



ASMFC Public Hearing on Striped Bass Draft Amendment 7: March 22, 2022, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) has scheduled a virtual public hearing for Connecticut on **Tuesday, March 22, 2022 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM** to gather public input on the Striped Bass Draft Addendum 7.

The Draft Amendment proposes options to address the following issues: management triggers, recreational release mortality, stock rebuilding plan, and conservation equivalency. These issues were identified during the public scoping process for Amendment 7 as critically important to help rebuild the stock and update the management program.

The Draft Amendment's proposed options consider changes to the management triggers, which determine when the Board is required to make management adjustments, and whether to adopt new restrictions or requirements for the use of conservation equivalency, which provides the states the flexibility to tailor the management measures. For stock rebuilding, the proposed options consider the impact of low recruitment and how the Board could respond to the 2022 stock assessment if action is needed to achieve stock rebuilding by 2029. Since release mortality in the recreational fishery is a large component of annual fishing mortality, the Draft Amendment considers options to reduce the number of striped bass released alive and options to increase the chance of survival after a striped bass is released.

The last time a new amendment to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) was adopted was in 2003 (Amendment 6). Since then, the status and understanding of the striped bass stock and fishery has changed considerably, and the results of the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment in particular led the Board to discuss a number of prominent issues facing striped bass management. Consequently, the Board initiated the development of Amendment 7 in August 2020 to update the management program to better align with current fishery needs and priorities. The Board intends for this amendment to build upon the Addendum VI to Amendment 6 action to end overfishing and initiate rebuilding in response to the overfished status of the stock.

The Draft Amendment is available at:

http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlStripedBassDraftAm7forPublicComment_Feb2022.pdf
or via the Commission's website at <http://www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>.

Webinar Instructions

Please note that to comment during virtual webinar hearings you will need to use your computer or download the GoToWebinar app for your smart phone. Those joining by phone (audio only) will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. In those cases, you can send your comments to staff via [email](#), U.S. mail, or fax at any time during the public comment period. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial [951.384.3421](tel:951.384.3421) and enter access code 269-324-049.

To register for a virtual public hearing webinar please click [HERE](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, and you can join the webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone. If you are new to GoToWebinar, you can download the software by ([clicking here](#)) 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 Commission 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. If you are joining the webinar but will not be using VoIP, you can may also call in at [951.384.3421](tel:951.384.3421), access code 269-324-049. An audio PIN will be provided to you after joining the webinar.

Submitting Comments

All those interested in the management of Atlantic striped bass are encouraged to provide input either by participating in public hearings, which may be conducted via webinar, or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until **11:59 PM (EDT) on April 15** and should be sent to Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Virginia 22201; [703.842.0741](tel:703.842.0741) (fax) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Amendment 7).

Public Hearing Schedule

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency	Contact
Wednesday, March 16 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Virginia Marine Resources Commission	Pat Geer , 757.247.2236 Shanna Madsen , 757.247.2247
Monday, March 21 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources & New Hampshire Fish and Game	Megan Ware , 207.446.0932 Cheri Patterson , 603.868.1095
Thursday, March 24 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management	Jason McNamee , 401.222.4700
Monday, March 28 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection & Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife	Joe Cimino , 609.748.2063 John Clark , 302.739.9108
Thursday, March 31 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources & Potomac River Fisheries Commission	Michael Luisi , 443.758.6547 Martin Gary , 804.224.7148
Tuesday, April 5 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection	Justin Davis , 860.447.4322
Monday, April 11 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation	Maureen Davidson , 631.444.0483
Wednesday, April 13 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries	Nichola Meserve , 617-626-1531

For those who cannot attend any in-person or virtual hearings, the Commission has posted 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 is available at

<https://youtu.be/tjUw92-Xl-4>. Additional summary resources are available on the Commission's website at <http://www.asmfcc.org/about-us/public-input>.

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