



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

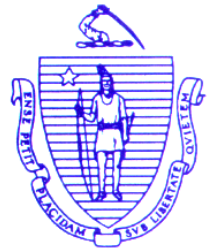
Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617)626-1520

fax (617)626-1509



Deval Patrick
Governor

Maeve Vallely Bartlett
Secretary

Mary B. Griffin
Commissioner

August 15, 2014

***Marine Fisheries* Advisory**

ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Public Hearings: September 2 & 3

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries will host two Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) public hearings on Draft Addendum V to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish. The details of the hearings are:

September 2 at 6 PM

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Admiral's Hall, 101 Academy Drive
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

September 3 at 6 PM

MA DMF Annisquam River Station
30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, Massachusetts

The Draft Addendum proposes requiring fins remain naturally attached to spiny dogfish through landing in order to ensure consistency with the Shark Conservation Act of 2010. The Act was signed into law to close loopholes in U.S. shark finning regulations. Specifically, the Act prohibits the removal of any fins of the shark, including the tail, while at sea (with an exemption for smooth dogfish); fins must remain naturally attached to the corresponding carcass through landing of the fish.

Currently, the interstate management plan – and Massachusetts state regulations – allow removal of the fins of spiny dogfish at-sea as long as the fins and corresponding carcass are retained. The wet weight of fins on-board may not exceed 5% of the dressed weight of carcasses on-board. The ASMFC's Spiny Dogfish Management Board will review and consider final approval of the Draft Addendum at the ASMFC Annual Meeting in October 2014.

For full details, refer to Draft Addendum V, available via the ASMFC website at www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/SpDogfishDraftAddendumV_PublicComment_Aug2014.pdf.

Written public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on September 30, 2014 and should be forwarded to Marin Hawk, ASMFC, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Spiny Dogfish Draft Addendum V).

For more information about the Draft Addendum, please contact Marin Hawk at mhawk@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740. Questions about the Massachusetts hearings or state regulations can be addressed to Jared Silva at jared.silva@state.ma.us or 617-626-1534.