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Marine Fisheries Advisory

ASMFC & MAFMC Summer Flounder Scoping Hearing: October 2

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries will host a joint Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) scoping hearing to gather public input on the range of issues and information to be considered in the Comprehensive Summer Flounder Amendment. The details of the hearing are:

Thursday, October 2 at 5 PM

Bourne Fire Station #3, Meeting Room

53 Meetinghouse Lane

Sagamore, Massachusetts 02561

Contact: Kirby Rootes-Murdy, ASMFC, krootes-murdy@asmfc.org, 703.842.0740

The amendment will involve a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) related to summer flounder (fluke). Specifically, the ASMFC and MAFMC will consider whether modifications to the FMP's goals, objectives, and management strategies for summer flounder are needed.

Scoping is the first and best opportunity for members of the public to raise concerns related to the scope of issues that will be considered. The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the range of potential issues to be addressed in the amendment. The ASMFC and MAFMC are particularly interested in comments on the following topics:

- Fishery management plan goals and objectives
- Quota allocation between the commercial and recreational fisheries
- Commercial management measures and strategies
- Recreational management measures and strategies
- Discards in the commercial and recreational fisheries
- Ecosystem, habitat, bycatch, and protected species issues
- Data collection requirements and protocols

The [Scoping Document](#) contains background information on summer flounder management and on issues that may be addressed in the amendment, as well as a description of the amendment process and timeline. Additional information and updates will be posted at www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment.

Written comments will be accepted until 5 PM, Eastern Standard Time, on October 31, 2014.

Written comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

ONLINE:

www.mafmc.org/comments/summer-flounder-amendment

EMAIL:

nmfs.gar.FlukeAmendment@noaa.gov

MAIL:

Bob Beal, Executive Director, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201

---OR---

Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901

Please include “Summer Flounder Amendment Scoping Comments” in the subject line if using email or on the outside of the envelope if submitting written comments by mail.

All comments, regardless of submission method, will be compiled into a single document for review and consideration by both the ASMFC and MAFMC. **Please do not send separate comments to the ASMFC and MAFMC.**