

# Title 12: CONSERVATION

## Chapter 419: ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMPACT

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**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 12: CONSERVATION**  
**Chapter 419: ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMPACT**

**Subchapter 1: COMPACT**

**§4601. PURPOSE -- ARTICLE I**

The purpose of this compact is to promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries, and by the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause. It is not the purpose of this compact to authorize the states joining herein to limit the production of fish or fish products for the purpose of establishing or fixing the price thereof, or creating and perpetuating monopoly.

**§4602. ENTRY INTO FORCE -- ARTICLE II**

This agreement shall become operative immediately as to those states executing it whenever any 2 or more of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida have executed it in the form that is in accordance with the laws of the executing state and the Congress has given its consent. Any state contiguous with any of the aforementioned states and riparian upon coastal waters frequented by anadromous fish, flowing into coastal waters under the jurisdiction of any of the aforementioned states, may become a party hereto as provided. [1987, c. 513, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 513, §1 (AMD).

**§4603. COMMISSION -- ARTICLE III**

Each state joining herein shall appoint 3 representatives to a commission constituted and designated as the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, as authorized by Title 5, section 12004-K, subsection 6. One shall be the executive officer of the administrative agency of the state charged with the conservation of the fisheries resources to which this compact pertains or, if there be more than one officer or agency, the official of that state named by the governor thereof. The 2nd shall be a member of the legislature of the state designated by the commission or committee on interstate cooperation of that state, or if there be none, or if the commission on interstate cooperation cannot constitutionally designate the member, that legislator shall be designated by the governor thereof; provided, if it is constitutionally impossible to appoint a legislator as a commissioner from that state, the 2nd member shall be appointed by the governor of that state in that governor's discretion. The 3rd shall be a citizen who shall have a knowledge of and interest in the marine fisheries problem to be appointed by the governor. This commission shall be a body corporate with the powers and duties set forth herein. [1989, c. 503, Pt. B, §57 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1983, c. 812, §79 (AMD). 1989, c. 503, §B57 (AMD).

**§4604. -- POWERS AND DUTIES -- ARTICLE IV**

The duty of the said commission shall be to make inquiry and ascertain from time to time such methods, practices, circumstances and conditions as may be disclosed for bringing about the conservation and the prevention of the depletion and physical waste of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard. The commission shall have power to recommend the coordination of the exercise of the police

powers of the several states within their respective jurisdictions to promote the preservation of those fisheries and their protection against overfishing, waste, depletion or any abuse whatsoever and to assure a continuing yield from the fisheries resources of the aforementioned states.

To that end the commission shall draft and, after consultation with the advisory committee hereinafter authorized, recommend to the governors and legislatures of the various signatory states legislation dealing with the conservation of the marine, shell and anadromous fisheries of the Atlantic seaboard. The commission shall, more than one month prior to any regular meeting of the legislature in any signatory state, present to the governor of the state its recommendations relating to enactments to be made by the legislature of that state in furthering the intents and purposes of this compact.

The commission shall consult with and advise the pertinent administrative agencies in the states party hereto with regard to problems connected with the fisheries and recommend the adoption of such regulations as it deems advisable.

The commission shall have power to recommend to the states party hereto the stocking of the waters of such states with fish and fish eggs or joint stocking by some or all of the states party hereto and when 2 or more of the states shall jointly stock waters the commission shall act as the coordinating agency for such stocking.

#### **§4605. -- OFFICERS -- ARTICLE V**

The commission shall elect from its number a chairman and a vice-chairman and shall appoint and at its pleasure remove or discharge such officers and employees as may be required to carry this compact into effect and shall fix and determine their duties, qualifications and compensation. Said commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its business. It may establish and maintain one or more offices for the transaction of its business and may meet at any time or place but must meet at least once a year.

#### **§4606. -- VOTING -- ARTICLE VI**

No action shall be taken by the commission in regard to its general affairs except by the affirmative vote of a majority of the whole number of compacting states present at any meeting. No recommendation shall be made by the commission in regard to any species of fish except by the affirmative vote of a majority of the compacting states which have an interest in such species. The commission shall define what shall be an interest.

#### **§4607. RESEARCH; ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- ARTICLE VII**

The Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior of the Government of the United States shall act as the primary research agency of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission cooperating with the research agencies in each state for that purpose. Representatives of the said Fish and Wildlife Service shall attend the meetings of the commission.

An advisory committee to be representative of the commercial fishermen and the salt water anglers and such other interests of each state as the commission deems advisable shall be established by the commission as soon as practicable for the purpose of advising the commission upon such recommendations as it may desire to make.

#### **§4608. PARTICIPATION LIMITED -- ARTICLE VIII**

When any state other than those named specifically in Article II of this compact shall become a party thereto for the purpose of conserving its anadromous fish in accordance with Article II the participation of such state in the action of the commission shall be limited to such species of anadromous fish.

#### **§4609. RIGHTS PRESERVED -- ARTICLE IX**

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit the powers of any signatory state or to repeal or prevent the enactment of any legislation or the enforcement of any requirement by any signatory state imposing additional conditions and restrictions to conserve its fisheries.

**§4610. CONTINUED ABSENCE -- ARTICLE X**

Continued absence of representation or of any representative on the commission from any state party hereto shall be brought to the attention of the governor thereof.

**§4611. ANNUAL APPROPRIATION -- ARTICLE XI**

The states party hereto agree to make annual appropriations to the support of the commission in proportion to the primary market value of the products of their fisheries, exclusive of cod and haddock, as recorded in the most recent published reports of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior, provided no state shall contribute less than \$200 per year and the annual contribution of each state above the minimum shall be figured to the nearest \$100.

Budgets shall be recommended by a majority of the commission and the cost thereof allocated equitably among the states in accordance with their respective interests and submitted to the compacting states.

**§4612. RENUNCIATION -- ARTICLE XII**

This compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each compacting state until renounced by it. Renunciation of this compact must be preceded by sending 6 months' notice in writing of intention to withdraw from the compact to the other states party hereto.

**§4613. REGULATIONS; WITHDRAWAL -- ARTICLE XIII**

The State of Maine enters into an amendment of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact with any one or more of the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida and such other states as may become party to that compact for the purpose of permitting the states that ratify this amendment to establish joint regulations of specific fisheries common to those states through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and their representatives on that body. Notice of intention to withdraw from this amendment shall be executed and transmitted by the Governor and shall be in accordance with Article XII, which shall be effective as to this State with those states which similarly ratify this amendment. The states consenting to this amendment agree that any 2 or more of them may designate the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission as a joint regulatory agency with such powers as they may jointly confer from time to time for the regulation of the fishing operations of the citizens and vessels of such designating state with respect to specific fisheries in which such states have a common interest. The representatives of such states on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission shall constitute a separate section of such commission for the exercise of the additional powers so granted provided that the states so acting shall appropriate additional funds for this purpose. The creation of such section as a joint regulatory agency shall not deprive the states participating therein of any of their privileges or powers or responsibilities in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission under the general compact.

**Subchapter 2: PROVISIONS RELATING TO COMPACT****§4651. RATIFICATION**

The Governor of this State is authorized and directed to execute a compact on behalf of the State of Maine with any one or more of the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida and with such other states as may enter into the compact, legally joining therein in the form substantially as in this chapter. [1965, c. 425, §8 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

1965, c. 425, §8 (AMD).

## §4652. COMMISSIONERS; VACANCIES; TERM; REMOVAL

In pursuance of Article III of the compact there are 3 members, in this subchapter called "commissioners," of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, in this subchapter called "commission," from the State of Maine. The first commissioner from the State of Maine must be the Commissioner of Marine Resources of the State of Maine ex officio, and the term of any such ex officio commissioner must terminate at the time that commissioner ceases to hold the office of Commissioner of Marine Resources and that commissioner's successor as commissioner must be that commissioner's successor as Commissioner of Marine Resources. The 2nd commissioner from the State of Maine must be a Legislator appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Legislator appointed as the 2nd commissioner serves until the end of the term of the Legislature in which that person was appointed or until replaced by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Governor shall appoint a citizen as a 3rd commissioner who must have a knowledge of and interest in the marine fisheries problem. The term of that commissioner is 3 years and that commissioner holds office until a successor is appointed and qualified. Vacancies occurring in the office of that commissioner for any reason or cause must be filled by appointment by the Governor for the unexpired term. The Commissioner of Marine Resources as ex officio commissioner may delegate, from time to time, to any deputy or other subordinate in that commissioner's department or office the power to be present and participate, including voting as that commissioner's representative or substitute at any meeting of or hearing by or other proceeding of the commission. The terms of each of the initial 3 members begin at the date of the appointment of the appointive commissioner, provided the compact must then have gone into effect in accordance with Article II of the compact; otherwise the terms begin upon the date upon which the compact becomes effective in accordance with Article II. [1993, c. 707, Pt. EE, §1 (AMD).]

Any commissioner may be removed from office by the Governor upon charges and after a hearing.

### SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 513, §22 (AMD). 1975, c. 771, §154 (AMD). 1993, c. 707, §EE1 (AMD).

## §4653. POWERS

There is granted to the commission and the commissioners thereof all the powers provided for in the said compact and all the powers necessary or incidental to the carrying out of said compact in every particular. All officers of the State of Maine are authorized and directed to do all things falling within their respective provinces and jurisdiction necessary or incidental to the carrying out of said compact in every particular, it being declared to be the policy of the State of Maine to perform and carry out the said compact and to accomplish the purposes thereof. All officers, bureaus, departments and persons of and in the State Government or administration of the State of Maine are authorized and directed at convenient times and upon request of the said commission to furnish the said commission with information and data possessed by them or any of them and to aid said commission by loan of personnel or other means lying within their legal rights respectively.

## §4654. -- SUPPLEMENTAL NATURE

Any powers herein granted to the commission shall be regarded as in aid of and supplemental to and in no case a limitation upon any of the powers vested in said commission by other laws of the State of Maine or by the laws of the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida or by the Congress or the terms of said compact.

## §4655. ACCOUNTS

The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements and shall report to the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Maine on or before the 10th day of December in each year, setting forth in detail the transactions conducted by it during the 12 months preceding December 1st of

that year and shall make recommendations for any legislative action deemed by it advisable, including amendments to the statutes of the State of Maine which may be necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of the compact between the signatory states.

The State Auditor of the State of Maine is authorized and empowered from time to time to examine the accounts and books of the commission, including its receipts, disbursements and such other items referring to its financial standing as such auditor may deem proper and to report the results of such examination to the Governor.

### **§4656. APPROPRIATION**

Any moneys appropriated by the Legislature for the expenses of the commission shall be paid out of the State Treasury on the audit and warrant of the State Controller, upon vouchers certified by the chairman of the commission in the manner prescribed by law.

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