



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## NEWS RELEASE

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### **ASMFC Releases Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum I for Public Comment States Schedule Hearings for late June/early July**

Arlington, VA – The states of Rhode Island through Delaware have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum I to Amendment 2 the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Menhaden. The details of those hearings follow.

#### **Rhode Island Division of Fish & Wildlife**

*June 20, 2016 at 6:00 PM*  
University of Rhode Island Bay Campus  
Corliss Auditorium  
South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, Rhode Island  
Contact: [Jason McNamee](#) at 401.423.1943

#### **Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

*June 28, 2016 at 7:00 PM*  
Marine Headquarters  
Boating Education Center  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
Contact: [David Simpson](#) at 860.434.6043

#### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

*June 29, 2016 at 6:30 PM*  
Bureau of Marine Resources  
205 North Belle Mead Road  
East Setauket, New York  
Contact: [Jim Gilmore](#) at 631.444.0430

#### **New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*July 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM*  
Atlantic County Library (Galloway Twp. Branch)  
306 East Jimmie Leeds Road  
Galloway, New Jersey  
Contact: [Russ Allen](#) at 609.748.2037

#### **Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

*June 23, 2016 at 6:00 PM*  
Easton High School  
723 Mecklenburg Avenue  
Easton, Maryland  
Contact: [Lynn Fegley](#) at 410.260.8285

#### **Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control**

*July 6, 2016; 6:00 PM*  
DNREC Auditorium  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, Delaware  
Contact: [John Clark](#) at 302.739.9914

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 Draft Addendum proposes modifying the FMP's bycatch allowance provision. Specifically, it considers allowing two licensed individuals to harvest up to 12,000 pounds of menhaden bycatch when working from the same vessel fishing stationary, multi-species gear - limited to one vessel trip per day. Bycatch represents less than 2% of the total coastwide landings.

The practice of two permitted fishermen working together from the same vessel to harvest Atlantic menhaden primarily occurs in the Chesapeake Bay pound net fishery. This practice enables the fishermen to pool resources for fuel and crew. However, the practice is currently constrained by the FMP's bycatch allowance provision, which includes a 6,000 pound/vessel/day limit. The Draft Addendum seeks comment on whether the provision should be revised to accommodate the interests of fixed-gear fishermen who work together, as authorized by the states and jurisdictions in which they fish.

The intent of Draft Addendum I is to add flexibility to one element of the bycatch allowance provision while the Board prepares to address menhaden management more comprehensively through the development of Draft Amendment 3 to the FMP over the next two years. A subsequent press release on the public hearing schedule and Draft Addendum I availability will be distributed once state hearings have been scheduled.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum can be obtained at [http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/573dd50fAtlMenhadenDraftAddendumI\\_PublicComment\\_May2016.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/573dd50fAtlMenhadenDraftAddendumI_PublicComment_May2016.pdf) or via the Commission's website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), under *Public Input*. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on July 11, 2016** and should be forwarded to Megan Ware, FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [mware@asmfc.org](mailto:mware@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Addendum I).

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