



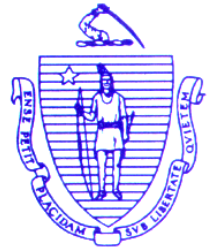
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# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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February 10, 2017

Marine Fisheries Advisory

### ASMFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Herring Management: April 5, 2017

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is seeking public comment on Draft Addendum I to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring. Draft Addendum I includes management options to ensure the seasonal quota is distributed throughout Trimester 2, are applied consistently by the states adjacent to Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine), and address excessive capacity. The full schedule of public hearings is available [here](#). Massachusetts' hearing will be held:

**April 5, 2017 at 6 PM**  
**DMF Annisquam River Station**  
**30 Emerson Avenue**  
**Gloucester, Massachusetts**

The Draft Addendum was initiated in response to the accelerated rate of Area 1A Trimester 2 (June through September) landings in recent years and the increasingly dynamic nature of days out measures to control effort that have varied across states. The ASMFC's Atlantic Herring Section utilizes days out of the fishery to slow the rate of Area 1A catch by restricting the number of available landing days. Landing reports indicate vessels are harvesting herring on days out of the fishery and transferring fish at-sea to carrier or larger vessels until landing is permitted. The practice of fishing outside of landing days has limited the effectiveness of the days out program in controlling the rate of harvest.

The Draft Addendum presents six management options to improve the performance of the Area 1A fishery, ranging from restricting a vessel from landing fish caught on days out of the fishery to limiting transfers at sea as well as the amount a vessel can land per week. The document also seeks input on a tiered weekly landing limit for future management consideration.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum I either by attending a public hearing or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum can be obtained [here](#) or via the Commission's website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), under *Public Input*. Public comment will be accepted until **5PM (EST) on April 7, 2017** and should be forwarded to Ashton Harp, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [aharp@asmfc.org](mailto:aharp@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Addendum I).

The Section will review submitted public comment and consider final approval of Addendum I at the Commission's Spring Meeting in May 2017. For more information, please contact Ashton Harp at [aharp@asmfc.org](mailto:aharp@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740; or David Pierce at [david.pierce@state.ma.us](mailto:david.pierce@state.ma.us) or 617-626-1532.