



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## NEWS RELEASE

*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 9, 2011

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### States Schedule Hearings on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum V

Arlington, VA – Atlantic coastal states from Maine through North Carolina have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum V to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow:

#### **Maine Department of Marine Resources**

*October 3, 2011; 6 – 9 PM*  
The Yarmouth Log Cabin  
196 Main Street  
Yarmouth, Maine  
Contact: Terry Stockwell at 207.624.6553

#### **New Hampshire Fish and Game**

*October 4, 2011; 7 PM*  
Urban Forestry Center  
45 Elwyn Road  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
Contact: Doug Grout at 603.868.1095

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

*September 28, 2011; 7 PM*  
CoCo Key Hotel & Water Resort-Boston  
Newburyport Room  
50 Ferncroft Road  
Danvers, Massachusetts  
Contact: David Pierce at 617.626.1532

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

*October 5, 2011; 6:00 PM*  
URI Narragansett Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium  
South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, Rhode Island  
Contact: Jason McNamee at 401.423.1943

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

*September 28, 2011; 4 - 6 PM*  
Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science &  
Technology Center  
60 St Stephens Road  
Bridgeport, Connecticut  
Contact: David Simpson at 860.434.6043

*October 5, 2011; 4 - 6 PM*  
The Sound School  
60 South Water St  
New Haven, Connecticut  
Contact: David Simpson at 860.434.6043

*October 12, 2011; 7 PM*  
CT DEEP Marine Headquarters  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
Contact: David Simpson at 860.434.6043

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

*September 29, 2011; 7:00 PM*  
Township of Toms River  
33 Washington Street  
L.M. Hirshblond Room  
Toms River, New Jersey  
Contact: Peter Himchak 609.748.2020

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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.

**Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control**

*September 26, 2011; 7:00 PM*

Lewes Field Facility

901 Pilottown Road

Lewes, Delaware

Contact: Jeff Tinsman at 302.739.4782

**Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources**

*October 11, 2011; 6 – 9 PM*

Tawes State Office Building, C1 Conference Room

580 Taylor Avenue

Annapolis, Maryland

Contact: Lynn Fegley at 410.260.8285

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission**

*October 17, 2011; 6 PM*

Northumberland High School Auditorium

201 Academic Lane

Heathsville, Virginia

Contact: Jack Travelstead at 757.247.2248

**Potomac River Fisheries Commission**

*October 18, 2011; 6:30 PM*

John T Parran Hearing room

PRFC Commission Building

222 Taylor St.

Colonial Beach, Virginia

Contact: AC Carpenter at 804.224.7148

**North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries**

*October 13, 2011; 6 PM*

Dare County Administration Building, Room 168

954 Marshall C. Collins Drive

Manteo, North Carolina

Contact: Michelle Duval at 252.808.8011

The Draft Addendum proposes establishing a new interim fishing mortality threshold and target (based on maximum spawning potential or MSP) with the goal of increasing abundance, spawning stock biomass, and menhaden availability as a forage species.

The Draft Addendum will also initiate the scoping process (comparable to that of a Public Information Document) on the suite of management tools that could be used to implement the new fishing mortality threshold and target levels. As in a PID, it will contain preliminary discussions of biological, environmental, social, and economic information, fishery issues, and potential management options for action through an addendum.

The MSP approach, as recommended by the 2009 peer review panel, identifies the fishing mortality rate necessary to maintain a given level of stock fecundity (number of mature ova) relative to the potential maximum stock fecundity under unfished conditions. The Draft Addendum presents two options for the new interim fishing mortality threshold (status quo based on an MSP of 8% and an MSP of 15%) and four options for the interim fishing mortality target (status quo and F based on MSPs of 20, 30 and 40%). For illustration purposes, a 15% MSP would equate to a fishing mortality rate threshold required to maintain approximately 15% of virgin stock fecundity. The current MSP level is 8%.

Based on the revised 2009 Atlantic menhaden stock assessment, menhaden was not overfished but had experienced overfishing in 2008. Given the current overfishing definition, which sets the fishing mortality rate (F) target at 0.96 and the F threshold at 2.2, this is the first time overfishing has occurred since 1998. Over the time series, overfishing had occurred in 32 of the last 54 years. F in 2008 (the latest year in the assessment) is estimated at 2.28.

The Board will meet in November at the Commission's Annual Meeting to review public comment and consider final action on the Addendum. Having gathered scoping information on management tools to implement Addendum V, the Board may also consider moving forward on a subsequent addendum to establish associated management measures. The Board's intent is to finalize these management measures for implementation in 2013.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum by either attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of Draft Addendum V are available on the Commission's website ([www.asmf.org](http://www.asmf.org)) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. The public comment deadline has been extended to **5:00 PM (EST) on November 2, 2011** and should be forwarded to Toni Kerns, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for Management, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Menhaden Draft Addendum V).