

Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review of CRASC Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

- 1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

CRASC meets twice a year. Agendas and meeting minutes can be found online at <https://www.fws.gov/r5crc/partnerships.html>

- 2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.**

Federal	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Director, Northeast Region National Marine Fisheries Service: Director, Northeast Region
Connecticut	Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection: Director, Fisheries Division Public Sector Representative, Appointed by the Governor
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife: Director Public Sector Representative, Appointed by the Governor
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game: Executive Director Public Sector Representative, Appointed by the Governor
Vermont	Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife: Commissioner Public Sector Representative, Appointed by the Governor

Federal and State agency Commissioners have unlimited terms. Each of the four basin states also has a “Public Sector Representative” appointed by the Governor to a three-year term, but they may serve multiple terms.

- 3. Provide an overview of the board or commission’s purpose.**

CRASC’s role is to coordinate the management of migratory fish species in the Connecticut River basin. The initial focus was on Atlantic salmon restoration, but the Commission also coordinates management of shad, river herring, sea lamprey, American eel and sturgeon.

CRASC activities include coordination of fish stocking, habitat management, improving fish passage at dams, and coordinating fish research projects.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

CRASC is still needed. While Connecticut River Atlantic salmon restoration efforts have ended the Commission continues to coordinate the basin-wide management of other migratory fish species.

CRASC was established by Congress in 1983, and reauthorized in 2002 for another 20 years through the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Compact (Public Law 98-138). Vermont passed a companion enabling statute [Enabling law: 10 V.S.A. 4654.](#)

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

CRASC is performing its coordination role well. Evidence can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/r5crc/partnerships.html>

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

CRASC requires a minimal investment of state time – a few days a year.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

CRASC is unique in its role of coordinating state and federal fish management agencies in the Connecticut River basin.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes, it is expected that CRASC will be reauthorized by Congress in 2022 with little change in purpose, but with less emphasis on salmon restoration.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

CRASC membership includes four states and several federal agencies. Expenditures for staff and other costs are not readily available. The Department contributes \$5,000 annually to this commission, which is funded with 75% federal funds and 25% funding from hunting and fishing licenses.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

No. CRASC reports annually to the federal government regarding supporting grants.

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

CRASC continues to have active membership at its semi-annual meetings, and serves a useful role in coordinating fish management and research in the Connecticut River basin.