



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
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ASMFC Begins Preparations for Atlantic Menhaden Benchmark Stock Assessment

Arlington, VA – This winter, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will continue work on the 2014 benchmark stock assessment for Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*). The assessment will be used to evaluate the health of the Atlantic menhaden stock and inform the management of this species. The Commission's stock assessment process and meetings are open to the public, with the exception of discussions of confidential data, when the public will be asked to leave the room.



The Commission welcomes the submission of data sources that will improve the accuracy of the assessment. These include, but are not limited to, data on commercial landings and discards, catch per unit effort, biological samples (length or age frequency), and life history information (growth, maturity, fecundity, spawning stock biomass weights, natural mortality). For data sets to be considered, the data must be sent in the required format, with accompanying description of methods, to the Commission by **December 1, 2013**. For more information on submitting data, including the appropriate format, and/or attending the Atlantic menhaden data workshop (space is limited), please contact Dr. Genny Nessler, ASMFC Stock Assessment Scientist, at gnesslage@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740. The deadline for data submission is **December 1, 2013**.

The Data Workshop will be conducted on January 13-16, 2014 (location to be determined). This workshop will review all available data sources for Atlantic menhaden and identify data sets that will be incorporated in the stock assessment. A subsequent press release will announce the location of the Data Workshop. For more information on the stock assessment process, please contact Michael Wayne, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwayne@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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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.

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