



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
April 5, 2013

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ASMFC Begins Preparations for Atlantic Sturgeon Benchmark Stock Assessment

Arlington, VA – This spring, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will begin work on the 2014 benchmark stock assessment for Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*). The assessment will be used to evaluate the health of the stock and inform the management of this species. The Commission's stock assessment process and meetings are open to the public, with the exception of discussions of confidential data, when the public will be asked to leave the room.



The Commission welcomes the submission of data sources that will improve the accuracy of the assessment. This includes, but is not limited to, data on catch per unit effort, bycatch interactions, biological samples (length, age, frequency), life history information (growth, maturity, fecundity, spawning stock biomass weights, natural mortality), and tagging data. For data sets to be considered, the data must be sent in the required format, with accompanying description of methods, to the Commission by July 1, 2013.

The Data Workshop date and location have yet to be determined, but it is anticipated it will take place during the late summer. This workshop will review all available data sources for Atlantic sturgeon and identify data sets that will be incorporated in the stock assessment. For those interested in submitting data and/or attending the Atlantic Sturgeon Data Workshop (space is limited), please contact Dr. Katie Drew, ASMFC Stock Assessment Scientist, at kdrew@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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PR13-20

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.

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