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January 28, 2011

Marine Fisheries Advisory

**States Schedule Hearings on Draft Addendum VI to the Tautog FMP**  
***Draft Addendum Proposes Measures to Address Illegal***  
***Live Market and Prevent Overfishing***

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Arlington, VA – Atlantic coastal states from Massachusetts through Virginia have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow:

**Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**

*February 10, 2011; 6:00 PM*

Fall River Heritage State Park, Visitors Center Auditorium

200 Davol Street, Fall River, Massachusetts

Contact: Nichola Meserve at (617) 626-1531

**\* This hearing will be held jointly with RI DFW**

**Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*February 15, 2011; 5:00 PM*

URI, Graduate School of Oceanography, Coastal Institute Auditorium

215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, Rhode Island

Contact: Jason McNamee at (401) 423-1943

**Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection**

*February 8, 2011; 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**

*February 22, 2011; 7:00 PM*

Marine Resources Headquarters  
205 North Belle Mead Rd, Suite 1, East Setauket, New York  
Contact: Steve Heins at (631) 444-0436

**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*February 15, 2011; 7:00 PM*

Ocean County Administrative Building, Public Hearing Room 119  
101 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, New Jersey  
Contact: Pete Himchak at (609) 748-2020

**Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control**

*February 8, 2011; 6:00 PM*

Shoreline and Waterway Management Section, Lewes Field Facility  
901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, Delaware  
Contact: Cynthia Cleaver at (302) 645-1061

**Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources**

*February 9, 2011; 5:00 PM*

Ocean Pines Library  
11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, Maryland  
Contact: Carrie Kennedy at (410) 260-8295

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission**

*February 15, 2011; 6:00 PM*

VMRC Main Office  
2600 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor, Newport News, Virginia  
Contact: Jack Travelstead at (757) 247-2247

The Draft Addendum proposes two changes to the tautog management program: (1) address the illegal trade of live tautog and, (2) prevent increases in fishing mortality (F) prior to the Completion of the next assessment.

The Draft Addendum was initiated in response to concern regarding the condition of the tautog stock and possible increased pressure on the stock due to illegal fishing activities and continued overfishing. Over the past couple of years, the Board has received reports from its Advisory Panel, Technical Committee, and the fishing public expressing concern about the illegal trade of live tautog and increased poaching. Options to address illegal live harvest include prohibiting recreational anglers from possessing live tautog and requiring recreational anglers to mark any live tautog.

Given that coastwide F continues to exceed the target established in Addendum IV, the Draft Addendum also proposes measures to prevent increases in F prior to the completion of the next assessment (spring/summer 2011). Specific options include requiring states to implement additional restrictions to meet the F target, a reduction of the F target, a requirement that state regulations prohibit possession in excess of existing bag/possession limits, and recommendations for tautog management in federal waters. The Draft Addendum also contains several other management issues for public comment that may be developed and considered in a future addendum.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (703) 842-0740. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on March 4, 2011 and should be forwarded to Chris Vonderweidt, FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; (703) 842-0741 (FAX) or at [cvonderweidt@asmfc.org](mailto:cvonderweidt@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Tautog Addendum VI). For more information, please contact Chris Vonderweidt at (703) 842-0740 or [cvonderweidt@asmfc.org](mailto:cvonderweidt@asmfc.org).

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