Reimbursement Guidelines



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Winter Meeting

February 2-4, 2016

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 26, 2016**) 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 26, 2016 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

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.

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

9:00 a.m. – Noon **American Lobster Management Board**

- Technical Committee Report on the Southern New England (SNE) American Lobster Stock
- Discuss Future Management of SNE American Lobster Stock
- Consider Approval of Draft Addendum I to the Jonah Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Public Comment
- Review and Discuss Catch and Landings Records from Jonah Crab-only Trap Fishermen and Jonah Crab Claw Fishermen
- Discuss Action to Establish Effort Controls for Jonah Crab-only Trap Fishermen and Create a Standard for Claw Landings
- Review Implementation Plans for the Jonah Crab FMP
- Update on State/Federal American Lobster Observer Programs
- Elect Vice Chair

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Atlantic Herring Section**

- Consider Final Approval of Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Herring FMP **Action**

2:45 – 4:15 p.m. **Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

- Review 2016 Black Sea Bass Commercial Quotas
- Consider Final Approval of Addendum XXVII
- Update on Black Sea Bass and Summer Flounder Amendment Process
- Elect Vice Chair

2:45 – 4:15 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee**

- Program Updates
- Independent Program Review Update
 - Review/Approve Initial Program Standard Operating Procedures
- Governance Recommendation

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. **ACCSP Coordinating Council**

- Program Updates
- Independent Program Review Update
- Governance Recommendation

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee

- Overview of Commission Guidance Documents and Consider Recommendations to the ISFMP Policy Board for changes to the Guidance Documents
- ACCSP Governance
- Upcoming Annual Meetings

10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

- Update on Draft Amendment 3 Development
- Discuss Timeline for Setting the 2017 Fishery Specifications

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board

- Update on Progress of 2017 Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Consider 2016 FMP Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2013 and 2014 Fisheries

Noon – 12:30 p.m. Spiny Dogfish Management Board

- Review and Set 2016-2018 Fishery Specifications
- Elect Vice Chair

1:30 – 2:15 p.m. Coastal Sharks Management Board

- Discuss Differences in State and Federal Smoothhound Catch Composition Regulations for Processing at Sea

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Horseshoe Crab Management Board

- Review Scope of Work for Revisiting the Adaptive Resource Management Framework Model in 2016
- Discuss Benchmark Stock Assessment Schedule for Horseshoe Crab with Update on Biomedical Landings and Confidentiality
- Review Alternative Bait Trial Results

3:45 – 4:30 p.m. South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

- Update on the Progress of the Red Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment and Desk Review
- Discuss Recommendation to the ISFMP Policy Board Regarding Spotted Sea Trout Management
- Consider 2015 FMP Review and State Compliance Reports for Spot
- Elect Vice Chair

4:45 – 5:45 p.m. **Tautog Management Board**

- Update on Draft Amendment 1 Development
- Update on Progress of UConn Long Island Sound and New York/New Jersey Stock Assessments
- Review Commercial Harvest Tagging Program Objectives

Thursday, February 4, 2016

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

- Consider Tabled Motion from November 2015 Meeting Regarding Reconsideration of Addendum IV Management Options Based on the 2016 Stock Assessment Update Results
- Update on 2016 Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise
- Elect Vice Chair

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. **Winter Flounder Management Board**

- Review and Set 2016-2018 Fishery Specifications
- Review and Discuss Technical Committee Report, Including an Analysis of Biomass Trends During Heightened Federal Restrictions (2009-2013)

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. **American Eel Management Board**

- Review and Consider North Carolina's Aquaculture Plan

11:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board**
(includes a 30-minute working lunch)

- Consider Changes to Commission Guidance Documents
- Review Results of the 2016 Commissioner Survey
- Review and Consider the Stock Assessment Schedule

2:45 – 3:15 p.m. **Business Session**

- Consider Final Approval of Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Herring FMP
- Consider Amending the Commission's Rules and Regulations