



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Shad & River Herring Technical Committee Call Summary

September 24, 2018

Technical Committee Members in Attendance: Ken Sprankle (Chair, USFWS), Mike Brown (ME), Mike Dionne (NH), Robert Adams (NY), Jacque Benway Roberts (CT), Josh Tryninewski (PA), Johnny Moore (DE), Rob Bourdon (MD), Ellen Cosby (PRFC), Eric Hilton (VA), Holly White (NC), Jeremy McCargo (NC), Bill Post (SC), Chad Holbrook (SC), Jim Page (GA), Reid Hyle (FL), Ruth Hass-Castro (NOAA)

ASMFC Staff: Caitlin Starks

The Shad and River Herring Technical Committee (TC) met via conference call to discuss the October 2017 Board task to develop proposed improvements to Amendments 2 and 3 with regard to the following items:

1. Management and monitoring of rivers with low abundance and harvest of shad and river herring
2. Standardization of Sustainable Fishery Management Plan (SFMP) requirements: content, metrics, and management responses to triggers
3. Incorporation of stock assessment information into SFMPs and discussion on the timeline for renewing plans
4. Clarification of *de minimis* requirements as they pertain to SFMPs
5. Review of the number of years of data are required before developing a SFMP

The group noted that items 2, 3, and 5 could be addressed in concurrently with the ongoing Benchmark Assessment for American shad. The assessment process will involve a comprehensive review of existing datasets, and should provide more clarity on the available information across the coast that could be used to standardize SFMPs.

TC discussion was primarily focused on item 1. Last fall, the TC identified several inconsistencies between state SFMPs and the requirements of Amendments 2 and 3. Amendments 2 and 3 require all states and jurisdictions to submit SFMPs for all systems that remain open to river herring and shad harvest, respectively. Additionally, the Amendments specify required fisheries dependent and independent monitoring for a number of rivers. However, in several states there are cases where rivers are legally open to recreational harvest of shad or river herring, but the management and/or monitoring of these rivers is not consistent with the requirements of the FMP.

To fully ascertain the extent of the issue, during the conference call each TC member identified waterways in their state where limited harvest of either species is allowed, and whether monitoring occurs for those areas. Following the call, staff and the TC will use this information to create a database including details on harvest, management and monitoring for each of these systems in order to identify all cases of inconsistency with the FMP requirements.

With regard to item 4, the TC will continue to discuss how the Amendments' language on *de minimis* requirements can be clarified. Specifically, the group will need to consider from which specific FMP requirements states with *de minimis* status would be exempt, and propose changes to the Amendments for Board consideration.

The TC was also made aware that an updated SFMP for the Merrimack River in Massachusetts would be distributed to them for email review following the call. Any concerns with the proposed update would be addressed at the next TC meeting.

Finally, the TC unanimously elected Robert Adams as the new Vice-Chair.