



# 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

March 16, 2016

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Eel Management Board; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council; ACCSP Executive Committee; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Coastal Sharks Management Board; Executive Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Shad and River Herring Management Board; South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board; Weakfish Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal   
Executive Director

RE: Spring Meeting: May 2-5, 2016 (TA # 16-036)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spring Meeting will be May 2-5, 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 April 20, 2016 on the Commission website at <http://www.asmf.org/home/2016-spring-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 \$229.00 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 March 29, 2016. 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](mailto:crobertson@asmfc.org). For those who drive to the meeting, there is a self-parking garage by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on Dulany Street that is \$10/day – a substantial savings from parking at the Westin.

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.

cc: Interested Parties

Attachments: Preliminary Agenda, The Westin Alexandria Directions, TA#16-036, and Travel Reimbursement Guidelines



## Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

### Spring Meeting

May 2-5, 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 **April 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, **April 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.

**Monday, May 2, 2016**

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## **American Lobster Management Board**

- Discuss Future Management of Southern New England American Lobster Stock
  - Address Tabled Motion to Initiate an Addendum to Address the Declining Stock Conditions
  - Technical Committee Report
  - Plan Development Team Report
- Discuss Future Management for Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank American Lobster Stock
- Consider Final Action on Draft Addendum I to the Jonah Crab FMP
- Discuss Possible Action to Create a Coastwide Standard for Claw Landings in the Jonah Crab Fishery
- Update on Effort Control Measures for Jonah Crab Only Trap Fishermen in Rhode Island
- Update on the New England Fishery Management Council Deep Sea Coral Habitat Amendment and ASMFC Survey to Area 3 Fishermen
- American Lobster Law Enforcement Subcommittee Update on Offshore Enforcement and Trap Reduction Enforcement

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

## **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee**

- Program Update
- Update on the MRIP APAIS Transition
- Review and Approve Standard Operating Procedures Written in Response to the Independent Program Review
- Develop a Program Governance Recommendation
- Review Request for Proposals for the Upcoming Funding Cycle

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

## **ACCSP Coordinating Council**

- Program Update
- Update on the MRIP APAIS Transition
- Consider Approval of Standard Operating Procedures
- Review and Consider Approval of Governance Recommendations
- Review and Consider Approval of Request for Proposals for the Upcoming Funding Cycle

## Tuesday, May 3, 2016

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

### **Executive Committee**

- Report of the Administrative Oversight Committee
- Presentation of the FY17 Budget
- Discussion of ACCSP Governance
- Discussion of Plan Development Team Membership
- Future Annual Meetings Update

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

### **Horseshoe Crab Management Board**

- Discuss Biomedical Data Confidentiality and Stock Assessment Planning
- Review of Alternative Bait Costs
- Update on Adaptive Resource Management Framework Review

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **Shad and River Herring Management Board**

- Report from Data Standardization Workshop
- Update on Activities of the River Herring Technical Expert Work Group
- Stock Assessment Planning and Timetable for American Shad and River Herring Benchmark Assessments

Noon – 5:00 p.m.

### **Law Enforcement Committee (LEC)**

- Update on Maine Lobster Trap Tag Transferability Program
- Discuss Lobster Offshore Enforcement Issues
- Review Tautog Tagging Program Options and Subcommittee Efforts
- Discuss Aerial Enforcement Issues and Subcommittee Efforts
- Review 2016 Action Plan Tasks for LEC
- Discuss Ongoing Enforcement Activities (Closed Session)
- Federal Agency Report Highlights
- State Agency Report Highlights
- Review and Discuss Additional ISFMP Species Issues (as needed)

1:15 – 3:45 p.m.

### **Climate Change Workshop**

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

### **American Eel Management Board**

- Discuss Potential Options for Revisiting Yellow Eel Commercial Quota

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### **Annual Awards of Excellence Reception**

## Wednesday, May 4, 2016

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

### **Weakfish Management Board**

- Review and Consider Approval of the 2016 Weakfish Benchmark Stock Assessment for Management Use
- Discuss Next Steps for Management in Response to Assessment Results

- 8:30 a.m. - Noon **Law Enforcement Committee**
- 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. **Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board**
- Executive Committee Report
  - Management & Science Committee Report
  - Assessment Science Committee Report and Approval of the Stock Assessment Schedule
  - Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Report
  - Law Enforcement Committee Report
  - Consider Next Steps Relative to Climate Change and ASMFC Management
  - Report on Commissioner Survey Follow-up
  - Atlantic Sturgeon Benchmark Assessment Update
  - Overview of the Sturgeon Research and Recovery Workshop Scheduled for May 16-19, 2016 (Coordinated by NOAA Fisheries)
- 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Commissioner Parliamentary Workshop**

**Thursday, May 5, 2016**

- 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**
- Consider Draft Addendum I for Public Comment
  - Provide Guidance to the Technical Committee Regarding Stock Projections
  - Consider 2015 FMP Review and State Compliance
- 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. **Coastal Sharks Management Board**
- Review and Consider Approval of Draft Addendum IV (Smoothhound Dogfish) for Public Comment
- 11:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board**
- Review and Consider Approval of the 2016 Red Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment for Management Use
  - Discuss Next Steps for Red Drum Management in Response to the Assessment Results
  - Progress Update on Spot and Atlantic Croaker Benchmark Stock Assessments
  - Review North Carolina Report on Spanish Mackerel Pound Net Landings as Required by Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout
  - Elect Vice-Chair
- 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Business Session (if necessary)**
- Review Noncompliance Findings (if necessary)

## THE WESTIN ALEXANDRIA – OLD TOWN

400 Courthouse Square · Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5700 · Phone: 703.253.8600

### AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

The Westin Hotel is just minutes from Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), and within two hours of Dulles International Airport (IAD) and Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI). Transportation options from each airport to The Westin Alexandria are shown below and numerous rental agencies are located in the airports.

#### Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA)

- **Metrorail:** The blue and yellow metro lines will take you from the airport to a metro station within walking distance from our Alexandria hotel. Travel time is just about 20-25 minutes, and fees vary by time of day. For hours and more information, call (202) 637-7000.

**From Terminals B and C:** Use either of two enclosed pedestrian bridges on the concourse level that connect directly to the Metrorail station.

**From Terminal A:** Exit the terminal to the street curb and board any “Airport Shuttle” bus. At the stops for Parking Garages B and C (bus shelter #3 and bus shelter #5) you will find an enclosed pedestrian bridge that connects to the Metrorail station.

From the Metrorail Station, take either the blue line toward Franconia-Springfield or the yellow line toward Huntington and get off at the King Street Metrorail station. The hotel is three blocks away.

- **SuperShuttle:** (*Reservations required from all locations*): Arrange a shuttle to our Alexandria hotel for quick and easy transportation. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (800) 258-3826. The cost is \$16 for one passenger and \$10 for each additional passenger.
- **Alexandria Yellow Cab:** Transportation by taxi to the hotel takes just about 15 minutes, is available 24 hours and costs approximately \$15. Catch a cab at the airport or reserve one in advance by calling 703.549.2500.

#### Dulles International Airport (IAD)

- **SuperShuttle:** Shuttle to the Westin hotel is available 24 hours. Reservations: 800.258.3826. The cost is \$35 for one passenger and \$10 for each additional passenger. Travel time is approximately 1.5 hours.
- **Washington Flyer Taxi:** Transportation by taxi takes about 45 minutes, is available 24 hours and costs approximately \$80. Reservations: 703.572.8294.

#### Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI)

- **SuperShuttle:** Shuttle is available 24 hours. Reservations: 800.258.3826. Cost: \$45 for one passenger and \$12 for each additional passenger. Travel time to The Westin Alexandria is approximately 2 hours.
- **Taxi:** Transportation by taxi takes about two hours and is available 24 hours. Approximate cost \$90.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- **Hotel Shuttle:** The complimentary Alexandria hotel shuttle operates within a 1.5 mile radius of the hotel and provides transportation to the King Street Metrorail station, the Alexandria Amtrak station and the shops, restaurants, and attractions in historic Old Town. The shuttle is available daily from 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM. For more information, call The Westin Alexandria at 703.253.8600.
- **The King Street Trolley:** The city of Alexandria offers a free trolley along King Street from the King Street Metrorail station to the waterfront. The trolley runs daily from 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM every 20 minutes.
- **Potomac Riverboat Company Water Taxi:** The water taxi is a unique way to travel to the National Harbor, Georgetown, and Mount Vernon from the hotel. Water taxis depart from the Alexandria waterfront at the end of King Street. Hours vary by season and fees range from \$8 to \$16 each way. Call 703.684.0580 for more information.
- **Metrorail:** The King Street Metrorail station is located just 3 blocks from our Alexandria hotel and provides easy access to Washington D.C. and the surrounding area. Fares are based on travel distance and vary by day. For more information, call 202.637.7000.

#### Metro Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 5:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Friday: 5:00 AM – 3:00 AM

Saturday: 7:00 AM – 3:00 AM

Sunday: 7:00 AM – 12:00 AM