



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
May 4, 2012

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
703.842.0740

ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Board Increases 2012/2103 Quota to 35.6 Million Pounds and Approves Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board increased the 2012/2013 spiny dogfish quota from 30 to 35.6 million pounds. The increase is consistent with proposed regulations for federal waters as well the recommendations of the ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee. The table below shows preliminary regional and state commercial quotas for the 2012/2013 season as adjusted for overages and rollovers.

Table 1. Preliminary 2012/1013 regional and state commercial spiny dogfish quotas adjusted for overages and rollovers from the 2011/2012 fishing season (in pounds). Quotas are subject to change as landings are finalized.

	% Allocation	Initial Allocation	2011/2012 Overage	2011/2012 Rollover	2012/2013 Quota Adjusted for 2011/2012 Overages and Rollovers
Northern Region (ME - CT)	58.00%	20,702,520	1,359,053		19,343,467
NY	2.707%	966,237		26,935	993,171
NJ	7.644%	2,728,449	101,508		2,626,941
DE	0.896%	319,818		3,915	323,734
MD	5.920%	2,113,085		13,113	2,126,197
VA	10.795%	3,853,167	88,435		3,764,732
NC	14.036%	5,010,010		20,844	5,030,854

The Board also approved Draft Addendum IV to the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan for public comment. The Draft Addendum proposes allowing exemptions (with Board approval) to the 5% maximum quota rollover provision as well as measures to update the spiny dogfish overfishing definition based on recommendations of the ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee. The rollover provision exemption seeks to provide states the opportunity to rollover more than 5% of their unharvested quota from one year to

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.

the next. It responds to concerns by states in the southern region that early closure of federal water fisheries often leaves more than 5% of their quota unharvested.

The Draft Addendum also proposes providing the Board the flexibility to update or modify the management program's overfishing definition by Board action based on the recommendations of its Technical Committee and best available science. The current overfishing definition is based on the number of pups per female that recruit to the stock and was adopted in 2002 from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Plan. Since that time, the Council has updated its definition based on maximum sustainable yield or a reasonable proxy, consistent with the best available science. Adjusting the overfishing definition is a technical consideration and will not impact management significantly.

States will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum; information on those hearings will be released when they are finalized. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum. The Draft Addendum will be available on the Commission website (www.asmf.org) under Breaking News by May 11, 2012. The public comment deadline is **5:00 PM (EST) on June 15, 2012** and should be forwarded to Christopher Vonderweidt, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Spiny Dogfish Draft Addendum IV).

###