



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration
well in progress by the year 2015*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2013

(Revises March 20 press release with the addition of public hearing information for Maryland and Virginia.)

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States Schedule Hearings on Draft Black Drum FMP

Arlington, VA – The states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on the Draft Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Black Drum Draft. The dates, times, and locations of those meetings follow.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

April 10, 2013; 7 PM

Nacote Creek Research Station
360 Route 9 North (milepost 51)
Port Republic, New Jersey
Contact: Russ Allen at 609.748.2020

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

April 1, 2013; 7 PM

Barrier Islands Center
7295 Young Street
Machipongo, Virginia
Contact: Rob O'Reilly at 757.247.2248

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

April 2, 2013; 7 - 9 PM

DNREC Building
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware
Contact: John Clark at 302.739.9914

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

March 27, 2013; 6 PM

Central District Office
5285 U.S. Highway 70 West
Morehead City, North Carolina
Contact: Chris Stewart at 910.796.7370

Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service

April 3, 2013; 6 PM

580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland
Contact: Harry Rickabaugh at 410.643.6785

The Draft FMP solicits comment on a range of issues, including management goals and objectives; recreational and commercial management measures; flexibility to react to new assessment information; *de minimis* levels and exemptions; monitoring requirements and recommendations; and recommended measures for implementation by NOAA Fisheries in federal waters. The FMP was initiated in response to

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.

concern regarding significant increases in harvest in recent years and the fact that the fishery primarily targets juveniles. Further, the lack of consistent coastwide regulations or management goals may negatively impact the black drum population as fishing pressures shifts from other stocks.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft FMP either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft FMP is available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under *Breaking News* or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. The public comment deadline is **5:00 PM (EST) on April 26, 2013** and should be forwarded to Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or tkerns@asmfc.org (Subject line: Black Drum FMP). The FMP is scheduled for final approval during the Commission's 2013 Spring Meeting.

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