



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger or Michael Schmidtke  
703.842.0740

### **Maryland Schedules Public Hearing on Black Drum Draft Addendum I**

Arlington, VA – Maryland has scheduled their hearing to gather public comment on Draft Addendum I to the Black Drum Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The details of this hearing are as follows:

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

*March 15, 2018 at 5:30 PM*

Maryland DNR

580 Taylor Ave, Room C1

Annapolis, MD

Contact: [Lynn Fegley](mailto:Lynn.Fegley@dnr.state.md.us) at 410.260.8285

Draft Addendum I responds to a proposal from the state of Maryland to reopen its commercial fishery for black drum in the Chesapeake Bay (Bay). In the late 1990s, Maryland closed the commercial black drum fishery in its Bay waters to conduct a tagging and migration study. The fishery was not reopened after the study. In 2013, the Black Drum FMP extended this closure by requiring states to maintain management measures in place at the time of the FMP's approval.

Draft Addendum I presents a management option that would reopen Maryland's commercial fishery for black drum in the Chesapeake Bay with a daily vessel limit of up to 10 fish and a 28 inch minimum total length size limit.

The Draft Addendum is available on the Commission's black drum species webpage, [http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/5a8440a5BDRM\\_Draft\\_Addendum\\_I\\_for\\_Public\\_Comment.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/5a8440a5BDRM_Draft_Addendum_I_for_Public_Comment.pdf), and on the Commission's website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), under Public Input. Fishermen and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending the public hearing or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on March 23, 2018**, and should be forwarded to Dr. Michael Schmidtke, 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: Black Drum Draft Addendum I). Final action on the Draft Addendum is scheduled to occur in May 2018.

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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.

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201  
703.842.0740 (phone) 703.842.0741 (fax) [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)

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