



# *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

## NEWS RELEASE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 2, 2013

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703.842.0740

**(Note: This press release revises the March 20<sup>th</sup> press release with the addition of two hearings for New York and a change in the Maine hearing schedule, which consolidates 3 previously scheduled hearings into one hearing.)**

### **States Schedule Hearings on American Eel Draft Addendum III**

Arlington, VA – Atlantic coastal states from Maine through Georgia have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum III to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow.

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

*April 30, 2013; 1 – 5 PM*

Augusta Armory  
179 Western Avenue  
Augusta, Maine  
Contact: Terry Stockwell at 207.624.6553

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

*April 15, 2013; 7 PM*

Urban Forestry Center  
45 Elwyn Center  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
Contact: Doug Grout at 603.868.1095

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

*April 23, 2013; 6 – 8 PM*

Bourne Public Library Meeting Room  
19 Sandwich Road  
Bourne, Massachusetts  
Contact: Nichola Meserve at 617.626.1531

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

*April 29, 2013; 6 PM*

URI Narragansett Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium  
South Ferry Road

Narragansett, Rhode Island  
Contact: Phil Edwards at 401.789.0281

#### **New York Dept. of Environmental Protection**

*April 22, 2013; 7 - 9 PM*

Marine Resources Office  
205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1  
East Setauket, New York  
Contact: Steve Heins at 631.444.0436

*April 25, 2013; 6:30 – 8:30 PM*

Port Jervis Free Library  
138 Pike Street  
Port Jervis, New York  
Contact: Steve Heins at 631.444.0436

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

*May 2, 2013; 7 PM\**

Atlantic County Library  
Galloway Branch  
306 Jimmie Leeds Road  
Galloway, New Jersey  
Contact: Russ Allen at 609.748.2020  
\*Hearing to immediately follow Marine  
Fisheries Council meeting which starts at 4 PM.

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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.

**Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control**

*April 11, 2013; 7 PM*

DNREC Auditorium  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, Delaware  
Contact: John Clark at 302.739.9914

**Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources**

*April 18, 2013; 6 – 8 PM*

Maryland DNR Fisheries Service  
Tawes State Office Building, C1 Conference  
Room 580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Contact: Keith Whiteford at 410.643.6776

**Potomac River Fisheries Commission**

*April 25, 2013; 6:30 PM*

222 Taylor Street  
Colonial Beach, Virginia  
Contact: Ellen Cosby at 804.224.7148

**North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries**

*April 24, 2013; 6 PM*

943 Washington Square Mall  
Highway 17  
Washington, North Carolina  
Contact: Garry Wright at 252.948.3864

**South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources**

*April 30, 2013, 6 – 8 PM*

Santee-Cooper Auditorium  
1 Riverwood Drive  
Moncks Corner, South Carolina  
Contact: Bill Post at 843.953.9821

**Georgia Coastal Resources Division**

*April 29, 2013; 5:30 PM*

John W. Stevens Wetlands Education Center  
240 Cedar Street  
Richmond Hill, Georgia  
Contact: Jim Page at 912.264.7218

The Draft Addendum proposes a wide range of management options with the goal of reducing mortality and increasing the conservation of American eel stocks across all life stages. Specific management options focus on both the commercial (glass, yellow, and silver eel life stages) and recreational American eel fisheries. The document also proposes increased monitoring by the states and recommendations to improve American eel habitat.

Draft Addendum III responds to the findings of the 2012 benchmark stock assessment indicating the American eel population in U.S. waters is depleted. The stock has declined in recent decades and the prevalence of significant downward trends in multiple surveys across the coast is cause for concern. Causes of decline are likely due to a combination of historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants, and disease.

Commercial regulations vary by state. Glass eel fisheries currently occur in Maine and South Carolina. Significant yellow eel fisheries occur in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, the Potomac River, Virginia, and North Carolina. Although commercial fishery landings and effort in recent times have declined in most regions, current levels of fishing effort may still be too high given the depleted nature of the stock. States and jurisdictions are required to annually report on commercial harvest and monitor juvenile abundance. The recreational fishery is currently regulated by a 50 fish per day creel limit and a six inch size minimum, although recreational harvest is believed to be low.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum III by either attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum is available on the Commission website ([www.asmf.org](http://www.asmf.org)) under *Breaking News* or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. The public comment deadline is 11:59 PM (EST) on May 2, 2013 and should be forwarded to Kate Taylor, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: American Eel). Final action on the Addendum is scheduled to occur in May. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor at [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.