



Rhode Island  
Department of Environmental Management

**DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FOR THE FEBRUARY 19, 2013 PUBLIC HEARING**

Hearing Officer: J. McNamee  
DEM Staff: N. Scarduzio and N. Lengyel  
RIMFC Members present as observers: None

The public hearing was held on February 19, 2013, in Narragansett, RI at the URI/GSO Narragansett Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium. Five (5) people attended the hearing. The following items were presented for public comment, however since there were only five people present J. McNamee asked the audience if anyone was interested in any other hearing item other than striped bass and if they wanted to just provide comments on those items or if they wanted to go through the entire power point presentation. The audience agreed they were only interested in the striped bass items and did not need to provide comments on the other public hearing items.

- 1) **Proposed amendments to the Recreational Striped Bass management plan:** Only one proposal for 2013 recreational striped bass management was brought forward for public comment, which was recommended by the Striped Bass Advisory Panel (AP). The proposal was to remain with the status quo in 2013.

***Public Comment:*** G. Tremblay stated he was in support of the AP proposal for status quo.

***Public Comment:*** J. Macari, Striped Bass AP member, stated he was in support of the AP proposal for status quo.

There were no other comments from the public on this item.

J. McNamee closed the public hearing for this item.

- 2) **Proposed amendments to the Commercial General Category Striped Bass management plan:** One proposal for 2013 commercial general category striped bass quota management was recommended by the Striped Bass AP and brought forward for public comment. The proposal was to modify the sub period quota percentages (70%/30% split) and change the September start date to Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> (from Sept 11<sup>th</sup>).

***Public Comment:*** J. Macari, Striped Bass AP member, stated he was in support of the AP proposal and he thought it was a good proposal for everyone.

***Public Comment:*** G. Tremblay stated he was representing the RI Commercial Rod and Reel Association and the majority of their members were in favor of this proposal and he also stated he was personally in favor of the proposal.

There were no other comments from the public on this item.

J. McNamee closed the public hearing for this item.

3) **Proposed amendments to the Commercial Floating Fish Trap Striped Bass**

**management plan:** Only one proposal for 2031 commercial floating fish trap striped bass quota management was recommended by the Striped Bass AP and was brought forward for public comment. The proposal was to remain with the status quo in 2013.

*Public Comment:* J. Macari, Striped Bass AP member, stated he was in support of the AP proposal for status quo.

*Public Comment:* G. Tremblay stated he was in support of the AP proposal for status quo.

*Public Comment:* R. Masciarelli stated he was in support of status quo.

There were no other comments from the public on this item.

J. McNamee closed the public hearing for this item.

At this point, J. McNamee asked for comments on any of the remaining public hearing items and asked if anyone from the audience would like to either review or make a comment on any other hearing item at this time. There were no other comments from the public and the audience indicated that they did not wish to make any comments or review any other hearing item. Since there were no other comments and since all interested parties had been heard, J. McNamee then declared the public hearing closed.

4) **Proposed amendments to the Spiny Dogfish management plan in order to come in to compliance with federal requirements:** The ASMFC approved an increase in the spiny dogfish possession limit of 4,000 pounds per day (from 3,000 pounds per day) for the northern region states.

No comments were made on this item.

5) **Proposed amendments to the Coastal Sharks management plan in order to come in to compliance with federal requirements:** Adoption of ASMFC amendments to increase the commercial possession limit to the Coastal Sharks, Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks (LCS) species group to 36 sharks per vessel per calendar day (from 33 sharks per vessel per calendar day).

No comments were made on this item.

6) **Proposed amendments to the lobster management plan for mandatory v-notching of certain female lobsters in LCMA 4 with a season closure from February 1 through March 31 annually, in order to come in to compliance with federal requirements:**

No comments were made on this item.

7) **Proposed amendments to the lobster management plan for mandatory v-notching of certain female lobsters in LCMA 5 with a season closure from February 1 through March 31 annually, in order to come in to compliance with federal requirements:**

No comments were made on this item.

List of Exhibits:

Exhibit 1 – Affidavit of Publication/Posting and Public Hearing Notice

Exhibit 2 – Copy of Public Hearing Proposal Documents

No written comments were received.