



Marine Fisheries News



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to Meet November 13th & 14th to Consider Approval of Amendment 3 and Set 2018 Specifications

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Management Board will meet November 13-14, 2017 to consider approval of Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden and set specifications for the 2018 fishing season. The meeting, which is scheduled to begin at 1 PM on the 13th and end at 5 PM on the 14th, will take place at BWI Marriot, 1743 West Nursery Road, Linthicum, Maryland.

Draft Amendment 3, which is currently out for public comment, seeks to manage the menhaden resource in a way that balances menhaden's ecological role as a prey species with the needs of all user groups. To this end, the Draft Amendment considers the use of ecosystem reference points (ERPs) to manage the resource and changes to the allocation method. In addition, it presents a suite of management options for quota transfers, quota rollovers, incidental catch, the episodic events set aside program, and the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap.

Specifications for the 2018 fishery will occur following Board approval of the Amendment. The Commission's Business Session will meet immediately following the conclusion of the Atlantic Menhaden Board meeting to consider final approval of the Amendment.

The meeting will be live-streamed via webinar; the details of which will be released at a later date. For more information, please contact Megan Ware, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mware@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.



NOAA FISHERIES NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Nominations sought for open positions on the MAFAC

Accepted through November 27, 2017

NOAA Fisheries is seeking nominations to fill current and pending vacancies on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) due to term limits. MAFAC advised the Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. The Committee draws on its members' expertise and other sources to evaluate and make recommendations to the Secretary and NOAA on the development and implementation of agency regulations, policies, and programs critical to the mission and goals of the

NOAA Fisheries Service.

MAFAC members represent a wide spectrum of commercial, recreational, subsistence and aquaculture fisheries interests; tribes, seafood industry; protected resources and habitat interests; environmental organizations; academic institutions; consumer groups; and other living marine resource interest groups.

Nominees should possess demonstrable expertise in one of these fields and be able to fulfill the time commitments required for two in-person annual meetings and between-meeting subcommittee work. Membership is balanced geographically across states and territories, ethnically, and on the basis of gender, in addition to the range of expertise and interests listed. Individual serve for a term of three years. Members may serve a second consecutive term if re-appointed.

Membership is voluntary, and except for reimbursable travel and related expenses, service is without pay.

For questions or more information, contact Jennifer Lukens, Executive Director of MAFAC at jennifer.lukens@noaa.gov



NOAA FISHERIES NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NOAA Fisheries Releases Response to National Academies Recommendations, Final Version of MRIP Strategic Plan

NOAA Fisheries has released its Framework for Addressing the National Academies Recommendations and the final version of the five-year MRIP Strategic Plan. Both documents will serve as important guideposts as we continue our commitment to making improvements to catch and effort surveys and the resulting estimates.

Response to National Academies Review

In January 2017, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a comprehensive follow-up review to their 2006 independent, expert analysis of MRIP. NOAA Fisheries requested this follow-up review to measure MRIP's progress in implementing recommendations from the Academies' previous report. The review and its findings will help us further refine our recreational fisheries information collection efforts and prioritize our improvement efforts to best meet the evolving needs of fisheries scientists, stock assessors, managers, and stakeholders.

While the Academies recognized the agency for making "impressive progress" over the past 10 years, the review also highlighted some remaining challenges and offered a series of recommendations. The Framework lays out our approach for addressing each of the Academies' specific recommendations. The Academies report, Review of the Marine Recreational Information Program, is available for PDF download on the National Academies Press [website](#). (to page 29)