



**Paul J. Diodati**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

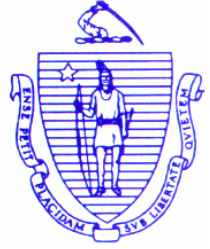
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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**November 9, 2006**

### **Marine Fisheries Advisory**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is hosting an ASMFC hearing on Addendum IV to the Tautog Interstate Fishery Management Plan on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> in Plymouth. See the ASMFC press release below for further information.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, NOVEMBER 8, 2006  
PRESS CONTACT, TINA BERGER 202/289-6400

#### **States Schedule Hearings on Tautog Draft Addendum IV**

States from Massachusetts through Virginia have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The dates, times and locations of the scheduled meetings follow:

##### **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**

*November 28, 2006: 6:00 PM*

Radisson Hotel  
180 Water Street  
Plymouth Harbor, Massachusetts

Contact: Melanie Griffin at (617) 626-1528

##### **Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management**

*November 29, 2006; 6:00 PM*

Narragansett Town Hall  
Second Floor Conference Room  
25 Fifth Avenue  
Narragansett, Rhode Island

Contact: Jason McNamee at (410) 423-1943

##### **Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection**

*November 30, 2006; 7:00 PM*

Marine Headquarters Boating Education Center  
333 Ferry Rd  
Old Lyme, Connecticut

Contact: Dave Simpson at (860) 434-6043

##### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

*December 6, 2006; 7:00 PM*  
Bureau of Marine Resources Headquarters  
205 North Belle Mead Road  
East Setauket, New York

Contact: Steve Heins at (631) 444-0436

### **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

*December 7, 2006; 7:00-10:00 PM*  
Ocean County Administration Building  
Public Hearing Room #119  
101 Hooper Avenue  
Toms River, New Jersey  
Contact: Peter Himchak at (609) 748-2020

### **Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control**

*November 27, 2006; 7:00-9:00 PM*  
University of Delaware College of Marine Studies  
Cannon Laboratory, Pilottown Road  
Lewes, Delaware  
Contact: Roy Miller at (302) 739-9914

### **Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

\*\*\*Hearing to be conducted jointly with Delaware; see above listing for more details  
Contact: Howard King at (410) 260-8281

### **Virginia Marine Resources Commission**

*December 4, 2006; 6:00 PM*  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor  
Newport News, Virginia  
Contact: Jack Travelstead at (757) 247-2247

The Draft Addendum proposes a definition for target and threshold spawning stock biomass (SSB), and a new fishing mortality rate to achieve stock rebuilding. The Addendum was developed in response to the findings and recommendations of the 2006 peer-reviewed stock assessment, as well as those of the recently updated virtual population analysis (VPA). The assessment indicates that the tautog resource remains at low biomass levels. Since the mid-1980s, tautog has undergone a substantial decrease in total and spawning stock biomass. Both indicators are currently at levels about one-third as high as their early time series average. Based on the current fishing mortality target ( $F = 0.30$ ) and the recent fishing mortality estimates for the last two years, overfishing is not occurring.

In addition to defining a coastwide biomass target, the Draft Addendum proposes allowing individual states or groups of states to determine their own fishing mortality rates and SSB reference points more appropriate for their geographic region than the coastwide assessment. These regional reference points would require Technical Committee review and Management Board approval before they could be implemented at the state or regional level.

The Board will meet in late January to review public comment on the Draft Addendum and consider its final approval. 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](http://www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM on January 16, 2007** and should be forwarded to Christopher Vonderweidt,

Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line:Tautog). For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt at [cvonderweidt@asmfc.org](mailto:cvonderweidt@asmfc.org) or (202) 289-6400.

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