



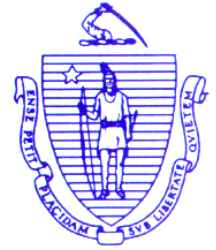
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August 28, 2019

Marine Fisheries Advisory

ASMFC Public Hearings on Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is seeking public comment on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Striped Bass. A full schedule of public hearings is available at www.asmfc.org. Two public hearings will be held in Massachusetts, as follows:

October 2, 2019 at 6 PM
Crowne Plaza Woburn
15 Middlesex Canal Park Drive
Woburn, Massachusetts

October 3, 2019 at 6 PM
MA Maritime Academy, Admiral's Hall
101 Academy Drive
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

DMF Contact: [Dr. Michael Armstrong](mailto:Dr.Michael.Armstrong), 978.282.0308, ext. 109

Draft Addendum VI was initiated in response to the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment, which indicates the resource is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The Draft Addendum explores a range of management alternatives designed to end overfishing and reduce fishing mortality to the target level in 2020.

The Draft Addendum proposes management options for both commercial and recreational sectors in the ocean and in Chesapeake Bay in order to reduce total fishery removals by 18% relative to 2017 levels. The proposed measures include reduced quotas for commercial fisheries, and changes in bag limits, minimum sizes, and slot size limits for the recreational sector. Since catch and release practices represent a significant component of overall fishing mortality, the Draft Addendum also explores the mandatory use of circle hooks when fishing with bait to reduce release mortality in recreational striped bass fisheries.

[Draft Addendum VI](http://www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input) is available via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input. Fishermen and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum VI either by attending a state public hearing or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until **5 PM (EST) on October 7, 2019** and should be sent to Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI).

If your organization is planning to release an action alert related to the Draft Addendum, please contact Max Appelman at mappelman@asmfc.org prior to its release. The Board will meet at the Commission's Annual Meeting in October to review public comment and consider final approval of the Addendum.