



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2018

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
703.842.0740

States Schedule Public Hearings on American Eel Draft Addendum V

Arlington, VA – Atlantic coastal states from Maine through Florida have scheduled their hearings to gather public input on Draft Addendum V to the American Eel Fishery Management Plan. The details of those hearings follow.

Maine Department of Marine Resources

June 6, 2018; 3 PM

Jeff's Catering
East West Industrial Park
15 Littlefield Way
Brewer, ME
Contact: [Pat Keliher](#) at 207.624.6553

June 7, 2018, 3 PM

32 Blossom Lane, Room 118
Augusta, ME
Contact: [Pat Keliher](#) at 207.624.6553

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

June 5, 2018; 7 PM

Urban Forestry Center
45 Elwyn Road
Portsmouth, NH
Contact: [Cheri Patterson](#) at 603.868.1095

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

May 22, 2018; 6 PM

University of Rhode Island Bay Campus
Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road
Narragansett, RI
Contact: [Phil Edwards](#) at 401.789.0281

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

June 4, 2018; 7 PM

CT DEEP Boating Education Center
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, CT
Contact: [Peter Aarrestad](#) at 860.424.4171

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

May 9, 2018; 7 PM

21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY
Contact: [Greg Kenney](#) at 845.256.3199

May 17, 2018, 6:30 PM

NYSDEC Marine Resources Headquarters
205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1
East Setauket, NY
Contact: [John Maniscalco](#) at 631.444.0437

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

May 10, 2018; 7 PM

Atlantic County Library/Galloway Township
306 East Jimmie Leeds Road
Galloway, NJ
Contact: [Heather Corbett](#) at 609.748.2020

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.

Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife

May 17, 2018; 6 PM

DNREC Auditorium

89 Kings Highway

Dover, DE

Contact: [John Clark](#) at 302.739.9914

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

June 11, 2018; 6 PM

Tawes State Office Building, Room C1

580 Taylor Avenue

Annapolis, MD

Contact: [Lynn Fegley](#) at 410.260.8285

Potomac River Fisheries Commission

May 15, 2018; 6 PM

Carpenter Building

222 Taylor Street

Colonial Beach, VA

Contact: [Martin Gary](#) at 804.456.6935

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

May 16, 2018; 6 PM

2600 Washington Avenue

4th Floor Conference Room

Newport News, VA

Contact: [Rob O'Reilly](#) at 757.247.2248

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

May 14, 2018; 6 PM

Washington Regional Office

943 Washington Square Mall Highway 17

Washington, NC

Contact: [Chris Batsavage](#) at 252.808.8009

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

May 21, 2018, 6 PM

Marine Resources Research Institute

217 Fort Johnson Road

Charleston, SC

Contact: [Bill Post](#) at 843.953.9821

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

June 12, 2018; 6 PM

Putnam County Board of County

Commissioner's Board Room

2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 100

Palatka, FL

Contact: [Jim Estes](#) at 850.617.9622

Since the implementation of Addendum IV in 2014, states have raised several concerns about the current management program. Currently, the yellow eel fishery is managed to an annual coastwide landings cap (referred to as the coastwide cap) of 907,671 pounds and evaluated against two management triggers: (1) the coastwide cap is exceeded by more than 10% in a given year; or (2) the coastwide cap is exceeded in two consecutive years, regardless of the percent overage. If either of these triggers are met, state-by-state quotas are required to be implemented. 2016 landings exceeded the coastwide cap by less than 10%. If landings in 2017 exceed the coastwide cap, state-by-state quotas will need to be implemented. These current management provisions are concerning to some jurisdictions given uncertainty in the landings data.

The Board initiated Draft Addendum V to address these concerns and consider a number of changes to the current management program. Specifically, changes are being considered for the coastwide cap, management triggers, state-by-state allocations, and quota transfer provisions for the yellow eel commercial fishery; as well as the current Maine glass eel commercial quota and the aquaculture provisions of the plan.

If approved, the proposed alternatives to the current management program would be implemented starting in the 2019 fishing season. **Since the four management issues related to the yellow eel fishery are linked (e.g., coastwide cap, management trigger, state-by-state allocations, quota transfers), the public is encouraged to specify their preferred alternatives for each issue.**

The Draft Addendum is available at http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AmEelDraftAddendumV_PublicComment_April2018revised.pdf or on the Commission website, www.asmfc.org, under Public Input. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on June 15, 2018** and should be forwarded to Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Addendum V).

Final action on the Addendum is scheduled to occur at the Commission's Summer Meeting. For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

###