



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission NEWS RELEASE

*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## States Schedule Public Hearings on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Amendment 7

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic coastal states of Maine through Virginia have scheduled hearings to gather public input on the Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Amendment 7. Some hearings will be conducted via webinar and some hearings will be conducted in person. Additional details on participating in the webinars can be found later in this release.

The public hearing details are as follows:

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency	Contact
<b>Tuesday, March 8</b> <b>In-person Hearing</b> 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	<b>Potomac River Fisheries Commission &amp; District of Columbia Dept. of Energy and Environment</b>  <b>Hearing Location:</b> Potomac River Fisheries Commission 222 Taylor St, Colonial Beach, VA 22443	<a href="tel:804.224.7148">Martin Gary</a> , 804.224.7148 <a href="tel:202.597.1244">Daniel Ryan</a> , 202.597.1244
<b>Wednesday, March 9</b> <b>Webinar Hearing</b> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Virginia Marine Resources Commission</b>	<a href="tel:757.247.2236">Pat Geer</a> , 757.247.2236
<b>Thursday, March 10</b> <b>Webinar Hearing</b> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife</b>	<a href="tel:302.739.9108">John Clark</a> , 302.739.9108
<b>Monday, March 14</b> <b>Webinar Hearing</b> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection &amp; Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission</b>	<a href="tel:609.748.2063">Joe Cimino</a> , 609.748.2063 <a href="tel:814.359.5115">Kris Kuhn</a> , 814.359.5115
<b>Tuesday, March 15</b> <b>Webinar Hearing</b> 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management</b>	<a href="tel:401.222.4700">Jason McNamee</a> , 401.222.4700 x2772414

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.

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency	Contact
<b>Wednesday, March 16</b> <b>In-person Hearing</b> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation</b>  <b>Hearing Location:</b> NYSDEC Division of Marine Resources 123 Kings Park Blvd (inside Nissequogue River States Park), Kings Park, NY 11754	<a href="#">Maureen Davidson</a> , 631.444.0483
<b>Monday, March 21</b> <b>Webinar Hearing</b> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries</b>	<a href="#">Michael Armstrong</a> , 978.282.0308 x109
<b>Tuesday, March 22</b> <b>Webinar Hearing</b> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Connecticut Dept. of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection</b>	<a href="#">Justin Davis</a> , 860.447.4322
<b>Wednesday, March 23</b> <b>Webinar Hearing</b> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Maine Dept. of Marine Resources</b>	<a href="#">Megan Ware</a> , 207.446.0932
<b>Monday, March 28</b> <b>In-person Hearing</b> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources</b>  <b>Hearing Location:</b> Calvary United Methodist Church 301 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis, MD 21401	<a href="#">Michael Luisi</a> , 443.758.6547
<b>Tuesday, March 29</b> <b>Hybrid Hearing</b> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>New Hampshire Fish and Game</b>  <b>Note: This hearing will be held in a hybrid format. To virtually attend this hearing, please follow the webinar registration instructions.</b>  <b>You can attend in person at this address:</b> Urban Forestry Center 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801	<a href="#">Cheri Patterson</a> , 603.608.6637

The Draft Amendment proposes options to address the following issues: management triggers, recreational release mortality, stock rebuilding plan, and conservation equivalency. These issues were identified during the public scoping process for Amendment 7 as critically important to help rebuild the stock and update the management program.

The Draft Amendment’s proposed options consider changes to the management triggers, which determine when the Board is required to make management adjustments, and whether to adopt new restrictions or requirements for the use of conservation equivalency, which provides the states the flexibility to tailor the management measures. For stock rebuilding, the proposed options consider the impact of low recruitment and how the Board could respond to the 2022 stock assessment if action is needed to achieve stock rebuilding by 2029. Since release mortality in the recreational fishery is a large component of annual fishing mortality, the Draft Amendment considers options to reduce the number of striped bass released alive and options to increase the chance of survival after a striped bass is released.

The last time a new plan amendment to the Atlantic Striped Bass FMP was adopted was in 2003 (Amendment 6). Since then, the status and understanding of the striped bass stock and fishery has changed considerably, and the results of the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment in particular led the

Board to discuss a number of prominent issues facing striped bass management. Consequently, the Board initiated the development of Amendment 7 in August 2020 to update the management program to better align with current fishery needs and priorities. The Board intends for this amendment to build upon the Addendum VI to Amendment 6 action to end overfishing and initiate rebuilding in response to the overfished status of the stock.

### **Webinar Instructions**

Please note that in order to comment during virtual webinar hearings you will need to use your computer or download the GoToWebinar app for your phone. Those joining by phone only will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. In those cases, you can send your comments to staff via [email](#), U.S. mail, or fax at any time during the public comment period. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial 951.384.3421 and enter access code 269-324-049.

To register for a virtual public hearing webinar please click [HERE](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, and you can join the webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone. If you are new to GoToWebinar, you can download the software by ([clicking here](#)) or via the App store under GoToWebinar. We recommend you register for the hearing well in advance of the hearing since GoToWebinar will provide you with a link to test your device's compatibility with the webinar. If you find your device is not compatible, please contact the Commission at [info@asmfc.org](mailto:info@asmfc.org) (subject line: GoToWebinar help) and we will try to get you connected. We also strongly encourage participants to **use the computer voice over internet (VoIP)** so you can ask questions and provide input at the hearing. If you are joining the webinar but will not be using VoIP, you can may also call in at 951.384.3421, access code 269-324-049. An audio PIN will be provided to you after joining the webinar.

For those who cannot attend any in-person or virtual hearings, the Commission will also post a recording of the hearing presentation on the Commission's YouTube page so that stakeholders may watch the presentation and submit comment at any time during the comment process. This recording will be available in late February; a subsequent press release will announce the availability of the recording.

### **Submitting Comments**

The Draft Amendment is available at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlStripedBassDraftAm7forPublicComment\\_Feb2022.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlStripedBassDraftAm7forPublicComment_Feb2022.pdf) or via the Commission's website at <http://www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>. All those interested in the management of Atlantic striped bass are encouraged to provide input either by participating in public hearings, which may be conducted via webinar, or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until **11:59 PM (EST) on April 15** and should be sent to Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Virginia 22201; 703.842.0741 (fax) or at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Amendment 7).

If your organization is planning to release an action alert in response to the Draft Amendment, please contact Emilie Franke at [efranke@asmfc.org](mailto:efranke@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740, so she can work with you to develop a unique subject line to enable us to better organize and summarize incoming comments for Board review.

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