



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2014

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703.842.0740

States Schedule Hearings on Cancer Crab Public Information Document

Arlington, VA – Atlantic coastal states from Maine to Maryland have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) for the Draft Fishery Management Plan for Cancer Crab. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled hearings follow.

Maine Department of Marine Resources

September 22, 2014; 6 PM

Casco Bay Lines Ferry Terminal
Conference Room
56 Commercial Street
Portland, Maine
Contact: [Terry Stockwell](mailto:Terry.Stockwell@maine.gov) at 207.624.6553

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

September 25, 2014; 6 PM

URI Narragansett Bay Campus,
Coastal Institute Auditorium
South Ferry Road
Narragansett, Rhode Island
Contact: [Jeff Mercer](mailto:Jeff.Mercer@uri.edu) at 401.423.1937

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

September 24, 2014; 6 – 8 PM

Fairfield Inn and Suites, Vineyard Room
185 McArthur Drive
New Bedford, Massachusetts
Contact: [Dan McKiernan](mailto:Dan.McKiernan@dmf.maine.gov) at 617.626.1536

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

September 15, 2014; 7PM

Marine Headquarters
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme Connecticut
Contact: [Colleen Giannini](mailto:Colleen.Giannini@dep.state.ct.us) at 860.447.4308

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

September 24, 2014; 5 PM

Ocean Pines Branch Library
11107 Cathell Road
Berlin, Maryland
Contact: [Craig Weedon](mailto:Craig.Weedon@dnr.state.md.us) at 410.643.4601 x 2113

As the first step in the development of a FMP, the PID seeks public input on information concerning Cancer crab fisheries, including the identification of major issues and options relative to the management of these species. The PID was initiated in response to concern about increasing targeted fishing pressure for Jonah crab and rock crab (collectively referred to as Cancer crab). Both species have

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long been considered a bycatch in the lobster fishery, however, growing market demand has doubled landings in the past seven years. Landings of both species in 2012 was over 12 million pounds and estimated to be worth over \$9 million. Given the absence of state and federal management programs and stock assessments for Cancer crab, there is concern the current harvest may compromise the sustainability of the resource.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The PID is available at http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/Crab_PID_forPublicComment_Aug2014.pdf and can also be accessed on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under Public Input. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on October 3, 2014 and should be forwarded to Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at ktaylor@asmfc.org (Subject line: Cancer Crabs). For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, at ktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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