



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## **Opportunity for Public Comment on Interstate Management of American Eel**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is collecting public input on two draft addenda to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel. While Massachusetts is not holding a state-specific public hearing on these documents (because the management options do not directly affect the state), interested individuals are welcome to join one of several virtual public hearings being held or to submit written comment. Information about these addenda, the public hearing schedule, and how to submit written comment can be found on the ASMFC website under *Public Input*: <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>

### **Overview of Addenda**

Commercial Glass Eel Management: Draft Addendum VI presents options to set Maine's commercial glass eel quota as well as the timeline for the number of years the quota would remain in place, and whether or not an additional addendum would be required to maintain the same quota for subsequent years. Prior addenda have established Maine's glass eel quota at 9,688 pounds from 2015 through 2024. Since this quota expires after 2024, the American Eel Management Board initiated Draft Addendum VI to establish a quota for the 2025 fishing season and beyond. One virtual public hearing has been scheduled for February 29, with all written comment due by March 24.

Commercial Yellow Eel Management: Draft Addendum VII considers management measures to reduce the commercial yellow eel coastwide harvest cap in response to the 2023 benchmark stock assessment, which found the stock remains depleted and recommended reducing fishing mortality on the yellow eel life stage while also recognizing that stock status is affected by other factors. The benchmark assessment proposed a new index-based tool for setting the yellow eel coastwide cap, since there is no statistical model for estimating the population size of American eel. The Draft Addendum also considers options to modify monitoring requirements based on recommendations from the stock assessment and Technical Committee. Four virtual public hearings have been scheduled between February 20–March 13, with all written comment due by March 24.

**For more information, refer to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's website under Public Input: <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>**