



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 27, 2023

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703.842.0749

Please note: This press release revises the November 21 press release with the addition of a second hearing for New Jersey on December 5.

States Schedule Public Hearings on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum II

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic coastal states of Maine through Virginia have scheduled hearings to gather public input on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, which considers management measures designed to support stock rebuilding by reducing fishing mortality to the target in 2024. Some hearings will be conducted in-person, and some hearings will be conducted via webinar, or in a hybrid format. ***If you are unable to participate in your state’s scheduled hearing, you are welcome to participate in any of the virtual or hybrid hearings.*** The public hearing details follow:

| Date and Hearing Format | State/Agency | Contact |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, November 15 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection & Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission <i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i> | Joe Cimino (NJ) 609.748.2063 Kris Kuhn (PA) 814.359.5115 |
| Thursday, November 16 In-person Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection Hearing Location: CT DEEP Marine Headquarters Boating Education Center (“Back Building”) 333 Ferry Road, Old Lyme CT 06371 | Justin Davis 860.447.4322 |

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 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Tuesday, November 28 Hybrid Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife</p> <p><i>Note: This is a hybrid meeting (both in-person and virtual). The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i></p> <p>Hearing Location: Dover Public Library 35 Loockerman Plaza Dover, DE 19901</p> | <p>John Clark 302.739.9108</p> |
| <p>Thursday, November 30 Hybrid Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management</p> <p><i>Note: This is a hybrid meeting (both in-person and virtual). The virtual Zoom link is here, and additional instructions are below.</i></p> <p>Hearing Location: University of Rhode Island Bay Campus Corless Auditorium 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882</p> | <p>Jason McNamee 401.222.4700 x2772414</p> |
| <p>Thursday, November 30 In-person Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection</p> <p>Hearing Location: Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point 1 Milford Point Road Milford, CT 06460</p> | <p>Justin Davis 860.447.4322</p> |
| <p>Monday, December 4 In-person Hearing 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</p> | <p>New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation</p> <p>Hearing Location: NYSDEC Division of Marine Resources 123 Kings Park Blvd (inside Nissequogue River State Park), Kings Park, NY 11754</p> <p><i>Note: NYSDEC will provide a listen-only livestream link to be posted on the NYSDEC calendar.</i></p> | <p>John Maniscalco 631.444.0437</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, December 5 In-person Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p>New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Hearing Location: Stafford Township Municipal Building 260 East Bay Avenue Manahawkin, NJ 08050</p> | <p>Joe Cimino (NJ) 609.748.2063</p> |

| Date and Hearing Format | State/Agency | Contact |
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| <p>Tuesday, December 5 <i>In-person Hearing</i> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</p> | <p>Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries <i>Hearing Location:</i> Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Admiral’s Hall 101 Academy Drive, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532</p> | <p>Michael Armstrong 978.619.0012</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, December 6 <i>In-person Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources <i>Hearing Location:</i> Calvary United Methodist Church, Basement Room 301 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, MD 21401</p> | <p>Michael Luisi 443.758.6547</p> |
| <p>Thursday, December 7 <i>In-person Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Virginia Marine Resources Commission <i>Hearing Location:</i> Virginia Marine Resources Commission 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96 Fort Monroe, VA, 23651</p> <p><i>Note: VMRC will provide a listen-only livestream at https://www.youtube.com/@vamarineresources/live</i></p> | <p>Pat Geer 757.247.2236</p> |
| <p>Monday, December 11 <i>Hybrid Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p>New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept. <i>Note: This is a hybrid meeting (both in-person and virtual). The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i></p> <p><i>Hearing Location:</i> Urban Forestry Center 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801</p> | <p>Cheri Patterson 603.868.1095</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, December 12 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Potomac River Fisheries Commission & District of Columbia Dept. of Energy and Environment</p> <p><i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar details are below.</i></p> | <p>Ingrid Braun-Ricks (PRFC) 804.750.3824</p> <p>Daniel Ryan (DC) 202.597.1244</p> |
| <p>Thursday, December 14 <i>Hybrid Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Maine Dept. of Marine Resources <i>Note: This is a hybrid meeting (both in-person and virtual). The virtual Microsoft Teams link is here, and additional instructions are below.</i></p> <p><i>Hearing Location:</i> Maine DMR Office – Augusta Room 118, Marquardt Building 32 Blossom Lane, Augusta, ME 04330</p> | <p>Megan Ware 207.446.0932</p> |

| Date and Hearing Format | State/Agency | Contact |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, December 18 In-person Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation Hearing Location: NYSDEC Region 3 Headquarters 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561 <i>Note: NYSDEC will provide a listen-only livestream link to be posted on the NYSDEC calendar.</i> | Jessica Best 845.256.3009 |
| Tuesday, December 19 In-person Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Hearing Location: Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station 30 Emerson Avenue Gloucester, MA 01930 | Michael Armstrong 978.619.0012 |

The Board initiated Draft Addendum II in May 2023 in response to the low probability of meeting the 2029 stock rebuilding deadline if the unexpectedly high 2022 fishing mortality rate continues. The Draft Addendum builds upon the 2023 emergency action by considering management measures intended to reduce fishing mortality to the target level in 2024. For the recreational fishery, the Draft Addendum proposes recreational bag and size limit options for the ocean and Chesapeake Bay regions, including options with different limits for the for-hire modes. To address concerns about recreational filleting allowances and compliance with recreational size limits, the Draft Addendum includes an option that could establish minimum requirements for states that authorize at-sea/shore-side filleting of striped bass. For the commercial fishery, the Draft Addendum proposes a quota reduction option. The Draft Addendum also proposes an option that would enable the Board to respond to the results of the stock assessment updates more quickly, via Board action, if the stock is not projected to rebuild by 2029.

Webinar Instructions

For all virtual or hybrid hearings (except for Maine), 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](#) or U.S. mail at any time during the public comment period. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial 631.992.3221 and enter access code 895-407-507. ***If you are unable to participate in your state’s scheduled hearing, you are welcome to participate in any of the virtual or hybrid hearings.***

For all virtual or hybrid hearings (except for Maine), please click [HERE](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu to register for a public hearing webinar. 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 (subject line: GoToWebinar help) and we

will try to get you connected. We also strongly encourage participants to **use the computer voice over internet protocol (VoIP)** so you can ask questions and provide input at the hearing.

For virtual participation at the hybrid Rhode Island public hearing, the [Zoom meeting link is available here](#). The Meeting ID is 817 2891 7610 and the Passcode is 635806.

For virtual participation at the hybrid Maine public hearing, the [Microsoft teams meeting link is available here](#). The Meeting ID is 249 648 735 389 and the Passcode is UXEtrQ. For audio only, you can call 207.209.4724 with conference ID 397 100 101.

For the listen-only livestream of the New York public hearings, the livestream links will be posted to the NYSDEC calendar at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/calendar/>.

Hearing Presentation Recording

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 by mid-November.

Submitting Comments

The Draft Addendum is available at https://asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlStripedBassDraftAddendumII_PublicComment_Oct2023.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 December 22, 2023** and should be sent to Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Virginia 22201; or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum II).

If your organization is planning to release an action alert in response to the Draft Amendment, please contact Emilie Franke at 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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