NEWS RELEASE

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director | *Christopher Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to Hold Summer Flounder Scoping Hearings

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) have scheduled a series of scoping hearings to gather public input on the range of issues and information to be considered in the Comprehensive Summer Flounder Amendment. Hearings will be held September 29 – October 22 in coastal states from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

The amendment will involve a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) related to summer flounder. Specifically, the Council and Commission will consider whether modifications to the FMP's goals, objectives, and management strategies for summer flounder are needed.

Scoping is the first and best opportunity for members of the public to raise concerns related to the scope of issues that will be considered. The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the range of potential issues to be addressed in the amendment. The Council and Commission are particularly interested in comments on the following topics:

- Fishery management plan goals and objectives
- Quota allocation between the commercial and recreational fisheries
- Commercial management measures and strategies
- Recreational management measures and strategies
- Discards in the commercial and recreational fisheries
- Ecosystem, habitat, bycatch, and protected species issues
- Data collection requirements and protocols

Learn More

The Scoping Document contains background information on summer flounder management and on issues that may be addressed in the amendment, as well as a description of the amendment process and timeline. Additional information and updates will be posted at www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment.

Contacts

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Given summer flounder's presence in, and movement between, state waters (0-3 miles from shore) and federal waters (3-200 miles from shore), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council manage summer flounder cooperatively.

Hearing Schedule

Date and Time	Location	Contact
Monday **September 29, 2014** 6:30 p.m.	**Kingsborough Community College** Building T3, Room 303, 2001 Oriental Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11235	**Kirby Rootes-Murdy**
Monday **September 29, 2014** 6 p.m.	**Somers Point City Hall** 1 West New Jersey Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244	**Kiley Dancy**
Tuesday **September 30, 2014** 5:30 p.m.	**Montauk Library** 871 Montauk Highway, Montauk, NY 11954	**Kirby Rootes-Murdy**
Tuesday **September 30, 2014** 6 p.m.	**Belmar Municipal Court** 601 Main Street, Belmar, NJ 07719	**Kiley Dancy**
Wednesday **October 1, 2014** 7 p.m.	**CT DEEP Marine Headquarters** Boating Education Center (Bldg 3), 333 Ferry Rd, Old Lyme, CT 06371	**Kirby Rootes-Murdy**
Wednesday **October 1, 2014** 6:30 p.m.	**NYDEC Bureau of Marine Resources** 205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1, East Setauket, NY 11733	**Kiley Dancy**
Thursday **October 2, 2014** 6 p.m.	**Ocean Pines Library** 11107 Cathell Rd, Berlin, MD 21811	**Kiley Dancy**
Thursday **October 2, 2014** 5 p.m.	**Bourne Fire Station #3** Meeting Room 53 Meetinghouse Lane, Sagamore Beach, MA 02561	**Kirby Rootes-Murdy**
Monday **October 6, 2014** 6 p.m.	**DNREC Auditorium** 89 Kings Hwy, Dover, DE 19901	**Kiley Dancy**
Wednesday **October 8, 2014** 6 p.m.	**University of Rhode Island Bay Campus** Corless Auditorium South Ferry Rd, Narragansett, RI 02882	**Kiley Dancy**
Tuesday **October 14, 2014** 6 p.m.	**Virginia Marine Resources Commission** 4th Floor Meeting Room, 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607	**Kiley Dancy**
Wednesday **October 15, 2014** 6 p.m.	**NCDMF Pamlico District Office** 943 Washington Square Mall, Highway 17, Washington, NC 27889	**Kiley Dancy**
Tuesday **October 21, 2014** 6 p.m.	**Washington Marriott at Metro Center** 775 12th St NW, Washington, DC 20005	**Kiley Dancy**
Wednesday **October 22, 2014** 6 p.m.	**Internet webinar**: Connect to the webinar by going to http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/summerflounder_scoping/ and selecting “enter as guest.”	**Kirby Rootes-Murdy**

Written Comments

In addition to providing comments at any of the fourteen scheduled scoping hearings, you may submit written comments by **5 PM, Eastern Standard Time, on October 31, 2014.** Written comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

1. **ONLINE:** www.mafmc.org/comments/summer-flounder-amendment
2. **EMAIL:** nmfs.gar.FlukeAmendment@noaa.gov
3. **MAIL:**

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Please include "Summer Flounder Amendment Scoping Comments" in the subject line if using email or on the outside of the envelope if submitting written comments by mail.

All comments, regardless of submission method, will be compiled into a single document for review and consideration by both the Council and Commission. **Please do not send separate comments to the Council and Commission.**

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