



MA Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission

November 1, 2017 Meeting Summary

This document serves as a brief summary of the November 1, 2017 Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) business meeting. It provides only an overview of the items discussed. Further discussion of each item is captured in MFAC business meeting minutes for this date.

Update on Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Management Issues

Division of Marine Fisheries' (DMF) staff reviewed the October business meeting of the ASMFC. A full summary of the meeting can be found on the [ASMFC's website](#). DMF reviewed lobster, tautog, striped bass, dogfish, sea herring, black sea bass, shad and eel management issues.

DMF staff then provided a presentation on Amendment 3 to the ASMFC's Menhaden FMP and discussed the agency's preferred management options. This FMP addresses biological reference points, quota allocations, quota transfers, quota rollover, incidental limits, and a Chesapeake Bay fishery cap. A special meeting of the ASMFC's Menhaden Board will be held on November 13 and November 14 to approve this Amendment and set 2018 specifications.

Presentation

Senior Biologist Robert Glenn provided a presentation on Jonah crab fishery biology, life history, management and research.

Discussion Items

The MFAC reviewed Director Pierce's determination to continue the moratorium on gillnet permit endorsement transfers. The Director's rationale for this decision was based on a number of issues but focused on the potential for activation of latent effort and the impact this may have on state and federal fisheries management.

Division staff also provided an analysis of the 2018 commercial black sea bass and striped bass fishery performance and notified the MFAC that 2018 seafood marketing grants opportunities were [announced](#) and proposals were being accepted.

Future Meetings

The next MFAC business meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2017. It will be held at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Westborough Field Headquarters and will begin at 10:00 AM. The 2018 meeting scheduled will be announced shortly.

If you would like to obtain any materials regarding past or upcoming MFAC business meetings, please contact Jared Silva at DMF (617-626-1534 or jared.silva@state.ma.us).