



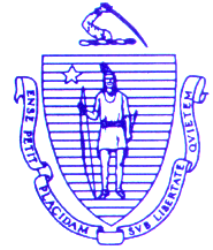
David E. Pierce, PhD.
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617) 626-1520
fax (617) 626-1509



Charles D. Baker
Governor
Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor
Kathleen Theoharides
Secretary
Ronald S. Amidon
Commissioner
Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

August 22, 2019

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Public Comment Period on Interstate Management of Spiny Dogfish

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is seeking public comment on Draft Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Spiny Dogfish. The draft addendum considers allowing regions to participate in commercial quota transfers and scopes the concept of eliminating the federal commercial trip limit. A Public Hearing Webinar will be held:

September 18, 2019 at 6 PM

Webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1750824234161238785>

Phone: 1-888-585-9008

Room Number: 853-657-937

Draft Addendum VI is available via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input.

The Draft Addendum proposes allowing commercial quota to be transferred between all regions and states to enable the full utilization of the coastwide commercial quota and avoid quota payback for unintended quota overages. The Commission's FMP allocates the coastwide quota to the states of Maine–Connecticut as a regional allocation and to the states of New York–North Carolina as state-specific allocations. Currently, the FMP only allows quota transfers between states with individual allocations, with regions excluded from benefitting from quota transfers. The 2019–2020 coastwide quota was reduced by 46% due to declining biomass. If landings in the 2019–2020 fishing year remain the same as 2018–2019 landings, the coastwide quota may not be exceeded but some states could face an early closure due to reaching their allocation and being unable to access available unused quota from the northern region through quota transfers.

The Draft Addendum also includes a scoping question on whether the federal commercial trip limit should be eliminated and replaced by state and regional trip limits. This issue is under consideration due to concern that the coastwide quota has been substantially underutilized over the past seven years and the federal commercial trip limit is viewed by some as an additional constraint on the fishery beyond the commercial trip limits implemented for state permit holders. The Commission does not establish the federal commercial trip limit, but it can make recommendations to the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries on this management measure during the federal specifications process. The public is encouraged to provide comments on this question to help inform future recommendations

from the Commission to the Councils and NOAA Fisheries on the management of spiny dogfish in federal waters.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum VI by either attending the ASMFC webinar or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until **5 PM (EST) on September 23, 2019** and should be sent to Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Spiny Dogfish Draft Addendum VI).

For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy of ASMFC at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703-842-0740; or Dan McKiernan of MA DMF at dan.mckiernan@mass.gov or 617-626-1536.