



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Federal Informational Webinars on Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding - Public Hearings on Proposed Commercial and Recreational Measures to Follow

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) has scheduled two public information webinars to provide an update on Atlantic mackerel stock status and rebuilding. The webinars will be held on Tuesday, January 11th and Wednesday, January 12th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The MAFMC notes that “due to the continued poor condition of the Atlantic mackerel stock as determined by a 2021 management track stock assessment (https://www.mafmc.org/s/c_2021-Atlantic-Mackerel-MT-assessment-report.pdf), the MAFMC is revising the rebuilding plan for Atlantic mackerel. Additional commercial and recreational management measures are being considered. These meetings will review the stock assessment, expected quotas for upcoming years, and potential management measures. Public comment is invited and will be used to inform the development of management measures.”

The States of Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire received correspondence from the MAFMC on November 3, 2021, requesting the three states reduce recreational Atlantic mackerel catch in their waters by half. The States, concerned that such a substantial and contentious action could be taken with little public input, requested the MAFMC conduct initial information-gathering hearings with the public to better understand potential impacts of a reduction before designing specific management actions.

The MAFMC will post webinar information prior to the meetings at: <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events>.

For more information regarding the regional management of Atlantic mackerel, please visit <https://www.mafmc.org/msb>.