



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2024

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This release revises the one distributed on May 23rd with the addition of the location details for the South Carolina in-person hearing and the link to Draft Addendum II for public comment.

States Schedule Public Hearings on Atlantic Cobia Draft Addendum II

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic coastal states of New York through Georgia have scheduled hearings to gather public input on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Cobia, which considers recreational allocation, harvest target evaluation, and the timeline for setting management specifications.

Some hearings will be conducted in-person, and some hearings will be conducted via webinar. If you are unable to participate in your state’s scheduled hearing, you are welcome to participate in any of the virtual hearings. The public hearing details follow:

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency	Contact
Wednesday, June 5 <i>In-person Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources <i>Hearing Location:</i> Sapelo Saltwater Fishing Club 3576 Old Shellman Road Townsend, GA 31331	Doug Haymans 912.264.7218
Thursday, June 6 <i>In-person Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources <i>Hearing Location:</i> Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center 310 Okatie Highway Okatie, SC 29909	Ben Dyar 843.953.9841

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 diadromous species.

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency	Contact
<p>Tuesday, June 11 <i>In-person Hearing</i> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>North Carolina Dept. of Environmental Quality</p> <p><i>Hearing Location:</i> Dare County Administration Building 954 Marshall Collins Drive Room 168 Manteo, NC 27954</p>	<p>Chris Batsavage 252.241.2995</p>
<p>Wednesday, June 12 <i>In-person Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Virginia Marine Resources Commission</p> <p><i>Hearing Location:</i> Virginia Marine Resources Commission 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96 Fort Monroe, VA, 23651</p>	<p>Shanna Madsen 757.247.2200</p>
<p>Thursday, June 20 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources and Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources</p> <p><i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i></p>	<p>Ben Dyar (SC) 843.953.9841</p> <p>Doug Haymans (GA) 912.264.7218</p>
<p>Monday, June 24 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and North Carolina Dept. of Environmental Quality</p> <p><i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i></p>	<p>Lynn Fegley (MD) 410.260.8285</p> <p>Shanna Madsen (VA) 757.247.2200</p> <p>Chris Batsavage (NC) 252.241.2995</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 25 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection, and Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control</p> <p><i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i></p>	<p>John Maniscalco (NY) 631.444.0437</p> <p>Joe Cimino (NJ) 609.748.2063</p> <p>John Clark (DE) 302.739.9108</p>

The Commission’s Coastal Pelagics Management Board initiated the Draft Addendum to consider updating recreational allocations using more recent harvest data, which reflects increased cobia landings in some Mid-Atlantic states in recent years. Draft Addendum II presents options for Atlantic cobia management, including a framework for recreational allocation, ways to account for data uncertainty and respond to quota overages, and an extended multi-year specification setting. For the recreational allocation framework,

Draft Addendum II considers options for the data timeframe to form the basis for allocations, and options for the geographic scope of allocations (state-by-state, regional, or coastwide).

Webinar Instructions

Please note that in order to comment during virtual webinar hearings you will need to use your computer or download the GoTo app for your phone. Those joining by phone only will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. In those cases, you can send your comments to staff via [email](#) or US mail at any time during the public comment period. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial 562.247.8422 and enter access code 240-122-968. If you are unable to participate in your state's scheduled hearing, you are welcome to participate in any of the virtual hearings.

For all virtual hearings, please click [HERE](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu to register for a public hearing webinar. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, and you can join the webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone. If you are new to GoToWebinar, you can download the software by ([clicking here](#)) or via the App store under GoTo. We recommend you register for the hearing well in advance of the hearing since GoToWebinar will provide you with a link to test your device's compatibility with the webinar. If you find your device is not compatible, please contact the Commission at info@asmfc.org (subject line: GoToWebinar help) and we will try to get you connected. We also strongly encourage participants to **use the computer voice over internet protocol (VoIP)** so you can ask questions and provide input at the hearing.

Hearing Presentation Recording

For those who cannot attend any in-person or virtual hearings, the Commission will also post a recording of the hearing presentation on the Commission's YouTube page so that stakeholders may watch the presentation and submit comment at any time during the comment process. This recording will be available by early June, with the recording link provided at <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>.

Submitting Comments

The Draft Addendum is available at https://asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AtlCobiaDraftAddII_PublicComment_May2024.pdf or on the Commission's Public Input webpage at <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>. All those interested in the management of Atlantic cobia are encouraged to provide input either by participating in public hearings, which may be conducted in-person or via webinar, or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until **11:59 PM (EST) on July 8, 2024** and should be sent to Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Virginia 22201; or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Cobia Draft Addendum II).

If your organization is planning to release an action alert in response to the Draft Addendum, please contact Emilie Franke at efranke@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740, so she can work with you to develop a unique subject line to enable us to better organize and summarize incoming comments for Board review.

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