



# State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

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SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

CATHERINE R. McCABE  
*Commissioner*

August 22, 2019

To All Applicable Commercial Spiny Dogfish Fishermen:

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has released draft addendum VI to the **spiny dogfish** fishery management plan for public comment. Public comments will be received and considered until **September 23, 2019, at 5pm**. Comments on the draft addendum should be submitted via email to **comments@asmfc.org** and should include the subject line, **“Spiny Dogfish Draft Addendum VI”**, via fax to **(703) 842-0741**, or to the address:

**Kirby Rootes-Murdy**  
**1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N**  
**Arlington, VA 22201**

A public hearing will be held online and by phone by the ASMFC on **September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 6pm**. To attend the hearing by phone, dial **(888) 585-9008** and enter room number **853-657-937**. To attend the online webinar, please visit **https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1750824234161238785**.

The complete draft addendum can be found on the ASMFC website at **http://www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input**. Below is a summary of the proposed changes to the management plan:

The Draft Addendum proposes allowing commercial quota to be transferred between all regions and states to enable the full utilization of the coastwide commercial quota and avoid quota payback for unintended quota overages. The Commission’s FMP allocates the coastwide quota to the states of Maine-Connecticut as a regional allocation and to the states of New York-North Carolina as state-specific allocations. Currently, the FMP only allows quota transfers between states with individual allocations, with regions excluded from benefitting from quota transfers. The 2019-2020 coastwide quota was reduced by 46% due to declining biomass. If landings in the 2019-2020 fishing year remain the same as 2018-2019 landings, the coastwide quota may not be exceeded but some states could face early closures due to reaching their allocation and being unable to access available unused quota from the northern region through quota transfers.

The Draft Addendum also includes a scoping question on whether the federal commercial trip limit should be eliminated and replaced by state and regional trip limits. This issue is under consideration due to concern that the coastwide quota has been substantially underutilized over the past seven years and the federal commercial trip limit is viewed by some as an additional constraint on the fishery beyond the commercial trip limits implemented for state permit holders. The Commission does not establish the federal commercial trip limit, but it can make recommendations to the New England and Mid-

Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries on this management measure during the federal specifications process. The public is encouraged to provide comments on this question to help inform future recommendations from the Commission to the Councils and NOAA Fisheries on the management of spiny dogfish in federal waters.