

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel

Conference Call Summary:

Draft Addendum VI

July 22, 2013

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Present: Jeff Kaelin (NJ, AP Chair) Jenny Bichrest (ME), Peter Moore (ME), Mary-Beth Tooley (ME), Steve Weiner (MA), and Melissa Yuen (ASMFC Staff, FMP Coordinator).

Summary

The Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel (AP) held a conference call to review Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring. This addendum complements the New England Fishery Management Council's draft Framework Adjustment 2. The public comment period ended on July 19, and the Section will consider this draft addendum for final approval at the ASFMC Summer Meeting.

Overall, the present Advisory Panel members unanimously supported the alternative options for each issue because they are consistent with the New England Fishery Management Council's proposed management measures in Framework Adjustment 2. AP members who were not able to join the call were given an opportunity to provide comment via email. The AP's preferred options for the draft addendum and comments are listed below.

3.1 Seasonal Splitting of Quota for Areas 1B, 2, and 3

The AP supports **Option 2:** *Allow states to seasonally split the sub-ACLs in all management areas to maximize value to the Atlantic herring fisheries. The actual splits (amounts or percentages by months, trimesters, or seasons) would be set as part of the specifications process.*

3.2 Quota Rollover for All Management Areas

The AP supports **Option 2:** *Allow for up to 10% of unused quota in a management area to carry over to the first fishing season after final landings data are available, within that same management area, provided that the ACL is not exceeded for the entire fishery. The stock-wide ACL will not be changed from the annual specification. This adjustment for areas with unused quota is intended to provide some flexibility to the fishing industry.*

Comments: The last item in the provisions (i.e. "Unused quota may be rolled from one season to the next within the same year.") is confusing when listed as a provision, and makes more sense as part of the option. The FMP coordinator clarified that this provision is available for Area 1A, and was intended to allow the fishery to fully utilize the quota within a fishing year; if the quota

for one period was not fully utilized, it can be used later in the year. This provision was included at the request of a Section member during the Spring meeting review of the draft addendum.

3.3 Harvest Control Measures: Trip Limit Triggers

The AP supports **Option 2**: *This option establishes triggers to close directed fisheries in a management area when 92% of the sub-ACL is projected to be reached, and then close the stock-wide fishery when 95% of the total ACL is projected to be reached. A 2,000 pound bycatch allowance will continue when the directed fishery is closed.*

Comments: Some AP members questioned why a 92% trip limit trigger is necessary; the 95% trigger has worked since implementation in 2009 for Area 1A. The landings are reported weekly, and should be used to better track the utilization of quota. The FMP Coordinator informed the AP that the NEFMC proposed the additional 92% trigger as an extra safety measure. The AP noted that in recent years, there have been overages for Area 1A's quota, but are minimal (under 5%), and there are accountability measures in place to reduce the quota accordingly for the following year. The AP supports Option 2 because it is consistent with the Council's framework.

3.4 Specification Process for Sub-ACL Triggers

The AP supports **Option 2**: *Sub-ACL triggers will be set using the annual specification process.*