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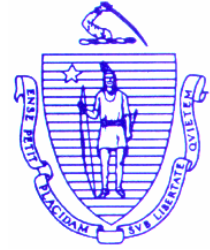
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September 13, 2006

Marine Fisheries Advisory

MA TO HOST SECOND ASMFC HEARING ON STRIPED BASS ADDENDUM I – MA to host hearing in Plymouth on September 21st

The Commonwealth will host a second ASMFC hearing on Draft Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass at 6PM on Thursday, September 21st at the Plymouth Radisson (180 Water St.) This hearing is in addition to a September 25th hearing in Gloucester (see September 5 *Marine Fisheries Advisory* at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries). Please see the ASMFC press release below and visit www.asmfc.org for further information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

PRESS CONTACT
TINA BERGER 202/289-6400

States Schedule Hearings on Striped Bass Draft Addendum I

States from New Hampshire through Maryland have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum I to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The dates, times and locations of the scheduled meetings follow:

New Hampshire Fish & Game

September 20, 2006; 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM
City of Portsmouth City Hall
Council Chamber
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Contact: John Nelson at (603)868-1096

South Ferry Road
Narragansett, Rhode Island
Contact: Najih Lazar at (401)423-1926

New York Department of Environmental Conservation

September 19, 2006; 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1
East Setauket, New York
Contact: Gordon Colvin at (631)444-0433

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

September 21, 2006; 6PM
Radisson Hotel – Plymouth Harbor
180 Water St.
Plymouth, MA
Contact: Melanie Griffin at (617) 626-1528

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

September 11, 2006; 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Ocean County Public Administration Building
Public Hearing Room #119
101 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, New Jersey
Contact: Peter Himchak at (609)748-2020

September 25, 2006; 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station
30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, Massachusetts
Contact: Melanie Griffin at (617)626-1528

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

September 12, 2006; 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Tawes State Office Building
C-1 Conference Room
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland
Contact: Howard King, III at (410)260-8281

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

September 19, 2006; 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
URI Narragansett Bay Campus
Corless Auditorium

The Draft Addendum proposes the establishment of a data collection program to assess the accuracy of current fishery discard estimates and their overall impact on the striped bass population. The proposed bycatch data collection program contains recommended data collection methods and elements, discard mortality studies, and Technical Committee analyses for the states' commercial, recreational, and for-hire fisheries. Under the proposed program, states would be required to report any bycatch and/or data monitoring within their annual compliance reports to the Commission.

Striped bass discard mortality was estimated to account for more than 36% of the overall fishing-related removals in 2004. During the development of Amendment 6, the Striped Bass Management Board raised concerns over the impacts of discard mortality on the overall population. At that time, the Board agreed to develop a data collection program to collect the information necessary to evaluate the accuracy of the current discard estimates. Based on the guidance in Amendment 6, the Board is developing this Addendum to establish the data collection program. Under the proposed Addendum, the collected data would be analyzed to determine if any fisheries result in striped bass bycatch levels that have a significant impact on the overall population or a sub-set of the population. If any fisheries were determined to have a significant impact, a subsequent addendum would be developed to address the problem.

Copies of the Draft Addendum can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM on September 27, 2006** and should be forwarded to Nichola Meserve, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum I). For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve at (202) 289-6400 or nmeserve@asmfc.org.

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