



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

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July 20, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Requested Action

Authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) to **Retroactively** pay the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) (VC#164395), Washington, DC 20005, the amount of \$28,735.00 for Fiscal Year 2024 annual assessment as per RSA 213:1 Article XI effective the date of Governor and Council approval for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Funding 100% Fish and Game Funds.

Funding is available in account, Marine Fisheries Management, as follows:

	<u>FY24</u>
03 75 75 753020-22880000-026-500251 Organizational Dues	\$28,735.00

Explanation

This request is **Retroactive** because the department cannot submit this request until a fiscal year 2024 budget is active and appropriations are available.

ASMFC is a compact of fifteen east coast states formed sixty years ago to assist in managing and conserving their shared coastal fishery resources. With the recognition that fish do not adhere to political boundaries, the states formed an Interstate Compact, which was approved by the U.S. Congress. The states have found that their mutual interest in sustaining healthy coastal fishery resources is best achieved by working together cooperatively, in collaboration with the federal government. Through this approach, the states uphold their collective fisheries management responsibilities in a cost effective, timely and responsive approach.

The compact parties agreed to make annual appropriations to the support of the Commission in proportion to the primary market value of the products of their fisheries.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?
Since 1941, 82 years.
2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?
No
3. How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?
All 15 Atlantic coast states from Maine through Florida, inclusive of Pennsylvania, belong to this organization. Fish and Game is the only state agency which is a member.
4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)

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The base funding comes from the member states' appropriations, which are determined by the value of commercial fishing landings and saltwater recreational trips within each state according to a formula adopted by the Commission in 1984. The formula states that 50% of the targeted state contribution level set by the Commission is equally allocated to the 15 member states; 25% is based on the five-year moving average value of commercial landings, exclusive of cod and haddock; and 25% is based on the five-year moving average of total number of recreational fishing trips per state.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?
Cooperative interjurisdictional fisheries management and conservation of Atlantic coast fisheries such as striped bass, lobsters, herring, etc.
6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.
Yes, a number of trainings and educational materials are included each year and the cost of these is included.
7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.
No, although membership does provide the state with access to larger amounts of federal funding from the Atlantic Coastal Act grant.
8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.
Travel is required and paid for by the Commission for at least 4 meetings per year for the 3 NH state Commissioners (Marine Division Chief, Governors appointee, and Legislative appointee) and technical committee staff from NH Fish and Game Marine Division. Meetings take place throughout the 15 Atlantic coast states and involve fisheries management meetings as well as technical/scientific meetings where scientific advice is developed regarding marine resources for the Commissioners to use in managing the fisheries.
9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization).
The Marine Division Chief is a voting member of the Commission's various species management Boards and Sections and is also a member of the Commission's Executive Committee. Five Marine Division biologists and one Supervisor are members of various species technical committees and plan development teams.
10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.
If the state were not a member, it would not have an input in development of fishery management plans or other management actions that would affect commercial and recreational fisheries that NH residents participate in. In addition, if a State did not comply with measures in an ASMFC fishery management plan, the Secretary of Commerce can place a federal moratorium on harvest of that fish in the State.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott R. Mason
Executive Director



Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0740 • www.asmf.org

A.G. "Spud" Woodward (GA), Chair

Joseph Cimino (NJ), Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

March 31, 2023

Ms. Cheri Patterson, Chief
Marine Division
Fish and Game Department
225 Main Street
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

Dear Ms. Patterson,

In accordance with Article XI of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact and the Rules and Regulations of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission), attached is a statement of the FY24 appropriation for the State of New Hampshire.

The formula for appropriations was adopted by the Executive Committee on October 2, 1984 and by the full Commission at its regular Business Meeting on October 4, 1984. New Hampshire's appropriation for FY24 is \$28,735, derived from a base contribution of \$24,448 and calculated average number of recreational trips (2017-2021) and value of commercial fisheries (2017-2021).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Beal".

Robert E. Beal

Enclosures:
Invoice

L23-026



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

TO: Ms. Cheri Patterson, Chief
Marine Division
Fish and Game Department
225 Main Street
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

Date: March 31, 2023

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Annual Appropriation calculated under Formula* for FY24, (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) from the State of New Hampshire:	\$ 28,735
Balance Due	\$ 28,735

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Cheri Patterson, Commissioner

ATTEST: Robert E. Beal Date: March 31, 2023
Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

*This formula for appropriations of member states is based on an appropriation of \$733,444 with a 50% minimum contribution of \$24,448, 25% based on the average percentage value of five-year commercial catch statistics (2017-2021) exclusive of cod and haddock, supplied by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and 25% recreational value based on the average percentage of total number of fishing trips per state (2017-2021). This formula was adopted at the Executive Committee meeting on October 2, 1984 and by the full Commission at its regular Business Meeting, October 4, 1984 and is in effect for FY24 commencing July 1, 2023. The Commission's Federal I.D. number is 13-6006904.

THIS INVOICE IS DUE NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2024, AFTER WHICH TIME IT WILL BE CONSIDERED IN ARREARS

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