



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## NEWS RELEASE

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*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 11, 2020

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### States Schedule Hearings on Atlantic Herring Draft Addendum III

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic coastal states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts have scheduled their hearings to gather public input on Draft Addendum III. The details of those hearings and the public hearing webinar follow:

#### **Maine Department of Marine Resources**

*March 9, 2020 at 6 PM*  
ME DMR Augusta Office  
32 Blossom Lane, Room 118  
Augusta, Maine  
Contact: [Megan Ware](#) at 207.624.6563

#### **New England Fishery Management Council**

*March 3, 2020 at 11 AM*  
Four Points by Sheraton  
One Audubon Road  
Wakefield, Massachusetts  
Contact: [Deirdre Boelke](#) at 978.465.0492 ext. 105

#### **New Hampshire Fish and Game**

*March 3, 2020 at 6 PM*  
Urban Forestry Center  
45 Elwyn Road  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
Contact: [Cheri Patterson](#) at 603.868.1095

#### **Webinar Hearing**

*March 12, 2020 at 5:30 PM*  
Webinar link:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2774987433446335756>  
Conference Call # 1.888.585.9008 (enter passcode: 853-657-937 when prompted)  
Contact: [Kirby Rootes-Murdy](#) at 703.842.0740

#### **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**

*March 2, 2020 at 6 PM*  
MA DMF Gloucester Office  
Annisquam River Station  
30 Emerson Avenue  
Gloucester, Massachusetts  
Contact: [Melanie Griffin](#) at 617.626.1528

The Draft Addendum proposes options to better manage the Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) sub-annual catch limit (ACL) under low quota scenarios. This action responds to the challenges encountered in managing the reduced sub-ACL based on the 2018 benchmark stock assessment, which highlighted declining trends in recruitment and spawning stock biomass.

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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 diadromous species.

Currently, the Board can allocate the sub-ACL throughout the fishing season using bi-monthly, trimester, or seasonal quota periods to meet the needs of the fishery. For the 2019 fishing season, the Board implemented a bimonthly quota period approach to maximize use of the reduced sub-ACL when demand for bait is high. Due to the low quota, the 2019 fishery experienced frequent closures to avoid an overage. The 2020 sub-ACL (3,344 mt) is lower than in 2019, creating further challenges in distributing the quota throughout the fishing season. The Draft Addendum considers additional tools to provide the Board more flexibility in specifying the allocation under low quota scenarios and meet the needs of the herring fishery moving forward. Additionally, the Draft Addendum considers expanding landing provisions across different permit categories within the days out program. The Board utilizes days out of the fishery and weekly landing limits to adjust the rate of Area 1A catch. The Draft Addendum includes options that apply weekly landing limits to all vessel categories landing herring in Area 1A throughout the entire fishing season.

Interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum will be available at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlHerringDraftAddIII\\_PublicComment.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlHerringDraftAddIII_PublicComment.pdf). Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM on March 25, 2020 and should be forward to Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Virginia 22201; 703.842.0741 (fax) or at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Atlantic Herring Draft Addendum III). For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

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