



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission NEWS RELEASE

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 17, 2016

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This press release revises that of November 9, 2016 with the addition of details on a New York public hearing.

## States Schedule Hearings on Jonah Crab Draft Addendum II

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic coastal states of Maine through Virginia have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum II to the Jonah Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The details of the scheduled hearings follow.

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

*December 13, 2016; 6 PM*

Casco Bay Lines Conference Room  
56 Commercial Street  
Portland, Maine

Contact: [Terry Stockwell](#) at 207.624.6553

\*This hearing will precede the Menhaden PID hearing

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

*December 19, 2016; 6 PM*

University of Rhode Island Bay Campus  
Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, Rhode Island

Contact: [Robert Ballou](#) at 401.222.4700 ext: 4420

\* This hearing will precede the Menhaden PID hearing

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

*December 6, 2016; 7 PM*

Urban Forestry Center  
45 Elwyn Road  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Contact: [Doug Grout](#) at 603.868.1095

\* This hearing will precede the Menhaden PID hearing

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

*December 14, 2016; 7 PM*

CT DEEP Boating Education Center  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut

Contact: [David Simpson](#) at 860.434.6043

\* This hearing will follow the Menhaden PID hearing

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

*December 12, 2016; 5 PM*

Bourne Community Center, Room 1  
239 Maine Street  
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

Contact: [Dan Mckiernan](#) at 617.626.1536

\* This hearing will precede the Menhaden PID hearing

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

*December 5, 2016 at 7 PM*

Cornell Cooperative Extension Office  
423 Griffing Avenue  
Riverhead, New York

Contact: [Kim McKown](#) at 631.444.0454

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.

**Delaware Department of Natural Resources and  
Environmental Control & Maryland Department of  
Natural Resources**

*December 8, 2016; 6 PM*

901 Pilottown Road

Lewes, Delaware

Contact: [John Clark](mailto:John.Clark@dnrec.de.gov) at 302.729.9914

\* This is a joint hearing of DE DNREC and MD DNR; it precedes the DE DNREC menhaden public hearing

**Virginia Marine Resource Commission**

*December 8, 2016; 5:30 PM*

2600 Washington Ave, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Newport News, Virginia

Contact: [Joe Cimino](mailto:Joe.Cimino@vmrc.virginia.gov) at 757.247.2237

The Draft Addendum considers establishing a coastwide standard for claw harvest to address concerns regarding the equity of the current claw provision. Specific options include establishing a whole crab fishery or allowing for the harvest of claws coastwide. The Draft Addendum also considers establishing a definition of bycatch, based on a percent composition of catch, in order to minimize the expansion of a small-scale fishery under the bycatch allowance.

The FMP currently establishes a whole crab fishery with the exception of fishermen from NJ, DE, MD, and VA who have a history of claw landings prior to June 2, 2015. Following approval of the FMP, claw fishermen from NY and ME were identified. Currently, these fishermen are required to land whole crabs. As a result, jurisdictions have expressed concern regarding the equity of this provision as some fishermen with a history of claw landings are allowed to continue this practice while others must land whole crabs.

In order to address concerns regarding the expansion of a small-scale fishery, consideration of a bycatch definition was added as a second issue in the Draft Addendum. Addendum I established a bycatch allowance of 1,000 crabs per trip for non-trap gears and non-lobster trap gears (i.e., fish pots, crab pots, whelk traps). Fishermen using these gears are not required to have other species on Board when harvesting Jonah crab. As a result, fishermen harvesting Jonah crab under the bycatch limit may, in fact, directly target Jonah crab by landing 1,000 crabs per trip and nothing else. This does not reflect the intention of the bycatch allowance which is to account for Jonah crab caught while targeting another species.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum II either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum can be obtained at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/JonahCrabAddendumII\\_PublicComment.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/JonahCrabAddendumII_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 PM (EST) on January 6, 2017** and should be forwarded to Megan Ware, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [mware@asmfc.org](mailto:mware@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Jonah Crab Draft Addendum II).

The Board will review submitted public comment and consider final action on the Draft Addendum at the Commission's Winter Meeting. For more information, please contact Megan Ware at [mware@asmfc.org](mailto:mware@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

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