



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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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
(202) 289-6400

ASMFC Striped Bass Board Approves Addendum I *Addendum Establishes Bycatch Data Collection Program*

Annapolis, MD – The Commission’s Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum I to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Addendum establishes a bycatch monitoring and research program to increase the accuracy of data on striped bass discards, as required by Amendment 6. More accurate discard mortality estimates will improve our understanding of stock status and provide for more effective striped bass management. The Addendum also recommends that states, through the Commission if possible, develop a web-based angler education program on fishing techniques known to reduce post-release hooking mortality.

The bycatch program establishes a suite of mandatory and voluntary data collection standards, discard mortality studies, and technical committee analyses for commercial, recreational, and for-hire fisheries. The states from Maine through North Carolina are required to collect commercial data elements consistent with ACCSP standards and recreational quantitative data as reported by interviewed fishermen. Further, the states are to review existing discard mortality studies to develop gear-specific discard mortality estimates. The Striped Bass Technical Committee will be required to analyze any newly collected at-sea observer data, and review temperature-specific estimates of recreational discards and post-release mortality rates.

The Addendum is effective immediately and will be available in early November. Copies can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission’s website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News. For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or nmeserve@asmfc.org.

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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.

1444 Eye Street, N.W. -- Sixth Floor -- Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 289-6400 (phone) (202) 289-6051 (fax) www.asmfc.org