



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Atlantic Sturgeon Stock Assessment Subcommittee Meeting Summary

Conference Call and Webinar
May 26, 2015

Stock Assessment Subcommittee Members: Laura Lee (Chair), Bill Post, David Secor, Dewayne Fox, Eric Schneider, Kathy Hattala, Mike Bednarski, Mike Loeffler, Will Smith

ASMFC Staff: Jeff Kipp, Katie Drew, Max Appelman

Last year, the Sturgeon Management Board decided to push the benchmark stock assessment deadline to 2017 to allow for a more comprehensive assessment at the distinct population segments (DPS) scale, as well as incorporate the most recent data from studies currently underway. The Atlantic Sturgeon Stock Assessment Subcommittee met to discuss the 2017 stock assessment timeline.

2017 stock assessment timeline

The Atlantic Sturgeon Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) members met via webinar and conference call to discuss the tasks identified for the benchmark stock assessment, and to gauge how much time each task will take so that the stock assessment report is finalized prior to the 2017 deadline. Primary tasks include data updates using 2014 as the terminal year for the assessment (2015 data will tentatively be included as time and data permit), genetics analysis, stock specific bycatch estimates, and various modeling approaches that will be explored for use in the stock assessment.

Immediate action will focus on Technical Committee (TC) members updating their data files for all the major data sources identified in the timeline through year 2014 on the ASMFC FTP site. Once Commission staff have confirmed files are available for review on the FTP site, TC members will be emailed with directions of how to update data, and TC members will be asked to complete the data update by COB Wednesday, July 1st. This gives States time to update their data while allowing SAS members to gauge when they will be able to begin specific tasks dependent on those data sets.

Additionally, Commission staff will continue to work with Tim King's U.S. Geological Survey Lab to establish an up-to-date list of usable samples, and identify which samples are of highest priority consistent with existing genetic baseline data (i.e., young-of-year samples from river systems that fall short of the 50 fish minimum sample size for a scientifically sound genetic baseline). Then, a timeline for genetic sample analysis will be established so that the SAS can complete the time-component to the stock assessment reassuring that the assessment is on schedule for completion in 2017.

The SAS discussed the acquisition and use of telemetry datasets, which have great potential to supplement the conventional tagging data as sources of mortality and abundance information. The Tagging Working Group will meet to discuss modeling approaches in more detail and identify potential datasets and collaborators. The [Fishery-Independent Data Use Policy](#), recently established by the Commission, will help with data sharing for use in the stock assessment.