



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



Alewife
(Credit: Jerry Prezioso, NOAA)

How to get involved in the fishery management process

The fisheries management process involves many steps in which the public can participate. There are many opportunities to comment on the management options being developed before they are ultimately approved and implemented. River herring bycatch is currently being addressed through amendments to the Atlantic Herring (herring) and Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish (MSB) fishery management plans (FMP).

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comment Period

The management measures that are being proposed are outlined in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for both amendments. The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register announcing the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 5 to the herring FMP and Amendment 14 to the MSB FMP. The comment period was from April 20 through June 4, 2012. Public hearings were held during that time by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils from Rockport, Maine to Newport News, Virginia. Public comments were also accepted via mail and e-mail. All public comments on Amendment 5 and 14 are available through the respective Fishery Management Council's website.

Final Environmental Impact Statement Comment Period

The Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils considered all public comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement when making their final decision on management alternatives at their June Council meetings (June 12-14, 2012, and June 19-21, 2012, respectively). After the Councils recommend final management measures, the analysis on the recommended management measures will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and submitted to NOAA Fisheries for review. After going through a thorough review process, NOAA Fisheries and the Environmental Protection Agency will publish Notices of Availability for the amendments in the Federal Register. The Notice of Availability published by the Environmental Protection Agency for the Final Environmental Impact Statement, as a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act, will have a 30-day public comment period. The public can comment on the Final Environmental Impact Statement by submitting a letter or fax to the NOAA

Fisheries Northeast Regional Office Regional Administrator or sending an email using the email addresses: MSBAmendment14@noaa.gov and HerAmendment5@noaa.gov. The Notice of Availability published for the amendment, as a requirement under the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act will have a 60-day public comment period. The public can comment on the amendment by submitting a letter or fax to NOAA Fisheries or by submitting comments online at Regulations.gov.

Proposed Rule Comment Period

NOAA Fisheries will publish a proposed rule in the Federal Register outlining the management measures being proposed. The public can submit comments on the proposed rule by sending a letter or fax to the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Office Regional Administrator or by submitting comments online at Regulations.gov. NOAA Fisheries will consider all public comments before publishing a final rule and implementing final management measures for herring Amendment 5 and MSB Amendment 14.