



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*ASMFC Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section Withdraws Draft Amendment 3 from Public Comment to Refine Proposed Spawning Protection Measures**

Arlington, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Herring Section has withdrawn Draft Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan from public consideration and review in order to further develop the proposed spawning protection measures. Draft Amendment 3 addresses three major issues: spawning protection measures, fixed gear set-aside provisions, and requirements to empty fish holds.

During yesterday’s conference call, Section members expressed concern about the highly technical nature of the proposed measures and the potential impacts of these measures to the fishing industry. Section Chair Terry Stockwell committed to providing detailed guidance to Commission staff and the Plan Development Team on needed changes to the proposed spawning protection measures at the Section’s meeting in August. The intent of these changes would be to clearly define the goal of spawning protections, describe proposed methodologies and measures in a way that is understandable to the fishing industry and stakeholders, and detail the benefits and impacts of spawning closures to the resource.

Based on the guidance they receive in August, the Plan Development Team and the Technical Committee will work to refine the proposed spawning protection measures for Section consideration at the Commission’s Annual Meeting in November. Once approved, the Draft Amendment will be released for public comment, with final plan approval scheduled for February 2016.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

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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.

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