



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission



Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by 2015

## Ocean Management Through Cooperation

by

**John V. O'Shea, Executive Director**



# ASMFC

➤ **Who we are**

➤ **What we do**



➤ **Observations on what we've learned**



# ASMFC

---

- **Interstate Compact, 1942**
- **15 Atlantic coast States**
- **0 – 3 miles from shore**
- **Trans-boundary fisheries**
- **Cooperation = Results**





# ASMFC

## State Representation

One State – One Vote

Each State

Director of  
Marine Fisheries

State  
Legislator

Governor's  
Appointee



# **Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act of 1993**

---

- **Standards for fisheries management**
- **Federal response to noncompliance**
- **Federal appropriations to support**
  - **States' fisheries programs**
  - **ASMFC activities to support States**
  - **Management Plans for 22 species**



# Respectful of States' Sovereign Rights

---

- **Right to control activities in State waters**
- **Rules impact their citizens**
- **Expectation for voice regarding activities impacting areas of State jurisdiction**
  - **sovereignty v. extended jurisdiction**
- **Energy projects and aquaculture**



# State Interest in Cumulative Impacts

---

- **Governance structure needs capability to address cumulative impacts**
- **Shore-based power plants:  
Entrapment/Entrainment**
- **Context of fish species v. individual State's ability to address cumulative impacts**



# Existing Structures Exist for a Reason

---

- **ASMFC reflects political/biological realities**
- **Same for other organizations**
- **Drivers won't go away**
- **Strategy needs to leverage v. pre-empt**





# Decisions Need to be Based on Sound Science

---

- **High fiscal and emotional stakes**
- **Difficult decisions regarding trade-offs**
- **Debate best grounded on science**
- **Source documents promote consistency**



# Incentives Useful in Resolving State-Federal Jurisdictional Issues

---

- **Fiscal sharing to mitigate impacts**
- **Federal help with science data collection**
- **Seek solutions good for all v. best for one**
- **Commitment to adaptive management**
  - **Monitoring impacts**
  - **Mechanism to apply mitigation**



*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by 2015*

---

**Please visit our website at  
[www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)**

