



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## NEWS RELEASE

ASMFC Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 8, 2016

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703.842.0740

### States Schedule Hearings on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Amendment 3 Public Information Document

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic coastal states of Maine through Florida have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. It is anticipated Delaware will also be conducting a hearing; the details of which will be released when they become available. Information on the scheduled hearings follow.

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

*December 13, 2016; 6:15 PM*

Casco Bay Lines Conference Room  
56 Commercial Street  
Portland, Maine

Contact: [Terry Stockwell](#) at 207.624.6553

\*This hearing will immediately follow the Jonah Crab Draft Addendum II hearing

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

*December 6, 2016; 7:20 PM*

Urban Forestry Center  
45 Elwyn Road  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Contact: [Doug Grout](#) at 603.868.1095

\* This hearing will immediately follow the Jonah Crab Draft Addendum II hearing

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

*December 12, 2016; 5:30 PM*

Bourne Community Center, Room 1  
239 Maine Street  
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

Contact: [Nichola Meserve](#) at 617.626.1531

\* This hearing will immediately follow the Jonah Crab Draft Addendum II hearing

*December 20, 2016; 6:00PM*

Thayer Public Library, Logan Auditorium  
798 Washington Street  
Braintree, Massachusetts

Contact: [Nichola Meserve](#) at 617.626.1531

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

*December 19, 2016; 7 PM*

University of Rhode Island Bay Campus  
Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, Rhode Island

Contact: [Robert Ballou](#) at 401.222.4700 ext: 4420

\* This hearing will immediately follow the Jonah Crab Draft Addendum II hearing

#### **Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

*December 14, 2016; 7 PM*

CT DEEP Boating Education Center  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut

Contact: [David Simpson](#) at 860.434.6043

\*This hearing will precede the Jonah Crab Draft Addendum II hearing

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.

**New York Department of Environmental Conservation**

*December 15, 2016; 6:30 PM*

Freeport Memorial Library  
144 West Merrick Road  
Freeport, New York  
Contact: [Steve Heins](#) at 631.444.0430

**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*December 8, 2016; 6:30 PM*

Nacote Creek Marine Law Enforcement Office  
360 North New York Road, Mile Marker 51  
Port Republic, New Jersey  
Contact: [Russ Allen](#) at 609.748.2020

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

*December 7, 2016; 6:00 PM*

Calvary United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
301 Rowe Boulevard  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Contact: [Lynn Fegley](#) at 410.260.8285

**Potomac River Fisheries Commission**

*December 6, 2016; 6:00 PM*

Carpenter Building  
222 Taylor Street  
Colonial Beach, Virginia  
Contact: [Martin Gary](#) at 804.456.6935

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission**

*December 5, 2016; 6:00 PM*

2600 Washington Ave, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Newport News, Virginia  
Contact: [Rob O'Reilly](#) at 757.247.2247

**North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries**

*November 30, 2016; 5:30 PM*

5285 US Highway 70 West  
Morehead City, North Carolina  
Contact: [Michelle Duval](#) at 252.808.8013

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

*December 1, 2016; 6:00 PM*

Melbourne City Hall Chambers  
900 E. Strawbridge Avenue  
Melbourne, Florida  
Contact: [Jim Estes](#) at 850.617.9622

As the first step in the amendment process, the document seeks input from stakeholders and those interested in Atlantic menhaden about changes observed in the fishery/resource and potential management measures. Draft Amendment 3 was initiated following Board review and acceptance of the 2015 Stock Assessment and Peer Review report, which found the menhaden resource in good condition -- not overfished nor experiencing overfishing. Population fecundity, a measure of reproductive capacity, was estimated to be roughly double the threshold value (86.8 trillion eggs). Additionally, total fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.22, below both the fishing mortality threshold (1.26) and target (0.38).

The PID outlines a number of issues in the fishery and solicits feedback on how the resource should be managed. Specifically, the PID presents a suite of tools to manage the menhaden resource using ecological reference points and provides options to allocate the resource among the states, regions, and user groups. In addition to the specific issues identified in the PID, commenters are welcome to provide input on all aspects of the fishery and resource, including recommendations for future management.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on the PID either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The PID can be obtained at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlMenhadenAmend3PID\\_PublicComment.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlMenhadenAmend3PID_PublicComment.pdf) or via the Commission's website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), under *Public Input*. Public comment will be accepted until **5 PM (EST) on January 4, 2017** and should be forwarded to Megan Ware, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Menhaden PID). If your organization is planning to release an action alert related to the Amendment 3 PID, please contact Megan Ware at 703.842.0740 prior to its release.

The Management Board will meet at the Commission's 2017 Winter Meeting to review and consider public comment and provide direction to staff for items to be included in the Draft Amendment 3.