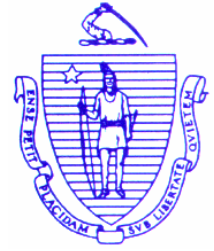




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*Marine Fisheries Advisory*  
**September 6, 2005**

## **ASMFC HEARINGS ON HERRING DRAFT AMENDMENT 2 - Hearings in Massachusetts on October 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**

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The Commonwealth will host an ASMFC hearing on October 17th to gather comments on Draft Amendment 2 to the Atlantic Herring Plan. Two hearings will be held on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6PM at the Hampton Inn in Fairhaven, MA (1 Hampton Way) and on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station in Gloucester, MA (30 Emerson Ave.). Please see the ASMFC press releases below and visit [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) for further information.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE,  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

PRESS CONTACT,  
TINA BERGER (202) 289-6400

### **ASMFC Releases Draft Amendment 2 to the Atlantic Herring Plan for Public Comment ASMFC & NEFMC to Conduct Joint Hearings in October**

The Commission's Atlantic Herring Section has approved Draft Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Herring for public review and comment. The Draft Amendment was developed in order to maintain the resource's abundance level while balancing the needs of current and new interests in the fishery.

The latest stock assessment, conducted in 2003, indicated that the Atlantic herring resource was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring. Its current level of abundance and spawning stock biomass has generated an increasing level of competing demands for the resource stock-wide. These demands include maintaining traditional use patterns in the fishery, increasing the bait fishery, and protecting herring's role as forage in the northwest Atlantic ecosystem. Issues addressed in Draft Amendment 2 include management area boundaries, biological reference points, effort control measures, spawning areas and restrictions, research set-asides, bycatch, and the role of herring as forage.

The States of Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut and New Jersey, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have scheduled the dates and times of their public hearings. The majority of these hearings will be held jointly with the New England Fishery Management Council as it solicits public input on Draft Amendment 1 and a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) to the federal Atlantic Herring FMP. For those public hearings addressing both the Commission and Council amendments, public comments on the two amendments will be taken at separate times during the hearings.

The details of the scheduled hearings follow:

New Hampshire Division of Marine Fisheries  
Tuesday, October 4, 2005; 7:00 PM  
Urban Forestry Center

45 Elwyn Road  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
Contact: John Nelson at (603) 868-1096  
\*ASMFC hearing only

Maine Department of Marine Resources  
Wednesday, October 12, 2005; 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
Eastland Park Hotel  
157 High Street  
Portland, Maine  
Contact: George Lapointe at (207) 624-6553

Thursday, October 13, 2005; 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
Samoset Hotel  
220 Warrenton Street  
Rockport, Maine  
Contact: George Lapointe at (207) 624-6553

Friday, October 14, 2005; 6:00 -- 9:00 PM  
Perry Elementary School  
1587 US Route 1  
Perry, Maine  
Contact: George Lapointe at (207) 624-6553

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
Monday, October 17, 2005; 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
Hampton Inn  
1 Hampton Way  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts  
Contact: David Pierce at (617) 626-1532

Wednesday, October 19, 2005; 6:00 – 9:00 PM  
Annisquam River Station  
30 Emerson Avenue  
Gloucester, Maine  
Contact David Pierce at 617-626-1532

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Thursday, October 20, 2005; 6:00 – 9:00 PM  
Congress Hall  
251 Beach Avenue  
Cape May, New Jersey  
Contact: Bruce Freeman at (609) 633-2408

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Monday, October 24, 2005; 7:00 PM  
Boating Education Center  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
Contact: Dave Simpson at (860) 434-6043  
\*ASMFC hearing only

The Commission's Atlantic Herring Section will meet in early November to review public comment on Draft Amendment 2 and consider its final approval. All interested parties are encouraged to provide input on Draft Amendment 2 either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of Draft Amendment 2 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 on the Commission's Draft Amendment 2 will be accepted until 5:00 PM on November 7, 2005 and should be forwarded to Ruth Christiansen, Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax) or

comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Atlantic herring). For more information, please contact Ruth Christiansen at (202) 289-6400 or rchristiansen@asmfc.org.

Copies of the Council's Draft Amendment 1, DSEIS, and public hearing document are available on the Council's website at [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org) or by contacting the Council at (978) 465-0492. For more information on the Council's documents or process, please contact Lori Steele at (978) 465-0492.

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PR05-21

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ASMFC Vision: Healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015.