



# *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  
October 31, 2013

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### **ASMFC American Eel Board Postpones Action on Draft Addendum IV** *Maine Commits to Develop Plan with Industry to Control Glass Eel Harvest*

St. Simons Island, GA - The Commission's American Eel Management Board has postponed action on Draft Addendum IV until the 2014 Spring Meeting so that it can continue to develop options for implementation during the 2015 fishing season. In the interim, Maine will meet with stakeholders in the glass eel fishery and develop a plan to reduce harvest of glass eels by 25-40% from the 2013 harvest for the 2014 fishing season. Landings in 2013 totaled 18,253 pounds and were valued at nearly \$33 million.

Draft Addendum IV was initiated in response to 2012 American Eel Benchmark Stock Assessment. The assessment found that American eel populations are depleted coastwide and recommended to reduce mortality across all life stages. Draft Addendum IV proposes management changes to the commercial glass, yellow, and silver eel fisheries. The Board approved Addendum III in August 2013 which implemented a 9 inch minimum size for the commercial and recreational yellow eel fishery, gear restrictions for the commercial yellow eel fishery, restrictions to the commercial silver eel fishery, and a decrease to the recreational creel limit. Combined both addenda intend to reduce fishing mortality and improve the health of the resource.

For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, at [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

###

PR13-51

---

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.

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201-2196  
703.842.0740 (phone) 703.842.0741 (fax) [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)