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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

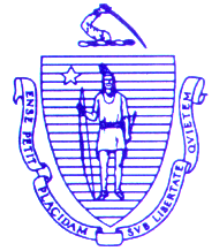
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August 26, 2015

Marine Fisheries Advisory

ASMFC Public Hearing on Tautog Management: September 29

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is seeking public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The PID responds to the findings of the 2015 benchmark stock assessment which, unlike previous coastwide assessments, evaluated stock status regionally to reflect differences in life history characteristics and harvest patterns. Based on the regional approach, the assessment also recommended biological reference points to guide management at the regional scale. Since tautog are currently managed on a coastwide basis, the Board initiated the amendment process to consider a regional management approach.

As the first step in the development of an amendment, the PID seeks to gather information concerning the tautog fishery and to provide an opportunity for the public to identify major issues and alternatives relative to the management of this species. Input received at the start of the amendment development process can have a major influence on the final outcome of the amendment. Issues presented in the PID include FMP goals and objectives, regional stock management units, adaptive management, monitoring requirements, and illegal fishing for tautog.

The states of Massachusetts through Virginia have scheduled hearings to gather public comment on the PID. The full schedule of public hearings is available via the ASMFC [website](#). The details of the Massachusetts hearing are as follows:

Tuesday, September 29 at 6:30 PM

Fairfield Inn & Suites

Vineyard Conference Room

185 MacArthur Drive

New Bedford, MA 02740

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID either by attending a public hearing or providing written comment. The PID is available [here](#) and can also be accessed on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under *Public Input*.

Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on October 23, 2015** and should be forwarded to Ashton Harp, FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at aharp@asmfc.org (Subject line: Tautog PID).

For more information, please contact Ashton Harp, at aharp@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740; or David Pierce, at david.pierce@state.ma.us or 617.626.1532.