

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Atlantic Herring Technical Committee

Conference Call Summary

June 1, 2012

Present: M. Cieri (ME DMR, TC Chair), Madeline Hall-Arber (MIT), John Lake (RI DEM), C. Vonderweidt (ASMFC Staff), Renee Zobel (NH DFG),

The Atlantic Herring Technical Committee (TC) held a conference call on May 25, 2012 to review Draft Addendum V for Public Comment and provide feedback to the Atlantic Herring Section (Section). The Draft Addendum proposes measures to refine and consolidate Atlantic herring spawning regulations as recommended by the Atlantic Herring Technical Committee. These include (1) refining sampling protocols; (2) providing flexibility to change spawning boundaries based on Technical Committee input through Section action; and (3) consolidating all spawning regulations into one document. The TC discussion and comments on each option are as follows:

3.1 Spawning Area Boundaries

The TC agrees that the process to modify spawning area boundaries is a management consideration and did not comment on this proposed measure.

3.2 Size Bins That Trigger a Spawning Closure Start

The TC supports Option B, greater than or equal to 23 cm. Members immediately agreed that the size bin should be lowered and discussed whether 22 or 23 cm would more accurately capture spawning females. After reviewing the data, members noted that 22 cm spawn fish were only found in 1976 and 2011. They agreed that greater than or equal to 23 cm was the most appropriate cut off point for the size bin. Members noted that 22 cm would likely alter the GSI spawn to non-spawn ratio, by capturing significant amounts of non-spawn fish.

3.3 Number of Fish Per Sample

The TC supports Option B, 100 fish per sample. Members commented that Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts already collect 100 fish per sample and formalizing this procedure will not impact state agencies.