



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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MarineFisheries Advisory

ASMFC Public Hearings on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is seeking public comment on [Draft Addendum II](#) to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The draft addendum considers modifications to the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap (Bay Cap), including a reduction of up to 50%, establishing three quota periods, and setting the Bay Cap as a proportion of the coastwide quota.

The Atlantic coastal states have scheduled public hearings on Draft Addendum II, the full schedule of which is available on the ASMFC website at [Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Action Tracker](#). **The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is co-hosting a regional public hearing webinar, and there is also a coastwide public hearing webinar, details of which are provided below.** If you are unable to attend one of these hearings, you are welcome to participate in any of the other states' hearings.

Hearing	Date	How to Participate
Regional Public Hearing Webinar (ME-RI)	Tuesday, September 29 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<i><u>The regional webinar registration link is available here, and addition webinar instructions are below.</u></i>
Coastwide Public Hearing Webinar (ME-FL)	Thursday, October 1 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<i><u>The coastwide webinar registration link is available here, and addition webinar instructions are below.</u></i>

Webinar Instructions

For all virtual and hybrid hearings, please visit the [public hearing webinar registration site](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu to register for a public hearing webinar. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, and you can join the webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone. Please note that in order to comment during virtual webinar hearings you will need to use your computer or download the GoToWebinar app for your phone. If you are new to GoToWebinar, you can [download the software at this website](#) or via the App store under GoToWebinar. We recommend you register for the hearing well in advance of the hearing since GoToWebinar will provide you with a link to test your device's compatibility with the webinar. If you find your device is not compatible, please contact the ASMFC at info@asmfc.org (subject line: GoToWebinar help) and we will try to get you connected. We also strongly encourage participants to

use the computer voice over internet protocol (VoIP) so you can ask questions and provide input at the hearing.

Hearing Presentation Recording

For those who cannot attend any in-person or virtual hearings, the ASMFC will also post a recording of the hearing presentation on the [Commission's YouTube page](#) so that stakeholders may watch the presentation and submit comment at any time during the comment process. This recording will be available in mid-September.

Submitting Comments

The public is encouraged to submit comments at any time during the public comment period but no later than **11:59 PM (EST) on October 9, 2026**. You can access the Draft Addendum, public hearing schedule, and ways to comment on the [Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Action Tracker](#) webpage.

We accept public comment in several forms (at public hearings, an online public comment form, an online public comment survey, and via mail or email) and all forms are equally valued. However, we strongly encourage the use of the public comment survey as it allows users to select specific preferred options in the Draft Addendum and provides space for open-ended comments at the end. Options for submitting comments follow:

1. Online via the [public comment survey](#)
2. Online via [comment box](#)
3. Email: comments@asmfc.org (subject line: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II)
4. Mail: James Boyle, ASMFC, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200-N, Arlington, VA 22201
5. Verbal comments provided at any of the scheduled public hearings

If your organization is planning to release an action alert in response to the Draft Addendum, please contact James Boyle at jboyle@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740, so he can work with you to develop a unique subject line to enable us to better organize and summarize incoming comments for Board review. For more information, please contact James Boyle, ASMFC Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at jboyle@asmfc.org.