



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

ASMFC Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maine Implements First Ever Quota for Glass Eel Fishery

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s American Eel Management Board approved a conservation equivalency proposal from the State of Maine to allow quota management of its glass eel fishery. A quota of 11,749 pounds will be in place for Maine’s 2014 glass eel fishing season, which begins on March 22nd. This quota, developed with input from Maine’s fishing industry and Tribal Nations, represents a 35% reduction from the 2013 Maine’s glass eel harvest. In addition to quota management, Maine will also be implementing a harvester swipe card system with daily dealer reporting in order to increase accuracy and timeliness of landings data and reduce opportunities for illegal harvest.

Prior to this fishing year, the Maine glass eel fishery was regulated by the 1998 Fishery Management Plan (FMP) which requires all states to maintain as conservative or more conservative management measures at the time the FMP was approved. Under the FMP, Maine’s glass eel fishery was regulated by gear restrictions and a license cap. The change from input controls (gear restrictions and license cap) to output controls (quota management) should allow for increased management flexibility and conservation of the resource.

The Board continues to work on the elements of Draft Addendum IV, which will propose coastwide conservation measures for American eel fisheries. The Board will consider approval of the Draft Addendum for public comment at its next meeting in May 2014.

For more information, please contact Kate Taylor at ktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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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.

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