



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASMFC Releases Recreational Measures Setting Process Draft Addenda for Public Comment *States to Conduct Public Hearings in January*

Arlington, VA – The Commission releases for public comment Draft Addenda on Recreational Measures Setting Process for Bluefish, Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass. The states of Maine through North Carolina have scheduled hearings to gather public input on the Draft Addenda between January 14 and January 29, 2025, and written comments will be accepted through February 15, 2025.

The Draft Addenda consider changes to the process used by the Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) to set recreational management measures (bag, size, and season limits) for bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The Council is considering an identical set of options through a framework action. The option that is ultimately selected by the Commission and Council is intended to replace the currently used Percent Change Approach implemented through the Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda, which will sunset at the end of 2025. The Draft Addenda propose five possible options for setting recreational measures. Taking final action on these addenda in 2025 will not implement any specific bag, size, or season limits, but start a new specification process for setting recreational management measures starting with 2026 measures.

Some hearings will be conducted in-person with the option to connect via webinar (hybrid hearings), while others will be conducted via webinar only. If you are unable to participate in your state's scheduled hearing, you are welcome to participate in any of the hearings. The public hearing details follow:

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency	Contact
Tuesday, January 14 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries <i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i>	Corrin Flora (ME) 207.446.8126 Renee Zobel (NH) 603.868.1095 Nichola Meserve (MA) 978.619.0017

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.

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency	Contact
Wednesday, January 22 Hybrid Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation <i>Note: This is a hybrid meeting (both in-person and virtual). The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i> Hearing Location: Marine Resources Headquarters New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation 123 Kings Park Blvd., Nissequogue River Park Kings Park, NY 11754	Martin Gary 631.444.0430
Thursday, January 23 Hybrid Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management <i>Note: This is a hybrid meeting (both in-person and virtual). The virtual Zoom link is here, and additional instructions are below.</i> Hearing Location: University of Rhode Island Bay Campus Corless Auditorium 215 South Ferry Road Narragansett, RI 02882	Jason McNamee 401.423.1923
Tuesday, January 28 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection and Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection <i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i>	Joseph Cimino (NJ) 609.748.2020 Matthew Gates (CT) 860.876.4393
Wednesday, January 29 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and North Carolina Dept. of Environmental Quality <i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i>	John Clark (DE) 302.739.9914 Mike Luisi (MD) 410.260.8341 Ron Owens (PRFC) 804.224.7148 Pat Geer (VA) 757.247.2200 Chris Batsavage (NC) 252.241.2995

Webinar Instructions

Please note that in order to comment at the majority of virtual webinar hearings you will need to use your computer or download the GoTo app for your phone. Those joining by phone only will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. In those cases, you can send your comments to staff via [email](#) or US mail at any time during the public comment period. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial 914.614.3221 and enter access code 780-270-796. If you are unable to participate in your state's scheduled hearing, you are welcome to participate in any of the hearings.

For all virtual hearings, with the exception of the Rhode Island hearing, please click [HERE](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu to register for a public hearing webinar. Hearings will be

held via GoToWebinar, and you can join the webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone. If you are new to GoToWebinar, you can download the software by ([clicking here](#)) or via the App store under GoTo. We recommend you register for the hearing well in advance of the hearing since GoToWebinar will provide you with a link to test your device's compatibility with the webinar. If you find your device is not compatible, please contact the Commission at info@asmfc.org (subject line: GoToWebinar help) and we will try to get you connected. We also strongly encourage participants to **use the computer voice over internet protocol (VoIP)** so you can ask questions and provide input at the hearing.

For virtual participation at the hybrid Rhode Island public hearing, the [Zoom meeting link is available here](#). The Meeting ID is 829 4963 3592 and the Passcode is 133906; if calling in dial 301.715.8592.

Hearing Presentation Recording

For those who cannot attend any in-person or virtual hearings, the Commission will also post a recording of the hearing presentation on the Commission's YouTube page so that stakeholders may watch the presentation and submit comment at any time during the comment process. This recording will be available by early January with the recording link provided at <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>.

Submitting Comments

The Draft Addenda are available at https://asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/RecMeasuresSettingProcessDraftAddenda_PublicComment_Dec2024.pdf or on the Commission's Public Input webpage at <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>. All those interested in the management of summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish are encouraged to provide input either by participating in public hearings, which may be conducted in-person or via webinar, or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until **11:59 PM (EST) on February 15, 2025** and should be sent to Chelsea Tuohy, FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Virginia 22201; or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Recreational Measures Setting Process).

For more information, please contact Chelsea Tuohy, FMP Coordinator, at ctuohy@asmfc.org.

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