



## NMFS Announces Additional Public Hearings and Comment Period Extension for Draft Amendment 8 (Swordfish Management Measures)

On February 22, 2013, we published a proposed rule (78 FR 12273) for Draft Amendment 8 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan to address several new proposed North Atlantic swordfish commercial fishery management measures including a new open access permit that would allow limited retention and commercial sale of swordfish caught on certain handgears. We announced the date and location for six public hearings and a comment period ending on April 23, 2013. In this notice, we announce the dates and logistics for two additional public hearings and an extension of the comment period.

Table 1. Dates, times, and locations of two additional public hearings

Date	Time	Hearing Locations	Address
04/10/13	5:00-8:00 p.m.	Stafford Branch Library	129 North Main Street Manahawkin, NJ 08050
04/30/13	2:30-4:30 p.m.	Public Conference Call/Webinar	To participate in conference call, call: (800) 779-0686 Passcode: 2132689 To participate in webinar, RSVP at: <a href="https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/656686320">https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/656686320</a> A confirmation email with webinar log-in information will be sent after RSVP is registered.

The comment period for the proposed rule has been extended to **May 8, 2013**. We are extending the comment period to provide additional opportunity for the five Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, and other interested parties to comment on the swordfish management measures proposed in Draft Amendment 8. Written public comments can be submitted via mail or electronically. Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0026](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0026), click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Submit any written comment to HMS Management Division, NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910. Please mark on the outside of the envelope “Comments on Amendment 8 to the HMS FMP.”

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. For further information, contact Rick Pearson at 727-824-5399 or Jennifer Cudney at 301-427-8503. This information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

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