

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Amendment 15 Scoping Meetings and Comments: April 1 to June 30, 2006

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) proposes to develop Amendment 15 to its Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass in order to address a wide range of issues relating to the management of these three species. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the Council coordinate and complement the management of all three species. Therefore, the Council and Commission will jointly participate in the amendment development and approval process. The Council is beginning the process of gathering information and is seeking input on the range of issues to be considered during the development of Amendment 15.

A series of 11 scoping meetings will provide stakeholder groups and interested parties the opportunity to provide comments during the 90-day public comment period. The scoping document will be distributed to all entities on the Council's mailing list and will be available at all of the scoping meetings. This document is also available via the Internet at <http://www.mafmc.org/mid-atlantic/comments/comments.htm>, and can be obtained on request from the Council office at the Council's address given below. Dates and locations for the scoping meetings are as follows:

<u>Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries</u> <i>April 20, 2006, 6:00 PM</i> Radisson Plymouth Harbor 180 Water Street Plymouth, Massachusetts Contact: David Pierce, (617) 626-1532	<u>Maryland Department of Natural Resources</u> <i>April 10, 2006, 6:30 PM</i> Ocean Pines Library 11107 Cathell Road Ocean Pines, Maryland Contact: Howard J. King, III, (410) 260-8281
<u>Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife</u> <i>April 10, 2006, 6:00 PM</i> URI Narragansett Bay Campus Corless Auditorium South Ferry Road Narragansett, Rhode Island Contact: Brian Murphy, (401) 423-1941	<u>Virginia Marine Resources Commission</u> <i>April 4, 2006, 7:00 PM</i> 2600 Washington Ave, 4 th floor Newport News, Virginia Contact: Jack Travelstead, (757) 247-2247
<u>Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection</u> <i>April 11, 2006, 7:00 PM</i> DEP, Marine Headquarters 333 Ferry Road Old Lyme, Connecticut Contact: Dave Simpson, (860) 434-6043	<u>Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council</u> <i>May 2, 2006, 7:00 PM</i> Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel 36th & Atlantic Avenue Virginia Beach, VA 23451 Contact: Dan Furlong, (302) 674-2331

<u>New York Department of Environmental Conservation</u> Date, time, and location to be determined. Check with the ASMFC at www.asmfc.org for updated meeting information. Contact: Gordon Colvin (631) 444-0433	<u>North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries</u> <i>April 3, 2006, 7:00 PM</i> Roanoke Island Festival Park One Festival Park Manteo, North Carolina Contact: Red Munden, (252) 726-7021
<u>New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife</u> <i>April 18, 2006, 7:00 PM</i> Ocean County Complex 118 Washington Street Toms River, NJ Contact: Tom McCloy, (609) 292-7794	<u>North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries</u> <i>April 4, 2006, 7:00 PM</i> Carteret Community College CMAST Building, Room 306 Morehead City, NC Contact: Red Munden, (252) 726-7021
<u>Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife</u> <i>April 18, 2006, 7:00 PM</i> Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium 89 Kings Highway Dover, Delaware Contact: Rick Cole, (302) 739-4782	<i>Your comments are invited</i>

In addition to providing information and comments at the above scoping meetings, you may submit written comments on or before 5:00 p.m., local time, on June 30, 2006 to:

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300 South New Street
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Telephone: (302) 674-2331
Fax: (302) 674-5399

Comments may also be sent via fax at the above fax number or by e-mail to FSB-NOI@NOAA.GOV. Please note on your correspondence and in the subject line of e-mail comments the following identifier: "Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Amendment 15 Scoping Comments."