



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration
well in progress by the year 2015*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rhode Island Schedules Public Hearing on Black Sea Bass Draft Addendum XXIII

Arlington, VA – Rhode Island has scheduled its hearing to gather public comment on Draft Addendum XXII to the Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan; the details of that hearing follow.

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

February 1, 2013; 6 PM

URI Narragansett Bay Campus

Corless Auditorium

South Ferry Road

Narragansett, Rhode Island

Contact [Jason McNamee](#) at 401.423.1943

The Draft Addendum proposes the use of state-by-state or regional measures to manage the 2013 black sea bass recreational fishery. The management plan for black sea bass does not provide an opportunity to craft recreational measures by regions or state, it only allows for a coastwide measure. Due to the wide geographic range of this species, the application of coastwide minimum size, possession limit, and season restrictions may not affect every area involved in the fishery the same way. States were concerned the coastwide regulations disproportionately impact states within the management unit; therefore, they approved Addendum XXI and XXII which allowed for state-by-state measures in 2011 and 2012 for state waters only. Because Addendum XXII expires at the end of 2012 and the Board continues to have the same concerns for the 2013 fishing season, the Board initiated Draft Addendum XXIII. The Draft Addendum is intended to provide the necessary management flexibility to mitigate potential disproportionate impacts on states that can result from coastwide measures for 2013.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum. The Draft Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmf.org under *Breaking News* or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on February 6, 2013** and should be forwarded to Toni Kerns, Acting ISFMP Director, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at tkerns@asmfc.org (Subject line: Black Sea Bass). For more information, please contact Toni Kerns at tkerns@asmfc.org.

PR13-01

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.

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