

Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - P.O. Box 9 - Colonial Beach, VA 22443
(804) 224-7148 - Fax: (804) 224-2712

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 27, 2019

Contact: Martin L. Gary

Arlington, VA -

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board releases Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass for public comment. Atlantic coastal states from Maine through North Carolina, including Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, have scheduled their hearings to gather public input on Draft Addendum VI. The details of those hearings follow. Massachusetts is still scheduling its hearings; a subsequent release will announce the details of those hearings once they are finalized.

- Virginia Marine Resources Commission - September 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM
- Potomac River Fisheries Commission - September 10, 2019, at 6 PM
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service - September 25, 2019 from 6 to 8 PM

Draft Addendum VI was initiated in response to the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment, which indicates the resource is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The Draft Addendum explores a range of management alternatives designed to end overfishing and reduce fishing mortality to the target level in 2020.

The Draft Addendum proposes management options for both commercial and recreational sectors in the ocean and in Chesapeake Bay in order to reduce total fishery removals by 18% relative to 2017 levels. The proposed measures include reduced quotas for commercial fisheries, and changes in bag limits, minimum sizes, and slot size limits for the recreational sector. Since catch and release practices represent a significant component of overall fishing mortality, the Draft Addendum also explores the

mandatory use of circle hooks when fishing with bait to reduce release mortality in recreational striped bass fisheries.

The Draft Addendum VI is available at:

http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassDraftAddVI_PublicComment_Aug2019.pdf or via the Commission's website at <http://www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>. Fishermen and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum VI either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until 5 PM (EST) on October 7, 2019 and should be sent to Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI).

If your organization is planning to release an action alert related to the Draft Addendum, please contact Max Appelman at mappelman@asmfc.org prior to its release. The Board will meet at the Commission's Annual Meeting in October to review public comment and consider final approval of the Addendum.

This meeting is open to the public and all interested persons are invited to attend. PRFC does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities; therefore, if you are in need of reasonable accommodations due to a disability, please call (804) 224-7148 no later than three workdays prior to the meeting date and identify your needs.