



Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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To: Interested Parties

From: Robert Ballou
Acting Chief, Fish & Wildlife

Date: April 11, 2011

Re: Rhode Island Representation on the ASMFC's Committee on Economics and Social Sciences

Greetings:

There is an opportunity for a Rhode Island representative to serve on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC's) Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (CESS). On behalf of DEM Director Coit, I am hereby soliciting nominees for the position. Anyone interested in being considered for the position should submit a letter of interest and resume to me **no later than April 29, 2011**. All nominations will be reviewed with the Director, and a recommendation will be made to Robert Boyles, ASMFC Chair, who will make the appointment.

The CESS is a standing ASMFC committee. The membership of the CESS consists of:

- a. one representative from each of the 15 ASMFC member states;
- b. two representatives from NMFS Headquarters (one economist and one social scientist);
- c. one representative each from the NMFS Northeast and Southeast Regions;
- d. one representative each from the Atlantic coast Fishery Management Councils; and
- e. one representative from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

In configuring the CESS, the ASMFC seeks a balance of expertise between economists and social scientists, commercial and recreational fisheries, and regional fisheries. State fishery management agencies that have economists and/or social scientists on staff generally look to those individuals to serve on the CESS. Other states, like Rhode Island, look to academia, the private sector, or other agencies for the socioeconomic expertise needed to support the work of the CESS.

The purpose of CESS is to provide socioeconomic technical oversight for both the ASMFC's Interstate Fisheries Management Program and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. More specifically, the CESS is charged with:

Developing and implementing mechanisms to make economic and social science analysis a functioning part of the Commission's decision making process;

Nominating economists and social scientists to serve on each species technical committee or socioeconomic subcommittee, and Plan Development Team, in order to provide technical support and development of socioeconomic sections of Fishery Management Plans (including amendments and addenda);

Upon request by ASMFC species management boards or the ASMFC's Policy Board, providing social and economic advice, information, and policy recommendations to these respective boards;

Upon request by the Policy Board, providing social and economic advice, information, and policy recommendations to the Policy Board;

Providing technical recommendations to the social and economic data collection and data management programs of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program;

Functioning as the technical review panel for social and economic analyses conducted by the ASMFC and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program; and

Establishing CESS subcommittees or other work groups as are necessary to research various social and economic issues.

The CESS generally meets once per year, and all travel expenses associated with the meeting are reimbursed by the Commission. The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 23 in Baltimore, MD.

Please forward this notice to any individual or organization who might have an interest in this opportunity. If anyone has any questions, I can be reached at Robert.Ballou@dem.ri.gov, or 423-1926.

Thank you for your interest.