Reminder

ASMFC Public Hearing on Striped Bass Draft Amendment 7:

March 22, 2022, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

This is a reminder that 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. This notice also corrects the hearing dates in the table on pages 2 and 3.

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:

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 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](mailto: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, 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](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Amendment 7).

**Public Hearing Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Date and Hearing Format</th>
<th>State/Agency</th>
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| **Wednesday, March 8**  | Potomac River Fisheries Commission & District of Columbia Dept. of Energy and Environment | Martin Gary, 804.224.7148  
Daniel Ryan, 202.597.1244 |
| In-Person Hearing 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Hearing Location: Potomac River Fisheries Commission  
222 Taylor St, Colonial Beach, VA 22443 | |
| **Wednesday, March 9**  | Virginia Marine Resources Commission | Pat Geer, 757.247.2236 |
| Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | | |
| **Thursday, March 10**  | Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife | John Clark, 302.739.9108 |
| Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | | |
| **Monday, March 14**    | New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection & Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission | Joe Cimino, 609.748.2063  
Kris Kuhn, 814.359.5115 |
| Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | | |
| **Tuesday, March 15**   | Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management | Jason McNamee,  
401.222.4700 x2772414 |
| Webinar Hearing 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. | | |
| **Wednesday, March 16** | New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation | Maureen Davidson,  
631.444.0483 |
| In-person Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Hearing Location:  
NYSDEC Division of Marine Resources 123 Kings Park Blvd (inside Nissequogue River States Park), Kings Park, NY 11754 | |
| **Monday, March 21**    | Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries | Michael Armstrong,  
978.282.0308 x109 |
| Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | | |
| **Tuesday, March 22**   | Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection | Justin Davis, 860.447.4322 |
| Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | | |
| **Wednesday, March 23** | Maine Dept. of Marine Resources | Megan Ware, 207.446.0932 |
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.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact us at 860-418-5910 or by email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request. all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program, or event.