
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong
(302) 674-2331 x19

Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Amendment 14 Public Hearings: January 22-24, 2007

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold public hearings to allow stakeholder groups and interested parties to comment on actions proposed in Amendment 14 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP. In August 2005, NMFS notified the Council that the scup stock has officially been designated as overfished. Therefore, the purpose of Amendment 14 is to develop a rebuilding plan for the scup stock, thereby preventing overfishing and rebuilding the scup stock biomass to the level associated with maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}). In addition, the scup Gear Restricted Areas (GRAs) currently addressed and modified through the annual specification setting process would be made modifiable through frameworks to the FMP. This action is needed to improve the timing of implementation of modifications to the GRAs and allow those actions to be expedited through framework documents as opposed to being tied only to the annual specifications.

All public hearings will begin at 7 p.m. The dates and locations of the hearings are as follows:

- Monday, January 22, 2007: Hilton Garden Inn Providence, 1 Thurber Street, Warwick, RI 02886.
- Tuesday, January 23, 2007: Best Western East End, 1830 Route 25, Riverhead, NY 11901.
- Wednesday, January 24, 2007: Holiday Inn, 290 State Highway 37 East, Toms River, NJ 08753.

The public hearing document will be mailed to all entities on the Council's mailing list. The document will be available at all of the public hearings and is currently available via the Internet at <http://www.mafmc.org/mid-atlantic/comments/comments.htm>. The document can also be obtained on request from the Council office at the address and telephone number below.

Oral comments can be provided at any of the public hearings. Written comments should be directed to Mr. Daniel T. Furlong, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115 Federal Building, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904 (telephone 302-674-2331). Written comments may also be sent via fax to 302-674-5399, or by e-mail to info@mafmc.org. Please note on your correspondence (or include in the subject line of your e-mail): "Amendment 14 Comments." All forms of written comments must be received by close of business on January 26, 2007.