



# *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

## NEWS RELEASE

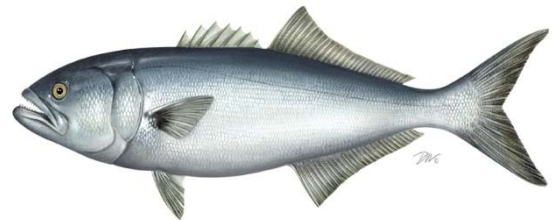
*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ASMFC Begins Preparation for 2015 Bluefish Benchmark Stock Assessment**

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has scheduled the Data Workshop for the upcoming bluefish benchmark stock assessment. The assessment will evaluate the health of the Bluefish population and inform the management of the species. The Commission's stock assessment process and meetings are open to the public (with the exception of discussion of confidential data).



The Commission welcomes the submission of data sets that will improve the accuracy of the assessment. These include, but are not limited to data on growth, maturation, migration, genetics, stock enhancement, tagging, recruitment, natural mortality, and abundance/biomass. An essential need is information on the adult component of the stock as well as spawning stock condition. For data sets to be considered, the data must be sent in the required format, with accompanying methods description, to the Commission by **January 16, 2015**. For those interested in submitting data, including the appropriate format, and/or attending the Bluefish Data Workshop, please contact Katie Drew, Senior Stock Assessment Scientist, at [kdrew@asmfc.org](mailto:kdrew@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740. The deadline for data submission is **January 16, 2015**. All available data will be reviewed and vetted by the Commission's Bluefish Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Working Group for possible use in the assessment.

The Data Workshop will be conducted February 18-20, 2015 in Providence, Rhode Island. A subsequent press release will announce the specific location of the Data Workshop. The Assessment Workshop will be conducted in spring 2015, with the peer review being conducted through NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) from June 2-5, 2015. For more information on the bluefish stock assessment process, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

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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.

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