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April 1, 2009  
Marine Fisheries Advisory

**Winter Flounder Board Releases Draft Addendum I for Public Comment  
States to Conduct Hearings in April**

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Washington, DC – The Commission's Winter Flounder Management Board has approved the release of Draft Addendum I to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for the Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder for public review and comment. The Draft Addendum proposes a suite of management measures to reduce fishing mortality on the inshore stocks of winter flounder (0 to 3 miles). The range of management measures include recreational bag limits, recreational seasons, and commercial possession limits.

Atlantic coastal states from Maine through New Jersey have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow:

**Maine Department of Marine Resources**

*April 21, 2009; 6:00 PM*

Wiscasset Fire Station

Station Route 1

Wiscasset, Maine

Contact: Terry Stockwell at (207) 624-6553

**New Hampshire Fish and Game**

*April 22, 2009; 7:00 PM*

Urban Forestry Center

45 Elwyn Road

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Contact: Doug Grout at (603) 868-1095

**Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**

*April 23, 2009; 6:00 PM*

Whaler Banquet & Conference Center

500 Hathaway Road

New Bedford, Massachusetts  
Contact: Melanie Griffin at (617) 626-1528

**Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*April 20, 2009; 6:00 PM*  
URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium  
215 South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, Rhode Island  
Contact: April Valliere at (401) 423-1939

**Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection**

*April 14, 2009; 7:00 PM*  
Marine Headquarters Boating Education Center  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
Contact: David Simpson at (860) 434-6043

**New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation**

*April 9, 2009; 7:00 PM*  
205 North Belle Meade Road, Suite 1  
East Setauket, New York  
Contact: Steve Heins at (631) 444-0436

**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*April 16, 2009; 7:00 PM*  
Ocean County Administration Building, Room 119  
101 Hooper Avenue  
Toms River, New Jersey  
Contact: Tom McCloy at (609) 292-7794

The Board initiated the Draft Addendum in response to the findings of the 2008 Groundfish Assessment Report Meeting (GARM III), which estimates that the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic stock is at 9 percent of the target biomass (overfished) with overfishing occurring and that the Gulf of Maine stock is likely to be overfished with overfishing likely to be occurring.

Another factor influencing the Board's action is pending federal management measures on groundfish stocks, which will significantly reduce fishing mortality on federally-managed groundfish stocks in offshore waters (3 – 200 miles). Options under Draft Addendum I will seek to enhance stock rebuilding efforts throughout the species range by reducing fishing related mortality on inshore spawning stocks.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum I, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. 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 April 30, 2009 (EST)** and should be forwarded to Christopher Vonderweidt, Fishery 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: Winter Flounder Draft Addendum I). The Board will meet again in May, during the Commission's Spring Meeting, to review public comment and advisory panel input, and consider final action on the Addendum. For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, at (202) 289-6400 or [cvonderweidt@asmfc.org](mailto:cvonderweidt@asmfc.org).

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