PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PDF CONTAINS ONLY THE PAGES WITH ISFMP SUMMARY AND MOTIONS. FOR THE FULL ASMFC MEETING SUMMARY, VISIT WWW.ASMFC.ORG

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

2016 Spring Meeting Summary

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

2016 Spring Meeting
Alexandria, VA
May 2-5, 2016

Toni Kerns, ISFMP, or
Tina Berger, Communications
For more information, please contact
the identified individual at
703.842.0740

Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

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Motion to Amend
Motion to amend to cap New York to 1 million pounds of the episodic event set aside for 2016.
Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. White. Motion passes (15 in favor, 2 abstention).

Main Motion as Amended
Motion to add New York as an eligible state to the episodic event set aside program and cap New York to 1 million pounds of the episodic event set aside in 2016.
Motion passes (Roll Call Vote: In favor – ME, NH,MA, RI, CT, NY, DE, MD, PRFC, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL; Opposed – PA; Abstentions – NMFS, USFWS).

Motion to approve Addendum I for public comment as presented today.
Motion made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion to accept the 2016 FMP review and approve *de minimis* status for New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
Motion made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Train. Motion approved without objection

Move to nominate Russ Allen to the vice-chair of the Atlantic Menhaden Board.
Motion made by Ms. Patterson and seconded by Mr. Gilmore. Motion carries.

INTERSTATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM POLICY BOARD (MAY 4, 2016)

Meeting Summary
Commission Chair Doug Grout updated the ISFMP Policy Board on the actions of the Executive Committee (see Executive Committee meeting summary). Brian Hooker updated the Board on the recent activities of the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management Atlantic Offshore Renewable Energy Program Activity. This update included offshore wind energy projects in Southern New England/New York Bight and Mid-Atlantic Bight, and offshore wind energy projects and marine hydrokinetic energy projects in the South Atlantic Bight.

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, presented an overview of the current status of the cobia fishery to provide background on the Council's request to have the Commission either jointly or complementarily manage cobia with the Council. The Commission has committed to exploring options for the development of an interstate fishery management plan (FMP) for cobia. The Policy Board directed the South Atlantic Board to develop alternatives for developing an FMP that is either joint, complementary, or exclusively managed by the Commission in order to determine what type of FMP is the best way to move forward.

The Commission will send a letter to President Obama requesting a public process be followed if a New England waters deep water National Monument is considered. The Commission's preference is for the Council process be used to consider protection of the ecosystems within these deep waters. If the President uses the Antiquities Act to protect deep sea corals, the Commission requests the designated area be limited to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected. Additionally, the Commission requests the area be limited to depths greater than approximately 900 meters and encompass any or all of the region seaward of this line out to the outer limit of the EEZ. Further, the Commission asks that only bottom tending fishing effort be prohibited in the

area and all other mid water/surface fishing methods (recreational and commercial) be allowed to continue to use the area.

The Commission held a Climate Change Workshop earlier in the week with two objectives: (1) highlight new climate and fisheries science tools and seek Commissioner feedback on those tools and (2) discuss how managers adapt the management process in the face of climate change. The Policy Board created a Climate Change Working Group comprised of Commissioners, technical support staff, federal partners, and other interested parties. The Working Group will be tasked with developing science, policy, and management strategies to assist the Commission in adapting its management to changes in species abundance and distribution resulting from climate change impacts.

The Assessment Science and Management and Science Committees provided an update regarding their joint meeting in April. A Risk and Uncertainty Policy Workgroup was formed and a request was made to the Policy Board to add Commissioner membership. The goal of the Workgroup will be to develop a policy to account for both scientific and management uncertainty in the Commission's decision making process and determine an acceptable level of risk. The Board also reviewed and approved changes to the stock assessment schedule. Tautog and Atlantic striped bass will undergo an assessment update in 2016. The American eel assessment will be updated in 2017, while the weakfish assessment will be updated in 2018. The Biological Ecological Reference Points Workgroup will be completing an Atlantic Menhaden benchmark stock assessment in 2019. The river herring assessment update will be completed in 2017 so its results may be used by NOAA as it revisits its Endangered Species Act listing determination in early 2018. The American shad assessment update was moved to 2018 to spread out and ease the workload of the participating technical committee/stock assessment subcommittee members, who will be conducting both the river herring and Amendment shad assessment updates. The Board recommended that the prioritized species for peer review by the 2018 Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Review Committee be as follows: 1. Atlantic striped bass, 2. summer flounder, and 3. black sea bass.

The Law Enforcement Committee presented highlights from its meeting (see Law Enforcement Committee meeting summary) including tags types for a commercial tagging program for tautog, American lobster trap enforcement in offshore waters, and summer flounder enforcement.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at tkerns@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

On behalf of the American Lobster Board move the Commission send a letter to the President of the United States of America, regarding the following:

- **The preference of the Commission would be for the current NE Council coral management process to continue without Presidential use of the Antiquities Act to protect deep sea corals.**
- **Should a President (CEQ) decide to designate a New England waters deep water Monument prior to the end of his Presidency, the Commission requests that any areas so designated, be limited to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected, as required by the Antiquities Act.**
- **The area be limited to depths greater than approximately 900 meters and encompass any or all of the region seaward of this line out to the outer limit of the EEZ. That only bottom tending fishing effort be prohibited in the area and that all other mid water/surface fishing methods (recreational and commercial) be allowed to continue to use the area.**