



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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States Schedule Hearings on Atlantic Herring Draft Addendum I

Arlington, VA – The states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New Jersey have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum I to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring. Draft Addendum I includes management options to ensure the seasonal quota is distributed throughout Trimester 2, are applied consistently by the states adjacent to Area 1A, and address excessive capacity. The details of the scheduled hearings follow.

Maine Department of Marine Resources

April 3, 2017; 6-8 PM

Lincoln County Communications Conference Room
34 Bath Road
Wiscasset, Maine
Contact: [Terry Stockwell](#) at 207.624.6553

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

April 5, 2017; 6 PM

DMF Annisquam River Station
30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, Massachusetts
Contact: [David Pierce](#) at 617.626.1532

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

April 4, 2017; 7 PM

Urban Forestry Center
45 Elwyn Road Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Contact: [Doug Grout](#) at 603.868.1095

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

March 27, 2017; 6 PM

Fisheries Cooperative Center, Rutgers University
1636 Delaware Avenue
Cape May, New Jersey
Contact: [Tom Baum](#) at 609.748.2020

The Draft Addendum was initiated in response to the accelerated rate of Area 1A Trimester 2 (June through September) landings in recent years and the increasingly dynamic nature of days out measures to control effort that have varied across states. The Section utilizes days out of the fishery to slow the rate of Area 1A catch by restricting the number of available landing days. Landing reports indicate vessels are harvesting herring on days out of the fishery and transferring fish at-sea to carrier or larger vessels until landing is permitted. The practice of fishing outside of landing days has limited the effectiveness of the days out program in controlling the rate of harvest.

The Draft Addendum presents six management options to improve the performance of the Area 1A fishery, ranging from restricting a vessel from landing fish caught on days out of the fishery to limiting

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.

transfers at sea as well as the amount a vessel can land per week. The document also seeks input on a tiered weekly landing limit for future management consideration.

Fishermen and interested stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum can be obtained at http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlHerringDraftAddendumI_PublicComment_Feb2017.pdf or via the Commission's website, www.asmfc.org, under *Public Input*. Public comment will be accepted until **5 PM (EST) on April 7, 2017** and should be forwarded to Ashton Harp, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at aharp@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Addendum I).

The Section will review submitted public comment and consider final approval of Addendum I at the Commission's Spring Meeting in May 2017. For more information, please contact Ashton Harp, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at aharp@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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