



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

ASMFC Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 2015

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
703.842.0740

ASMFC Finds Delaware Out of Compliance with Addendum III to the Interstate FMP for American Eel *Noncompliance Finding Forwarded to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior*

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has found the State of Delaware out of compliance with the mandatory management measures contained in Addendum III to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for American Eel. The Commission has notified the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior of its finding. This action was taken pursuant to the provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act of 1993.

The State of Delaware has failed to effectively implement and enforce the provisions of Addendum III to the FMP for American Eel. Specifically, Delaware has not implemented the following regulations required by Addendum III:

- 9" minimum size for yellow eel recreational and commercial fisheries
- ½" x ½" min mesh size for yellow eel pots
- Allowance of 4"x4" escape panel in pots of ½" x ½" mesh for 3 years (beginning on January 1, 2014)
- Recreational 25 fish bag limit per day per angler
- Crew and Captain involved in for-hire are exempt and allowed 50 fish bag limit per day

The implementation of these measures is necessary to achieve the conservation goals and objectives of the FMP to rebuild the depleted American eel stock. In order to come back into compliance the State of Delaware must implement all of the above measures. Upon notification by the Commission, the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior have 30 days to review the recommendation and determine appropriate action, which may include a federal moratorium on fishing for American eel in Delaware's state waters.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program, at tkerns@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

PR15-27

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.

1050 N. Highland Street – Suite 200 A-N – Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 (phone) 703.842.0741 (fax) www.asmfc.org