



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ASMFC Releases Smooth Dogfish Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment States Schedule Hearings for late June**

Arlington, VA – The states of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland and North Carolina have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. The details of those hearings follow.

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

*June 28, 2016 at 7 PM*  
Marine Headquarters  
Boating Education Center  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
Contact: [Colleen Giannini](mailto:Colleen.Giannini@dep.state.ct.us) at 860.447.4308

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

*June 28, 2016 at 6:30 PM*  
Bureau of Marine Resources  
205 North Belle Mead Road  
East Setauket, New York  
Contact: [Steve Heins](mailto:Steve.Heins@dec.state.ny.us) at 631.444.0435

#### **New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife**

*June 22, 2016 at 6:30 PM*  
Nacote Creek Marine Law Enforcement Office  
360 North New York Road, Mile Marker 51  
Port Republic, New Jersey  
Contact: [Russ Allen](mailto:Russ.Allen@dep.state.nj.us) at 609.748.2037

#### **Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

*June 21, 2016 at 3:30 – 5:00 PM*  
Ocean Pines Library Conference Room  
11107 Cathell Road  
Ocean Pines, Maryland  
Contact: [Michael Luisi](mailto:Michael.Luisi@dnr.state.md.us) at 410.260.8341

#### **North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries**

*June 23, 2016 at 5:00 PM*  
Dare County Center  
Courthouse Campus  
950 Marshall C. Collins Dr.  
Manteo, North Carolina  
Contact: [Holly White](mailto:Holly.White@dmf.nc.gov) at 252.264.3911

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.

The purpose of the Draft Addendum is to maintain consistency between federal and state FMPs, where possible, and to better incorporate the intent of the smooth dogfish limited exception in the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 (SCA) into state regulations.

Under current regulations, commercial fishermen with only a state commercial fishing license can land smooth dogfish with corresponding fins removed from the carcass. The Draft Addendum proposes to amend the FMP to allow smooth dogfish carcasses to be landed with corresponding fins removed from the carcass as long as the total retained catch, by weight, is composed of at least 25 percent smooth dogfish. This option is consistent with the federal catch composition requirement, which was included in NOAA Fisheries' final rule for Amendment 9.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum can be obtained at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/CoastalSharksDraftAddendumIV\\_PublicComment.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/CoastalSharksDraftAddendumIV_PublicComment.pdf) or via the Commission's website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), under *Public Input*. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on July 11, 2016** and should be forwarded to Ashton Harp, FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [aharp@asmfc.org](mailto:aharp@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Addendum IV).

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