



**For Immediate Release**

**July 14, 2010**

Tina Berger  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Phone: (202)289-6400  
Email: [tberger@asmfc.org](mailto:tberger@asmfc.org)

### **Fish & Boat Commission Schedules Public Hearing on Striped Bass Draft Addendum II**

Washington, DC – Atlantic coastal states from Maine through North Carolina have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow:

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
July 20, 2010; 6:30 PM  
Pennsbury Manor, Visitor's Center Auditorium  
400 Pennsbury Memorial Road  
Morrisville, Pennsylvania  
Contact: Leroy Young at (814) 359-5177

The Draft Addendum proposes two changes to the striped bass management program: (1) an increase in the coastal commercial quota, and (2) revising the definition of recruitment failure based on Technical Committee advice.

The proposal to increase the coastal commercial quota is intended to improve equality between the commercial and recreational fishery sectors. Although Amendment 6 established management programs for both fisheries based on the same target fishing mortality rate, the implementation of state-specific quotas for coastal commercial harvest (and not for recreational harvest) has prevented the commercial and recreational fisheries from responding equally to changes in striped bass population size. Since 2003, coastal commercial harvest has decreased by 3.6 percent, while recreational harvest has increased by 13.7 percent. Under the option, the Board would select a percent increase to be applied to the coastal commercial allocations assigned in Amendment 6.

The Management Board voted to include a second issue in the Draft Addendum based on information presented at the meeting. As part of its review of the juvenile abundance indices, the Striped Bass Technical Committee recommended to the Management Board a revision to how striped bass recruitment failure is defined. Juvenile abundance indices are an important component of the striped bass monitoring program and are used to determine periods of recruitment failure which can trigger management action under Amendment 6. Adopting the proposed recommendation would result in a fixed value to determine recruitment failure in each surveyed area rather than a value that changes from year to year. Use of either the Amendment 6 definition or the Technical Committee recommendation for recruitment failure does not result in any necessary changes to the current management program.

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*To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.*



## Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

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Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website at [www.asmf.org](http://www.asmf.org) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on October 1, 2010 and should be forwarded to Nichola Meserve, FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at [nmeserve@asmfc.org](mailto:nmeserve@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Striped Bass Addendum II). For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at (202) 289-6400 or [nmeserve@asmfc.org](mailto:nmeserve@asmfc.org).

Other upcoming scheduled hearings include:

Maine Department of Marine Resources  
September 14, 2010; 6:00 PM  
Town of Yarmouth Log Cabin  
196 Main Street  
Yarmouth, Maine  
Contact: Terry Stockwell at (207) 624-6553

New Hampshire Fish and Game  
September 13, 2010; 7:00 PM  
Urban Forestry Center  
45 Elwyn Road  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
Contact: Doug Grout at (603) 868-1095

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
August 16, 2010; 6:00 PM  
Holiday Inn  
55 Ariadne Road  
Dedham, Massachusetts  
Contact: Jared Silva at (617) 626-1534

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife  
August 17, 2010; 6:00 PM  
URI, Narragansett Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium  
215 South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, Rhode Island  
Contact: Mark Gibson at (401) 423-1935

New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
July 21, 2010; 7:00 PM  
Marine Resources Headquarters  
205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1  
East Setauket, New York  
Contact: Steve Heins at (631) 444-0436

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife  
July 22; 7:00 PM  
Toms River Township Clerk's Office

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L. Manuel Hirshblond Room  
33 Washington Street  
Toms River, New Jersey  
Contact: Brandon Muffley at (609) 748-2020

July 19, 2010; 6:00 PM  
Tawes State Office Building, C1 Conf. Room  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Contact: Carrie Kennedy at (410) 260-8295

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