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Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

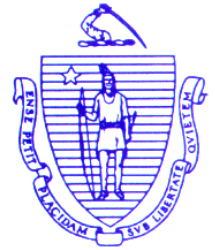
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February 13, 2015

Marine Fisheries Advisory

ASMFC Public Hearings on Northern Shrimp

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has scheduled four public hearings in Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire to take comment on the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Interstate Fishery Management Plan. [The PID](#) is available online at the ASMFC's website. The ASMFC public hearing schedule is:

Massachusetts

Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00 PM
DMF Annisquam River Station
30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, MA

New Hampshire

Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 PM
Urban Forestry Center
45 Elwyn Road
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Maine

Saturday, March 7 at 1:00 PM
Maine Fisherman's Forum
The Samoset Resort by the Sea, Camden Room
220 Warrenton Street
Rockport, Maine

Maine

Monday, March 30 at 6:00 PM
Casco Bay Ferry Terminal Conference Room
56 Commercial Street
Portland, Maine

This Draft Amendment was initiated to consider establishing a limited entry program for the northern shrimp fishery for use in the future if and when the stock recovers and the current fishing moratorium is lifted; the existing open access management program has raised concerns related to stock health. Any limited entry program will consider the appropriate number of participants in the fishery given biological, environmental and economic conditions.

The PID is the first step in the ASMFC's amendment development process. Its purpose is to gather information concerning northern shrimp and the northern shrimp fishery and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major issues relative to the management of the species. Following this public process, the ASMFC, through its Northern Shrimp Section, will evaluate potential management alternatives and develop a Draft Amendment 3 for public review and further public comment. A tentative schedule for the completion of Amendment 3 will be included in the PID.

Instructions for Written Comments

Written comment will be accepted by the ASMFC until 5:00 PM on April 15, 2015. Comments may be sent by e-mail to comments@asmfc.org (Subject: Shrimp PID), by mail to the attention of Michael Waine, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201, or by fax to the attention of Michael Waine at 703-842-0741.

More Information

For more information regarding these public hearings, the public comment period or the PID, we encourage you to contact ASMFC Plan Coordinator Michael Waine by phone (703-842-0740) or by e-mail (mwaine@asmfc.org) or DMF Northern Shrimp Biologist Kelly Whitmore by phone (617-727-3336 x102) or by e-mail (kelly.whitmore@state.ma.us).