

September 18, 2018
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Reminder: Public Hearing on Summer Flounder Commercial Issues Amendment

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission are seeking public input on a draft amendment to address several potential changes to the management of the commercial summer flounder (fluke) fishery, as well as modifications to the fishery management plan (FMP) goals and objectives for summer flounder. Ten public hearings will be held between September 10 and September 27. Written comments will be accepted through October 12, 2018.

Massachusetts Public Hearing

Wednesday, September 19, 2018, 5:30 PM
Bourne Community Center, Room #2
239 Main Street, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

Internet Webinar

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 6:30 PM
Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5467929991483514883>
Webinar ID: 658-611-667; Phone: 1-888-585-9008; Room Number: 853-657-937

Written Comment

Due Friday, October 12, 2018, 11:59 PM
Online: www.mafmc.org/comments/summer-flounder-amendment
E-mail: nmfs.flukeamendment@noaa.gov
Mail: Chris Moore, MAFMC, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Fax: Chris Moore, MAFMC, 302-674-5399

Include "Summer Flounder Commercial Issues Amendment Comments" in the subject line or on the envelope.
Please do not send separate comments to the Council and Commission.

The specific issues under consideration in this amendment include:

1. **Requalifying criteria for federal commercial moratorium permits to address latent effort in the fishery:** The amendment includes options to reduce the number of eligible commercial federal moratorium permits by implementing requalifying criteria for existing permits.
2. **Modifying commercial quota allocation:** The amendment proposes several options for revising the current commercial allocation to the states, which has been in place since 1993 and is based on average landings from 1980–1989.
3. **Adding commercial landings flexibility as a framework issue in the Council's FMP:** This action does not consider implementing landings flexibility policies at this time but considers allowing the Council to implement landings flexibility through a future framework action instead of an amendment. The Commission's adaptive management process already allows for landings flexibility.
4. **Revising the FMP objectives for summer flounder:** This amendment proposes revisions to the current FMP objectives for summer flounder management to provide more meaningful and up-to-date guidance to managers.

Learn More: Additional information about the amendment and the management alternatives being considered can be found on the Council's website at <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment> and on

the Commission's website at <http://www.asafc.org/about-us/public-input>. This information includes three documents: (1) the Public Hearing Document, which includes all proposed management changes and was developed to solicit public comment; (2) the Commission's Draft Amendment; and (3) the Council's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Both the Commission's Draft Amendment and the Council's DEIS are required under their respective regulatory processes.

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