



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 16, 2018

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

***This press release revises that of April 23<sup>rd</sup> with the addition of a Massachusetts Hearing.***

## **States Schedule Public Hearings on American Eel Draft Addendum V**

Arlington, VA – Atlantic coastal states from Maine through Florida have scheduled their hearings to gather public input on Draft Addendum V to the American Eel Fishery Management Plan. The details of those hearings follow.

### **Maine Department of Marine Resources**

*June 6, 2018; 3 PM*

Jeff's Catering  
East West Industrial Park  
15 Littlefield Way  
Brewer, ME  
Contact: [Pat Keliher](#) at 207.624.6553

*June 7, 2018, 3 PM*

32 Blossom Lane, Room 118  
Augusta, ME  
Contact: [Pat Keliher](#) at 207.624.6553

### **New Hampshire Fish and Game Department**

*June 5, 2018; 7 PM*

Urban Forestry Center  
45 Elwyn Road  
Portsmouth, NH  
Contact: [Cheri Patterson](#) at 603.868.1095

### **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**

*June 7, 2018; 6 PM*

Bourne Public Library  
19 Sandwich Road  
Bourne, MA  
Contact: [Dan McKiernan](#) at 617.626.1536

### **Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*May 22, 2018; 6 PM*

University of Rhode Island Bay Campus  
Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, RI  
Contact: [Phil Edwards](#) at 401.789.0281

### **Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

*June 4, 2018; 7 PM*

CT DEEP Boating Education Center  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, CT  
Contact: [Peter Aarrestad](#) at 860.424.4171

### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

*May 9, 2018; 7 PM*

21 South Putt Corners Road  
New Paltz, NY  
Contact: [Greg Kenney](#) at 845.256.3199

*May 17, 2018, 6:30 PM*

NYSDEC Marine Resources Headquarters  
205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1  
East Setauket, NY  
Contact: [John Maniscalco](#) at 631.444.0437

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*May 10, 2018; 7 PM*

Atlantic County Library/Galloway Township  
306 East Jimmie Leeds Road  
Galloway, NJ  
Contact: [Heather Corbett](#) at 609.748.2020

**Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*May 17, 2018; 6 PM*

DNREC Auditorium  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, DE  
Contact: [John Clark](#) at 302.739.9914

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

*June 11, 2018; 6 PM*

Tawes State Office Building, Room C1  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD  
Contact: [Lynn Fegley](#) at 410.260.8285

**Potomac River Fisheries Commission**

*May 15, 2018; 6 PM*

Carpenter Building  
222 Taylor Street  
Colonial Beach, VA  
Contact: [Martin Gary](#) at 804.456.6935

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission**

*May 16, 2018; 6 PM*

2600 Washington Avenue  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Newport News, VA  
Contact: [Rob O'Reilly](#) at 757.247.2248

**North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries**

*May 14, 2018; 6 PM*

Washington Regional Office  
943 Washington Square Mall Highway 17  
Washington, NC  
Contact: [Chris Batsavage](#) at 252.808.8009

**South Carolina Department of Natural Resources**

*May 21, 2018, 6 PM*

Marine Resources Research Institute  
217 Fort Johnson Road  
Charleston, SC  
Contact: [Bill Post](#) at 843.953.9821

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

*June 12, 2018; 6 PM*

Putnam County Board of County  
Commissioner's Board Room  
2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 100  
Palatka, FL  
Contact: [Jim Estes](#) at 850.617.9622

Since the implementation of Addendum IV in 2014, states have raised several concerns about the current management program. Currently, the yellow eel fishery is managed to an annual coastwide landings cap (referred to as the coastwide cap) of 907,671 pounds and evaluated against two management triggers: (1) the coastwide cap is exceeded by more than 10% in a given year; or (2) the coastwide cap is exceeded in two consecutive years, regardless of the percent overage. If either of these triggers are met, state-by-state quotas are required to be implemented. 2016 landings exceeded the coastwide cap by less than 10%. If landings in 2017 exceed the coastwide cap, state-by-state quotas will need to be implemented. These current management provisions are concerning to some jurisdictions given uncertainty in the landings data.

The Board initiated Draft Addendum V to address these concerns and consider a number of changes to the current management program. Specifically, changes are being considered for the coastwide cap, management triggers, state-by-state allocations, and quota transfer provisions for the yellow eel commercial fishery; as well as the current Maine glass eel commercial quota and the aquaculture provisions of the plan.

If approved, the proposed alternatives to the current management program would be implemented starting in the 2019 fishing season. **Since the four management issues related to the yellow eel fishery are linked (e.g., coastwide cap, management trigger, state-by-state allocations, quota transfers), the public is encouraged to specify their preferred alternatives for each issue.**

The Draft Addendum is available at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AmEelDraftAddendumV\\_PublicComment\\_April2018revised.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AmEelDraftAddendumV_PublicComment_April2018revised.pdf) or on the Commission website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), under Public Input. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment.

Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on June 15, 2018** and should be forwarded to Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Addendum V).

Final action on the Addendum is scheduled to occur at the Commission's Summer Meeting. For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

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