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*Marine Fisheries Advisory*

May 26, 2005

**ASMFC TO HOLD HEARINGS ON  
 SUMMER FLOUNDER DRAFT ADDNEDUM XVII -**

**Hearing in Massachusetts on July 5<sup>th</sup>**

ASMFC recently announced the availability of Draft Addendum XVII to the Summer Flounder (fluke) FMP for public comment. *Marine Fisheries* will host a hearing in Massachusetts on July 5<sup>th</sup> at the Plymouth Harbor Radisson. See the ASMFC press release below for further information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 MAY 26, 2005

PRESS CONTACT  
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**States Schedule Public Meetings to Gather Comment on  
 Draft Addendum XVII to the Summer Flounder FMP**

Washington, DC – The Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Draft Addendum XVII to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan for public comment and review. The Draft Addendum proposes a program that allows the Board to subdivide the recreational coastwide allocation into regions as an option under conservation equivalency. It also initiates a public dialog to discuss the ability to average multiple years of data as well as multiple years of landings to establish recreational management programs.

Atlantic coastal states from Massachusetts through North Carolina have scheduled the dates and times of their public meetings to gather comment. The specific details of those meetings follow:

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
 July 5, 2005; 7:00PM  
 Plymouth Harbor Radisson  
 180 Water Street  
 Plymouth, MA 02360  
 Contact: Melanie Griffin at 617-626-1528

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection  
 July 7, 2005; 7:00PM  
 Marine Headquarters Office Education Center  
 333 Ferry Road  
 Old Lyme, Connecticut  
 Contact: Dave Simpson at (860) 434-6043

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife  
 June 28, 2005; 6:00PM  
 URI Narragansett Bay Campus  
 Corless Auditorium  
 South Ferry Road  
 Narragansett, Rhode Island  
 Contact: Brian Murphy at (401) 423-1941

New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
 July 12, 2005; 7:00PM  
 205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1  
 East Setauket, New York  
 Contact: Gordon Colvin at (631) 444-0430

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife  
June 29, 2005; 6:30PM  
Atlantic County Library Galloway Township  
306 East Jimmie Leeds Road  
Absecon, New Jersey  
Contact: Bruce Freeman at (609) 292-2083

Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
July 7, 2005; 6:30PM  
Ocean Pines Library  
Worcester County Library  
11107 Cathell Road  
Ocean Pines, Maryland  
Contact: Howard J. King, III at (410) 260-8281

Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife  
July 13, 2005; 7:30PM  
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and  
Environmental Control  
Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, Delaware  
Contact: Rick Cole at (302) 739-4782

Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
July 13, 2005; 6:00PM  
2600 Washington Avenue  
Fourth Floor Conference Room  
Newport News, Virginia  
Contact: Jack Travelstead at (757) 247-2247

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
July 14, 2005; 7:00 PM  
Classroom 1, Crystal Coast Civic Center  
3505 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, North Carolina  
Contact: Preston Pate at (252) 726-7021

The management options within Addendum XVII respond to concerns expressed by fishermen and managers regarding the potential variability of data from the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) when used on a state-by-state basis. By adopting regional or coastwide management approaches, MRFSS coverage area increases while data variability decreases, thereby enhancing the credibility of both the data and the management program. The Addendum also initiates a public dialog to discuss the ability to average multiple years of data and multiple years of landings to establish recreational management programs.

When state-specific conservation equivalent measures are adopted, water bodies used by fishermen from several states (such as the Long Island Sound) may have multiple or conflicting regulations. These differing regulations create confusion for fishermen fishing in that area. Regional approaches to summer flounder recreational management could potentially minimize differences in adjacent states fishing on the same water body.

The Board will meet in August to review public comment on the Draft Addendum and consider its final approval. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Addendum either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies the Draft Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM on July 20, 2005 and should be forwarded to Toni Kerns, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax) or [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org). For more information, please contact Toni Kerns at (202) 289-6400 or [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org).

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