



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 21, 2015

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### **States Schedule Public Hearings on Draft Addendum XXVII Addendum Seeks Input on Regional Management Options for 2016 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Recreational Fisheries**

Arlington, VA – The Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Draft Addendum XXVII for public comment at the Joint Commission/Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting in Annapolis, Maryland earlier this month. Draft Addendum XXVII proposes regional management approaches for the 2016 summer flounder and black sea bass recreational fisheries. The Atlantic coast states of Massachusetts through Virginia have scheduled public hearings to gather public comment. The details of those hearings follow:

#### **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**

*January 14, 2016 at 4:30 PM*  
Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
101 Academy Drive  
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532  
Contact: Nichola Meserve at 617.626.1531

#### **Rhode Island Division of Fish & Wildlife**

*January 6, 2016 at 6 PM*  
University of Rhode Island, Corliss  
Auditorium  
South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, Rhode Island  
Contact: Jason McNamee at 401.423.1943

#### **Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection**

*January 5, 2016 at 7 PM*  
Marine Headquarters  
Boating Education Center, Building 3  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
Contact: David Simpson at 860.434.6043

#### **New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation**

*January 7, 2016 at 6 PM*  
Bureau of Marine Resources  
205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1  
East Setauket, New York  
Contact: Steve Heins at 631.444.0435

#### **New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*January 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM*  
Stafford Township Municipal Building  
260 East Bay Avenue  
Manahawkin, New Jersey  
Contact: Tom Baum at 609.748.2020

#### **Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control and Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

*January 12, 2016 at 6 PM*  
DNREC Lewes Building (at the Lewes Boat Ramp)  
901 Pilottown Road  
Lewes, Delaware  
Contacts: Delaware – John Clark at 302.739.9914 and  
Maryland – Mike Luisi at 410.260.8341

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.

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission**

*January 12, 2016 at 6 PM*

2600 Washington Avenue

4th Floor Conference Room

Newport News, Virginia

Contact: Rob O'Reilly at 757.247.2248

Draft Addendum XXVII was initiated to consider extending use of regional management approaches for the 2016 recreational summer flounder fishery, including an option that would allow for a Delaware Bay specific region. The Draft Addendum also includes options for extending use of ad-hoc regional management approaches for black sea bass recreational fisheries in 2016 and 2017. In the event the options in Draft Addendum XXVII are not approved for management, the Board extended the current summer flounder regional management approach for use in 2016.

In 2014, the Board approved Addendum XXV to shift away from traditional use of state-by-state harvest targets under conservation equivalency to use of an alternative regional strategy for managing summer flounder recreational fisheries. Based on its success in keeping recreational harvest within the RHL and providing greater regulatory consistency among neighboring states, this strategy was extended for use in 2015. State-by-state harvest targets previously utilized under conservation equivalency created difficulties for some states as overages occurred due largely to state shares and limits not reflecting local summer flounder abundance and its availability to recreational fishermen. In 2014 and 2015 management regions were the following: 1) Massachusetts; 2) Rhode Island; 3) Connecticut-New Jersey; 4) Delaware-Virginia; and 5) North Carolina.

The Draft Addendum also proposes two options for the 2016 black sea bass recreational fishery (1) coastwide measures or (2) the continued use of management measures by northern (Massachusetts – New Jersey) and southern regions (Delaware – North Carolina). The regional management approach has been used since 2011 and offers advantages over coastwide regulations by addressing geographic differences in the stock (size, abundance and seasonality) while maintaining the consistent application of management measures by neighboring states.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum XXVII either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum is available at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/DraftAddendumXXVII\\_PublicComment\\_Dec2015.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/DraftAddendumXXVII_PublicComment_Dec2015.pdf) and can also be accessed on the Commission website ([www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)) under Public Input. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on **January 21, 2016** and should be forwarded to Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Virginia 22201; 703.842.0741 (fax) or at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Addendum XXVII). For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

###