

Kathy Hattala -ASMFC Shad and River herring Technical Committee Chair 1/10/11 email

Hello all

Implementation of Amendment 3 to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Shad and River herring Management Plan began on Jan 1, 2011. The first requirement is for states & jurisdictions to implement a suite of stock monitoring programs to obtain data on the fisheries and independent monitoring of stock condition in all the spawning rivers along the US Atlantic coast.

By August 1, 2011, states & jurisdictions must submit to ASMFC, an American shad Sustainable Fishery Plan (SFP) to continue a commercial or recreational fishery (that allows harvest) into the future. Alternatively, if a state / jurisdiction is already has a fishery moratorium, a Shad Recovery Plan must be submitted outlining stock recovery goals to be reached.

Plans, once submitted will be reviewed by the ASMFC Technical Committee, then sent to the Shad Management Board for approval. If a Sustainable Fishery Plan is not approved by the Board, then by 1 Jan 2013, the state / jurisdiction must close their commercial fishery and can only have a catch and release recreational fishery (no harvest).

In addition, A3 also requires the preparation of a Shad Habitat Plan (by 1 Aug 2013) to identify habitat issues that shad face in their spawning rivers. Solutions to the problems may not be so easily attained, but the Plan can help managers and the public to understand the problems, possible solutions, and that good habitat is an important component for stock health.

More information can be found at www.asmfc.org click on "Managed species" in the left hand column, then Shad & River herring. The link to open Amendment 3 will be in the list of reports on the Shad & River herring page.

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