



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

ASMFC Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2014

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New England States Schedule Public Hearings on the Public Information Document for Atlantic Herring Draft Amendment 3

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Atlantic Herring Section is seeking comments on the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The New England states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on the PID; the dates, times, and locations of those hearings follow.

Maine Department of Marine Resources

June 5, 2014; 11:00 AM

Rockland Terminal
517 Main Street
Rockland, Maine

Contact: Terry Stockwell at 207.624.6553

New Hampshire Fish and Game

June 23, 2014; 7:00 PM

Urban Forestry Center
45 Elwyn Road

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Contact: Doug Grout at 603.868.1095

* NH will also conduct a public hearing on the
American Eel Draft Addendum IV
immediately following this hearing

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

June 4, 2014; 5:00 PM

MA DMF Annisquam River Station
30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Contact: David Pierce at 617.626.1532

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

The PID presents four issues the Commission is seeking public input on to inform the development of management measures for the Atlantic herring fishery. The issues focus on (1) spawning area boundaries and closures in Area 1A, (2) a fixed gear set-aside rollover provision, (3) declaration of fishing gear prior to the beginning of a quota period in order to provide fishery managers a more accurate estimate of effort to inform harvest control measures, and (4) requirement for a vessel's hold to be emptied of fish before a fishing trip departure in order to allow for full accounting of catch and to discourage dumping of unsold fish.

The PID is the first step in the Commission's amendment process. It is intended to gather information concerning the Atlantic herring fishery and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major issues relative to the management of these species. A tentative schedule for the completion of Amendment 3 is included in the PID.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID for Draft Amendment 3 either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The PID is available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on July 10, 2014** and should be forwarded to Melissa Yuen, FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or myuen@asmfc.org (Subject line: Atlantic Herring PID). For more information, please contact Melissa Yuen at myuen@asmfc.org or [703.842.0740](tel:703.842.0740).

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