

COMPLETION REPORT



STATE: Rhode Island

GRANT NUMBER: NA16FG1285

PROJECT CODE: 3-ACA-106

PROGRAM: Atlantic Coastal Act Program

PROJECT TITLE: Administrative Support to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Fishery Management Process

PERIOD COVERED: May 1, 2001 – April 30, 2004

JOB NUMBER: 1

TITLE: Implementation of Interstate Fishery Management Plans

JOB OBJECTIVE: To facilitate the involvement of fishery user groups, conservationists, and the general public in the interstate fisheries management process as mandated under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act.

PROJECT SUMMARY, RESULTS, and DISCUSSION: The development of fisheries management measures in the State of Rhode Island is coordinated by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and involves participation by the public throughout the developmental process. There are three manners in which the public has the opportunity to contribute. First, ideas and opinions are solicited from the public during monthly meetings held by the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC), a group that formerly had legislative authority in Rhode Island to promulgate and adopt regulations governing the harvest of marine species and now serves in an advisory capacity to the Director of DEM. The RIMFC is composed of non-governmental citizens who represent the commercial fishing industry, recreational fishing industry, and the scientific/conservation community. Second, advisory panels created to provide informed advice to the RIMFC consist of fishermen who represent the range of sectors that constitute a particular fishery. Advisory panels are an integral component in the development of management proposals. Meetings are held as needed and are also open to the public. Of the species managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) advisory panels have been developed for the following species: summer flounder, bluefish, weakfish, scup, black sea bass, lobster, horseshoe crabs, tautog, winter flounder, and menhaden. And third, prior to adoption by DEM new management proposals are presented at public hearings, which are required by the General Laws of Rhode Island. Comments presented by the public are considered by the Director and weigh in decisions regarding the adoption of new regulations.

During the project period May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2003 the Division of Fish and Wildlife coordinated and provided technical support at thirty-one (31) meetings of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) and in order to acquire input on management recommendations, the RIMFC conducted sixty-one (61) meetings of species advisory panels. DEM authorized and conducted seven (7) public hearings on recommended changes to Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations. The State also hosted several public meetings on various management plans proposed by ASMFC. A summary of all meetings is provided in Table 2.

A considerable amount of staff time was expended coordinating meetings, preparing management recommendations and supporting documentation for meetings, and preparing minutes of RIMFC meetings and public hearings.

TARGET DATE: April 30, 2004

SCHEDULE OF PROGRESS: On schedule

SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue with work on this job.

REMARKS: Legislation adopted by the State of Rhode Island in June 2001 transferred regulatory authority from the RIMFC to the DEM. The process of developing management measures will continue as before with the exception that the RIMFC will serve in an advisory capacity to the DEM.

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PERIOD COVERED: May 1, 2001 – April 30, 2004

JOB NUMBER: 2

TITLE: Assisting Implementation of Interstate Fishery Management Plans

JOB OBJECTIVE: To efficiently develop and process the policy and regulatory provisions necessary to successfully implement the ASMFC Fishery Management Plans for species such as scup, black sea bass, summer flounder, lobster, tautog, weakfish, striped bass, spiny dogfish, American eel, winter flounder, sea herring, menhaden and American shad in order to place Rhode Island in compliance with the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act.

PROJECT SUMMARY, RESULTS, AND DISCUSSION: The Division prepared and filed one-hundred and forty-three (143) regulatory changes with the Rhode Island Secretary of State which brings Rhode Island into compliance with ASMFC management plans for scup, black sea bass, summer flounder, lobster, tautog, weakfish, striped bass, spiny dogfish, and American shad (Table 1). The majority of regulations filed for the black sea bass, scup, striped bass, summer flounder, and tautog fisheries implemented recreational specifications and adjusted commercial possession limits in effort to prevent overharvest of quotas. Regulations for spiny dogfish were filed to prohibit commercial harvest within State waters as required by an emergency ruled issued by ASMFC and in 2003 possession limits were adopted as required by the ASMFC Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish. A closed season was established for the first time for American shad and weakfish as required by ASMFC in order to reduce commercial landings. In order to comply with the Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster several amendments were adopted including increases to the minimum gauge and escape vent sizes and regulations governing all Lobster Conservation Management Areas. And lastly, several aggregate landing programs for summer flounder, scup, and spiny dogfish were

implemented allowing commercial fishermen more flexibility in conducting their business.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife continues to collect commercial landings data from fishermen and dealers who report on winter flounder, summer flounder, bluefish, striped bass, tautog, scup, black sea bass and horseshoe crabs. Also, Division staff continues to participate in ASMFC and Regional Fishery Management Council species management workshops, stock assessment committees, species monitoring and technical committees and on species management boards.

TARGET DATE: April 30, 2004

SCHEDULE OF PROGRESS: On schedule

SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue work on the project

REMARKS: None

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PERIOD COVERED: May 1, 2001 – April 30, 2004

JOB NUMBER: 3

TITLE: General Administrative Support

JOB OBJECTIVE: to expand the agency's ability to manage the implementation of existing fishery management plans such as striped bass, bluefish, summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, horseshoe crab, American eel, and the Narragansett Bay Shellfish Initiative.

PROJECT SUMMARY, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: The Division staff and legal counsel have prepared meeting notices, legal notices, news releases, and justifications for regulatory changes made in support of the fishery management process. A considerable number of hours are expended in support of Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council activities i.e. notices of Council meetings, preparation of meeting minutes, preparing legal notices for public hearings, and the minutes of these hearings, and preparation of notices and minutes of RIMFC species advisory panel meetings. Staff also has appeared at administrative adjudication hearings in defense of recently promulgated regulations.

Staff also dealt with daily phone inquiries and walk-ins requesting regulations, or interpretation of regulations. We also expend considerable staff time with fishermen, listening to their opinions about the regulatory process and the enforcement of regulations. Recent hires to the Division have duties associated with the regulatory portion of fishery management plan compliance.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife attorney continues to expend numerous hours defending regulatory actions taken in support of the various species management plans. He also reviews regulatory documents prior to promulgation, and handles legal challenges to our regulatory authority. Our lawyer also provides counsel at meetings of the RIMFC regarding procedure, Roberts Rules of Order, The R.I. Administrative Procedures Act, and R.I. Ethics Laws.

TARGET DATE: April 30, 2004

SCHEDULE OF PROGRESS: On schedule

SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue with work as planned

REMARKS: None

Table 1. Summary of regulations filed with the Office of the Secretary of State during the period May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2004.

Date Filed	Species	Description of Regulation
05/03/2001	Scup	Reduced commercial possession limit – Floating fish traps
05/03/2001	Spiny Dogfish	Opened commercial fishery
05/08/2001	Summer Flounder	Reduced commercial possession limit
05/08/2001	Scup	Closed commercial fishery – Floating fish traps
05/11/2001	Summer Flounder	Specified sub-period quota allocations
05/11/2001	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
05/16/2001	Summer Flounder	Reduced commercial possession limit
05/16/2001	Tautog	Close commercial fishery
05/22/2001	Scup	Open commercial fishery – Floating fish traps
05/25/2001	Scup	Reduced commercial possession limit – Floating fish traps
05/25/2001	Scup	Close commercial fishery – other gear types
06/08/2001	Summer Flounder	Reduced commercial possession limit
06/12/2001	Scup	Close commercial fishery – Floating fish traps
06/12/2001	Black Sea Bass	Close commercial fishery
06/22/2001	Striped Bass	Close commercial fishery – Rod & Reel
06/28/2001	Spiny Dogfish	Close commercial fishery
06/28/2001	Scup	Established shipping/transfer/reporting regulations
06/28/2001	Summer Flounder	Established procedures to correct quota overages
07/11/2001	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
07/11/2001	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery – Floating fish traps
07/23/2001	Scup	Closed commercial fishery – Floating fish traps
07/23/2001	Summer Flounder	Closed commercial fishery
07/23/2001	Black Sea Bass	Closed commercial fishery
07/25/2001	Striped Bass	Open commercial fishery – Floating fish traps
07/25/2001	Striped Bass	Open commercial fishery – Rod & Reel
08/09/2001	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery - Floating fish traps
09/18/2001	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery – Floating fish traps
09/26/2001	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery – Rod & Reel
09/26/2001	Scup	Adjust starting possession limit for Nov – Dec sub-period
09/26/2001	Black Sea Bass	Adjust starting possession limit for Oct – Dec sub-period
09/26/2001	Scup	Closed commercial fishery – other gear types
10/10/2001	Striped Bass	Open commercial fishery – Rod & Reel
10/26/2001	Shellfish	Adjusted harvest schedule for “High Banks”
10/26/2001	Spiny Dogfish	Open commercial fishery
11/07/01	Black Sea Bass	Closed commercial fishery
11/15/01	Tautog	Closed commercial fishery
11/21/01	Spiny Dogfish	Closed commercial fishery
11/21/01	Scup	Closed commercial fishery – other gear types
11/28/01	Summer Flounder	Increased commercial possession limit
12/13/01	Summer Flounder	Closed commercial fishery
12/27/01	Shellfish	Renewed management areas for a period of five years
02/08/02	Summer Flounder	Increased commercial possession limit
03/06/02	Scup	Closed commercial fishery – other gear types
03/28/02	Summer Flounder	Management plan for commercial fishery

04/11/02	Scup	Recreational specifications for 2002
04/11/02	Summer Flounder	Recreational specifications for 2002
04/11/02	Black Sea Bass	Recreational specifications for 2002
04/11/02	Scup	Adjusted minimum mesh requirements for trawl nets
04/11/02	Black Sea Bass	Adjusted minimum mesh requirements for trawl nets
04/11/02	Black Sea Bass	Increased minimum escape vent size requirement for pots
04/11/02	Striped Bass	Adjusted commercial seasons, possession limits, quota allocation
04/11/02	Lobster	Clarified trap tag language
04/26/02	Summer Flounder	Reduced commercial possession limit
04/26/02	Tautog	Closed commercial fishery
04/26/02	Black Sea Bass	Raised commercial minimum size
04/26/02	Spiny Dogfish	Opened commercial fishery
05/10/02	Scup	Reduced commercial possession limit
05/24/02	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
06/06/02	Shellfish	Opened portion of Greenwich Bay for the summer
06/06/02	Black Sea Bass	Closed commercial fishery
06/11/02	Scup	Established recreational season
06/21/02	Shellfish	Repealed aquaculture regulations
06/21/02	Shellfish	Guidelines governing activity of shellfish dealers
06/21/02	Summer Flounder	Closed commercial fishery
06/21/02	Shellfish	Rules governing aquaculture
06/21/02	Shellfish	Guidelines for the sale, handling, & tagging of shellfish
06/21/02	Shellfish	Definitions for shellfish regulations
06/28/02	Spiny Dogfish	Closed commercial fishery
06/28/02	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery
07/15/02	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
07/19/02	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery
08/02/02	Black Sea Bass	Closed commercial fishery
08/09/02	Scup	Increased commercial possession limit
09/13/02	Scup	Increased commercial possession limit
09/13/02	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery
09/27/02	Scup	Increased commercial possession limit
10/03/02	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery
10/23/02	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
10/18/02	Scup	Increased commercial possession limit
10/25/02	Shellfish	Closed Point Judith Pond to scallop dredging for 2002
10/31/02	Spiny Dogfish	Opened commercial fishery
11/20/02	Shellfish	Closed Potowomut management area for 2002/2003 season
11/20/02	Shellfish	Reduced commercial possession limit
11/20/02	Shellfish	Repealed prohibition of shellfishing with SCUBA in Charlestown, Green Hill, and Quonochontaug Ponds
11/20/02	Black Sea Bass	Closed commercial fishery
11/22/02	Tautog	Closed commercial fishery
11/27/02	Scup	Closed commercial fishery
11/27/02	Summer Flounder	Reduced commercial possession limit

12/03/02	Finfish	Finfish management plan for licensing
12/03/02	Summer Flounder	Technical modification
12/03/02	Licensing	Restructured licensing system for commercial fishing
12/03/02	Crustacean	Crustacean management plan for licensing
12/03/02	Shellfish	Shellfish management plan for licensing
12/11/02	American shad	Established closed season
12/11/02	Lobster	Increased minimum gauge size
12/19/02	Shellfish	Modified fishing schedule within management areas
12/31/02	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
01/09/03	Shellfish	Repealed prohibition of shellfishing with SCUBA in Charlestown, Green Hill, and Quonochontaug Ponds
01/09/03	Menhaden	Prohibited the harvest of menhaden for reduction purposes
01/09/03	Spiny Dogfish	Closed commercial fishery
03/14/03	Lobster	Increased minimum gauge size
03/28/03	Summer Flounder	Reduced commercial possession limit
03/28/03	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
04/03/03	Summer Flounder	Reduced commercial possession limit
04/03/03	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
04/11/03	Summer Flounder	Reduce minimum size and increase season for recreational
04/11/03	Scup	Adjust quota allocations for commercial floating trap fishery
04/11/03	Scup	Increase bag limit and increase season for recreational
04/11/03	Shellfish	Modified fishing schedule within management areas
04/11/03	Spiny Dogfish	Implemented commercial possession limits and prohibit finning
04/11/03	Striped Bass	Modified commercial season, possession limits, and allocations for general gear type category
04/11/03	Striped Bass	Modified commercial season, possession limits, and allocations for floating fish trap fishery
04/11/03	Tautog	Modified quota allocation and possession limit for commercial
04/11/03	Weakfish	Implemented a recreational bag limit
04/11/03	Lobster	Increased escape vent size requirement for lobster pots
04/11/03	Lobster	Adopted ASMFC Lobster Management Area regulations
04/11/03	Lobster	Specified time period when recreational trap tags are valid
04/11/03	Black Sea Bass	Increased minimum size for recreational fishery
04/11/03	Black Sea Bass	Modified commercial seasons, possession limits, and quota allocations
04/18/03	Lobster	Adopted schedule to increase escape vent sizes on pots; adopted ASMFC Management Area regulations; specified time period for recreational trap tags
05/02/03	Lobster	Implemented an exemption program for dealers to handle lobsters from Area 3 smaller than Area 2 minimum size
01/09/03	Shellfish	Repealed prohibition of shellfishing with SCUBA in Charlestown, Green Hill, and Quonochontaug Ponds
05/15/03	Tautog	Closed commercial fishery
05/27/03	Scup	Reduced commercial possession limit, floating fish traps

06/02/03	Weakfish	Established commercial seasons and possession limits
06/02/03	Shellfish	Modified fishing schedule within management areas
06/05/03	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
06/09/03	Scup	Reduced commercial possession limit, floating fish traps
06/13/03	Scup	Reduced commercial possession limit, general gear category
06/19/03	Scup	Closed commercial fishery, floating fish traps
06/19/03	Summer Flounder	Closed commercial fishery
06/27/03	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery, general category
08/21/03	Scup	Closed commercial fishery, general category
09/11/03	Striped Bass	Closed commercial fishery, general category
10/07/03	Scup	Increased commercial possession limit
10/07/03	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
10/16/03	Scup	Increased commercial possession limit
10/16/03	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
10/16/03	Striped Bass	Opened commercial fishery, general category
10/20/03	Black Sea Bass	Closed commercial fishery
10/23/03	Scup	Increased commercial possession limit, general category
10/24/03	Spiny Dogfish	Implemented a program for weekly possession limits
10/29/03	Scup	Decreased commercial possession limit, general category
11/03/03	Striped Bass	Opened commercial fishery, general category
11/03/03	Black Sea Bass	Reduced commercial possession limit
11/07/03	Shellfish	Adopted shellfish management plan for 2004
11/07/03	Scup	Modified possession limits, seasons, and quota allocations for commercial fishery
11/07/03	Lobster	Implemented an exemption program for dealers to handle lobsters from Area 3 smaller than Area 2 minimum size; Increased escape vent sizes for lobster pots; Adopted crustacean management plan for 2004; Adjusted AAD rules for appeal and catastrophic loss of trap tags
11/07/03	Summer Flounder	Modified possession limits, seasons, and quota allocations for commercial fishery
11/07/03	Finfish	Adopted finfish management plan for 2004
11/07/03	Black Sea Bass	Established quota management measures for 2004
11/18/03	Tautog	Closed commercial fishery
11/18/03	Black Sea Bass	Closed commercial fishery
12/05/03	Summer Flounder	Increased commercial possession limit
01/05/04	Summer Flounder	Established aggregate landing program
01/29/04	Summer Flounder	Revised quota allocations
02/25/04	Summer Flounder	Closed aggregate landing program
03/05/04	Summer Flounder	Reduced commercial possession limit
04/02/04	Spiny Dogfish	Closed aggregate landing program
04/02/04	Shellfish	Modified harvest schedule for "High Banks"
04/02/04	Shellfish	Modified boundaries and harvest schedule for Potowomut
04/02/04	Scup	Increased recreational minimum size
04/02/04	Scup	Modified possession limits, seasons, and quota allocations for commercial floating trap fishery

04/02/04	Lobster	Established limit on total number of trap tags allowed on any single lobster pot
04/02/04	Lobster	Increased circular escape vent sizes for lobster pots
04/02/04	Summer Flounder	Modified season and increased possession limit for recreational fishery
04/02/04	Summer Flounder	Closed aggregate landing program
04/16/04	Summer Flounder	Increased commercial possession limit

Table 2. Summary of fishery management meetings during the period May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2004.

Date	Meeting Type	Topics
05/16/2001	Scup/black sea bass advisory panel	Scup dealer regulations and the ASMFC commercial possession limits
05/29/2001	RIMFC monthly meeting	Membership renewal for species advisory panels; new groundfish advisory panel; Scup dealer regulations; Winter flounder stock status report; update on summer flounder management
06/20/2001	Summer flounder advisory panel	Discussion on sub-period quota overages and overharvest of the 2001 winter sub-period
06/20/2001	Shellfish advisory panel	Modification of the Greenwich Bay Management Area
06/26/2001	RIMFC monthly meeting	Scup dealer regulations; High Banks shellfish management area; Lobster Advisory Panel membership; Aquaculture permit; Groundfish advisory panel
07/10/2001	Lobster advisory panel	Discussion on whale interactions with lobster gear; panel membership
07/19/2001	Striped bass advisory panel	Highgrading in the recreational fishery
07/26/2001	Bluefish/weakfish advisory panel	Weakfish stock status report
07/31/2001	RIMFC monthly meeting	Aquaculture permit; High Banks Shellfish Management Area; Groundfish advisory panel; Tautog stock status report
08/21/2001	Trap Tag advisory committee	Discussion on committee objectives; trap tag fees
09/17/2001	RIMFC monthly meeting	High Banks Shellfish Management Area; Aquaculture permits; Herring IWP; Renewal of shellfish management areas; Procedures for developing Marine Fisheries regulations; Update on restructure of commercial fishing licenses
10/03/2001	Shellfish advisory panel	Industry proposal for the Greenwich Bay Shellfish Management Area
10/29/2001	Summer flounder advisory panel	DEM proposal for the 2002 commercial fishing year
10/30/2001	RIMFC monthly meeting	Procedures for developing Marine Fisheries regulations; Schedule for species advisory panels; Herring IWP; Aquaculture permits; Update on Phase II of the license restructuring process; Time and date alternatives for RIMFC meetings; Chairman positions for species advisory panels; Discussion on method to address ASMFC and federal management plans while in development
11/20/01	Summer flounder advisory panel	Starting possession limits for 2002 commercial season
11/27/01	RIMFC monthly meeting	Briefing on commercial licensing (Phase II); Term limits for Council members
12/04/01	Lobster advisory panel	Review of trap tag regulatory language

01/15/02	Summer flounder advisory panel	Commercial possession limit during winter season; discussion of a proposal for an experimental fishery (weekly or monthly summer flounder trip limits)
01/29/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Term limits for Council members; Nominations for Council vacancies; Schedule of advisory panel meetings; Application for new fish trap sites
02/19/02	Tautog advisory panel	2001 commercial quota overage
02/20/02	Striped bass advisory panel	2002 commercial season, possession limits, quotas, etc.
02/11/02	Scup advisory panel	2002 commercial quota for floating fish traps
02/25/02	Scup advisory panel	2002 commercial season, possession limits and quota
03/05/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Review of advisory panel meetings; Term limits for Council members; Vacancy on summer flounder advisory panel; application for new fish trap sites continued; Stock status of menhaden in Narragansett Bay
03/14/02	Lobster advisory panel	Area 2 effort reduction schedule
03/20/02	Scup & Summer Flounder advisory panel	2002 recreational specifications
04/02/02	DEM Public Hearing	Black sea bass commercial minimum size, escape vent sizes, trawl mesh requirements, recreational specifications; Quota allocation for tautog; Commercial possession limit and quota allocation for striped bass; Possession limits, quota allocations for commercial scup fishery and recreational specifications for 2002; Summer flounder recreational specifications for 2002; Lobster trap tag regulatory language; Shellfish aquaculture, dealer, and harvestor regulations; prohibition of highgrading
04/03/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Recommendations on public hearing items; Ninigret Pond spawning sanctuary; Summer flounder advisory panel vacancy
04/30/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Term limits for Council members; Shellfish regulations; application for an aquaculture lease
05/13/02	Scup/ Black sea bass advisory panel	2002 recreational specifications for scup
05/23/02	ACCSP/ Data advisory panel	Introduction to plans for data collection
05/28/02	Lobster advisory panel	Update on whale/gear modification issues; discussion on minimum gauge increase; report on ASMFC lobster management board meeting
05/29/02	Summer flounder advisory panel	Review winter I overage; MA early opening of commercial fluke season
06/06/02	DEM Public Hearing	Proposal to adjust the season and possession limits for the 2002 recreational scup fishery
06/06/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory panel reports; recommendation on 2002 recreational scup options; request for formation of ACCSP/Data advisory panel; authorization of public hearing on lobster gauge increase
06/17/02	ACCSP/ Data advisory panel	Overview of dealer reporting system and ACCSP; evaluation of reporting system design
06/19/02	Lobster advisory panel	Discussion on minimum gauge increase issues; review of ASMFC/RI trap tag system
07/16/02	ASMFC public meeting	Spiny dogfish management plan
07/17/02	ACCSP/ Data advisory panel	Evaluation of dealer entry screens for electronic reporting system
07/30/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory panel reports; application for fish trap site; aquaculture lease application; review of bill to prohibit taking of menhaden for reduction; advisory panel representation review; implementation of licensing bill

08/14/02	Lobster advisory panel	Discussion on minimum gauge increase; review of ASMFC/RI trap tag system
08/22/02	DEM public hearing	DEM proposal to increase the minimum gauge size of lobster to comply with Addendum II of the Lobster Management Plan
08/29/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory panel reports; aquaculture lease application; discussion on winter flounder seminar; implementation of licensing bill; recommendation on lobster gauge increase; advisory panel representation
09/10/02	Striped bass advisory panel	Review of Amendment 6
09/17/02	RIMFC workshop	Introduce new members to the Council process; Renewal of advisory panel memberships; Review of DEM proposed licensing regulations
09/18/02	Lobster advisory panel	ASMFC meeting update; shell disease update; license restructuring options; discussion on incorporating lobster fishery management plan/Area LCMT
09/24/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory panel reports; discussion on federal groundfish relief fund; resumes for advisory panels; authorization of public hearing on American shad; discussion on implementing regulations for licensing bill
10/03/02	ASMFC public meeting	Striped bass Amendment 6
10/09/02	Lobster advisory panel	Shell disease update; discussion of license restructuring options
10/15/02	ASMFC public meeting	Weakfish Amendment 4
10/23/02	Lobster advisory panel	Recommendation to RIMFC on licensing regulations; review of draft compilation of ASMFC lobster management area measures
10/24/02	Fish trap companies	Discussion on American shad proposal
10/29/02	DEM public hearing	Proposal to promulgate regulations to establish qualifications for obtaining, maintaining, and renewing licensure for the commercial harvesting and marketing of shellfish, crustaceans, and finfish. Proposal to promulgate regulations adopting a proposed Management Plan for Shellfish, Management Plan for Finfish, and Management Plan for Lobster. Proposal to reduce by 40% commercial landings of American Shad by prohibiting possession during specified time periods.
10/30/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory panel reports; discussion on advisory panel representation; schedule for advisory panel meetings; recommendations on 10/29 public hearing; aquaculture lease application; letter sent for Council vacancy
11/13/02	Shellfish advisory panel	Licensing; Shellfish transplant program; Management area schedules
11/20/02	Scup/ Black sea bass advisory panel	2003 commercial scup quota; implementation of state quota system for black sea bass
11/22/02	ACCSP/ Data advisory panel	Continued discussion of dealer reporting system and ACCSP;
11/26/02	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory Panel Reports; groundfish relief fund awarded to RI fishing industry; Discussion on advisory panel representation; Updated schedule for species advisory panel; Update on licensing regulations; shellfish management area schedule; Briefing on ASMFC meeting week; RIMFC vacancies
12/04/02	Lobster advisory panel	Regulations to restructure licensing system; Review of draft regulations on ASMFC management areas; Review of whale take reduction plan
12/10/02	Shellfish advisory panel	Providence River dredging project; bag limits for over 65 license holders; latent licenses; bag and tag regulations
12/11/02	Winter flounder advisory panel	Fish and Wildlife stock assessment report; summary of URI study on life history of Narragansett Bay winter flounder;

		Report on sea sampling data; SARC report; Review of current regulations
12/17/02	Scup/ Black sea bass advisory panel	2003 commercial scup quota; implementation of state quota system for black sea bass
12/30/02	Summer Flounder advisory panel	2003 Commercial quota and regulations
01/13/03	Tautog advisory panel	Review of 2002 commercial season and discussion on commercial regulations for 2003
01/15/03	Summer Flounder and Scup advisory panels	Recreational specifications for 2003
01/16/03	Lobster advisory panel	Review of ASMFC Lobster Management Area regulations and Atlantic large whale take reduction plan; discussion on new lobster licenses for 2003
01/21/03	Striped Bass advisory panel	Review of 2002 commercial season and discussion on commercial regulations for 2003
01/23/03	Summer Flounder and Scup advisory panels	Scup weekly trip limit; implementation of state quota system for black sea bass
01/28/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory panel reports; Update on proposals for groundfish relief fund; Revised advisory panel memberships; Dates for public hearing; ASMFC meeting week; Summary of public hearing proposals; Formation of DEM Licensing Review Board; Application to maintain a shellfish upweller aquaculture operation; Council vacancies
02/04/03	Shellfish advisory panel	Restructuring of advisory panel; Proposal regarding High Banks Management Area
02/12/03	Winter flounder advisory panel	Stock status of winter flounder and yellowtail flounder; Review of SARC
02/25/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory panel reports; Advisory panel membership; RIMFC vacancies; CRMC aquaculture applications; Public hearing proposals; dockside sale of lobster and finfish
03/03/03	Lobster advisory panel	Update on ASMFC activities; Summary of Area 2 LCMT meetings and management board meeting
03/04/03	DEM Public Hearing	Increase minimum gauge size of lobsters; increase escape vent size requirements for lobster pots; specify time period during which recreational trap tags are valid; Offset measures for 50 new lobster licenses; ASFMC Lobster Management Area regulations; Shellfish management area schedule adjustment; Weekly trip limit for commercial scup fishery; Commercial possession limits and prohibition on finning for spiny dogfish; commercial specifications for weakfish, scup, tautog, black sea bass and striped bass; Recreational specifications for black sea bass, scup, weakfish, and summer flounder
03/11/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory panel reports; ASMFC meeting week; RIMFC decisions on public hearing proposals
03/18/03	Shellfish advisory panel	Evaluation of Shellfish advisory panel; Summer opening of Greenwich Bay; Funding for shellfish transplants; Review of CRMC aquaculture permits
03/24/03	ASMFC public meeting	Emergency action to increase minimum gauge size
03/25/03	ASMFC public meeting	Emergency action to increase minimum gauge size
03/31/03	Bluefish/Weakfish advisory panel	Commercial possession limits for weakfish
04/01/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Advisory panel reports, public hearing proposals tabled at 3/18 meeting; Update on lobster issues
04/14/03	Lobster advisory panel	Minimum gauge size for lobsters; Enforcement and dealer issues; Possession restriction for minimum size; Dockside lobster sales
05/12/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	2003 legislative proposals; Proposal to expand aquaculture

		lease; Update on revising aquaculture permitting process; Policy on dockside sales; Groundfish relief fund survey; Proposal commercial weakfish regulations; Proposal to open Greenwich Bay to shellfishing during summer; Update on Area 2 management; Update on ASMFC activities; Discussion on committee vacancies; Minimum size exemption program for lobster dealers
06/02/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Groundfish relief fund survey; Management of tautog fishery in 2004; Shellfish transplant program; Providence River dredging; Discussion on committee vacancies; Update on recent lobster meetings
06/19/03	Lobster advisory panel	North Cape Lobster Restoration v-notching program; Update on ASMFC activities and buyout program; Increase of escape vents on lobster pots; Report on stock status
07/07/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Aquaculture permit request; Groundfish relief fund survey; Policy on dockside sales; Review of ASMFC meeting week; Providence River dredging; Discussion on interactions between RIMFC and RIDEM
07/15/03	Shellfish advisory panel	Greenwich Bay special area management plan program
07/21/03	Lobster advisory panel	Review of escape vent size and trap tag regulations; Update on ASMFC activities; Discussion on Area 2 control date and effort reduction plan
07/29/03	Tautog advisory panel	Management plan for 2004; Review of recent tagging study
07/30/03	Summer flounder advisory panel	Discussion on quota allocations for 2004; Review of stock status and commercial fishery in RI
08/04/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Aquaculture permit request; Lobster escape vent size; Wind/wave power plant in Point Judith Pond; Fisheries Management Plans for 2004; Groundfish relief fund survey; Policy on dockside sales; Discussion on interactions between RIDEM and RIMFC
08/14/03	Scup/black sea bass advisory panel	Commercial regulations for scup and black sea bass fisheries
08/19/03	Shellfish advisory panel	Industry proposal regarding High Banks Shellfish Management Area
08/19/03	Tautog advisory panel	Review of proposals regarding a tautog spawning closure in Narragansett Bay
09/02/03	Scup/black sea bass advisory panel	Commercial regulations for scup and black sea bass fisheries
09/08/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Membership for new floating fish trap advisory panel; Modification of existing advisory panel membership list; Groundfish relief fund survey; Fisheries Management Plans for 2004; Discussion on interactions between RIMFC and RIDEM
09/23/03	Shellfish advisory panel	Report on effects of low dissolved oxygen event in Greenwich Bay; High Banks Shellfish Management Area
10/14/03	DEM public hearing	Escape vent location on lobster pots; minimum size exemption program for lobster dealers; scup weekly trip limit program; Commercial possession limits and triggers for black sea bass; Commercial possession limit, season, and quota allocations for summer flounder; Commercial licensing management plans and regulations
10/20/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Members nominated for floating fish trap advisory panel; Aquaculture permit proposal; Proposal to close portion of Point Judith Pond to shellfishing; Discussion on DFW budget; Council action on October 14 public hearing items
12/08/03	RIMFC monthly meeting	Discussion on Commercial Fishermen's Committee; Discussion on tautog spawning areas and management plan for tautog; Council review on 804 spending proposals; Proposal on fluke

01/05/04	RIMFC monthly meeting	aggregate landing program; Shellfish advisory panel comments on proposal to close portion of Point Judith Pond; Election for new Vice Chairman of Council
01/19/04	Floating Fish Trap Advisory Panel	Request for authorization to convene menhaden, scup, and summer flounder advisory panel meetings; Discussion fluke regulations; Schedule monthly Council meetings for 2004; Review nominee applications for the Commercial Fishermen's Committee; Nominations to the Enforcement Advisory Panel
01/20/04	Shellfish Advisory Panel	Review of current statutes and regulations regarding commercial floating fish trap fishery
01/22/04	Winter Flounder Advisory Panel	Discussion on shellfish transplant for 2004 and High Banks Management Area spawning closure
01/27/04	Scup/Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel	Review of Amendment 13
01/27/04	Summer Flounder Advisory Panel	Review and recommendations on commercial scup fishery for floating fish traps and recreational measures for scup and black sea bass
02/02/04	RIMFC monthly meeting	Review and recommendation on recreational measures
03/02/04	DEM Public Hearing	Review of advisory panel reports; Review of public hearing summary document; Update on nominations to enforcement advisory panel and request to convene; Update on Commercial Fishermen's Committee; Update on RIMFC nominations; Reschedule July meeting date; Update on fluke regulations
02/05/04	Lobster Advisory Panel	Increase circular escape vent size on lobster pots; Modify possession limits, seasons, and quota allocations for commercial tautog fishery; Limit total number of trap tags allowed on any one lobster pot; Weekly landing program for commercial summer flounder and spiny dogfish fisheries; Modify recreational measures for scup and summer flounder; Amend commercial floating fish trap scup regulations.
02/05/04	Floating Fish Trap Advisory Panel	Introduction of new lobster advisory panel chairman; Update on ASMFC activities; Ventless trap research
02/24/04	Aggregate Landings Workshop	US Coast Guard presentation on private aids to navigation; Discussion on current regulations
02/26/04	Enforcement Advisory Panel	Discussed problems with current program, extending to other species and seasons; Discussed alternatives to current program
03/10/04	Lobster Advisory Panel	Review of panel responsibilities; Status of Enforcement Division; Discussion on general enforcement issues
03/15/04	RIMFC monthly meeting	Recommendation to RIMFC for public hearing on ASMFC Addendum IV and V; Panel discussion and recommendations on the provisions of ASMFC Addendum IV and V; Providence River dredging project; Ventless trap research
03/23/04	Shellfish Advisory Panel	Review of advisory panel reports; Aggregate landings meeting report; Update on RIMFC nominations; Update on Commercial Fishermen's Committee nominations; Review of draft regulations for High Banks and Potowomut Shellfish Management Areas; Council action on March 2, 2004 public hearing proposals
03/31/04	Striped Bass Advisory Panel	Discussion on shellfish transplant; Question and answer session regarding pollution closures
04/15/04	Lobster Advisory Panel	Commercial quota management
		Discussion on draft regulations regarding ASMFC Addendum IV and V; Update on area 2 trap allocation process

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