



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## 2014 Winter Meeting Summary

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

2014 Winter Meeting  
Alexandria, VA  
February 4-6, 2014

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### Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

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The Board reviewed the white paper on coastal sharks season and possession limits in order to streamline the specifications process each year. The Board will submit a letter to NOAA Fisheries requesting a postponement of the Large Coastal Sharks season until July 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2015 fishing season. This will enable states the greatest access to the resource. Depending on how this opening date works in 2015, the Board will consider requesting the same opening date for subsequent years. For more information, please contact Marin Hawk, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mhawk@asmfc.org](mailto:mhawk@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

***Motions***

**Move to approve the Coastal Sharks FMP review as presented today.**

Motion by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Bellavance. Motion carries without objection.

**Move to approve the state implementation plans for Addendum III and grant *de minimis* status to ME and NH.**

Motion by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Adler. Motion approves by unanimous consent.

**HORSESHOE CRAB MANAGEMENT BOARD (FEBRUARY 6, 2014)**

***Meeting Summary***

The Horseshoe Crab Management Board met to review a North Carolina transfer request, receive an update on the New England and New York stock status trends, and discuss confidentiality and mortality issues in the biomedical sector. North Carolina exceeded their quota of 24,036 crabs by approximately 2,247 crabs. The state requested a transfer of 3,000 crabs from Georgia. This request was approved based on the small number of crabs.

The Board received an update on the stock trends in New England and New York. Relative fishing mortality for the New England bait and biomedical sectors had similar increasing trends since 2011. Relative fishing mortality in the New York region has increased steadily since 2000. The Board also requested an update from the Law Enforcement Committee on horseshoe crab enforcement concerns (e.g., poaching).

The Board discussed increases in biomedical mortality and the inability to use the data in stock assessments due to confidentiality issues. The Board will continue to work closely with the biomedical industry and the Stock Assessment Subcommittee to incorporate biomedical mortality information in future stock status analyses or assessments without compromising data confidentiality. For more information, please contact Marin Hawk, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mhawk@asmfc.org](mailto:mhawk@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

***Motions***

**Move to approve the transfer request from Georgia to North Carolina.**

Motion made by Dr. Daniel and seconded by Mr. Estes. Motion carries unanimously.