



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmf.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
From: Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee
RE: Second update on 2014 Benchmark Stock Assessment Progress
Date: July 17, 2013

In preparation for the 2014 benchmark stock assessment, the Atlantic menhaden Technical Committee (TC) and Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) have held four joint webinars and two in-person meetings to date. This second progress report memorandum contains a summary from one meeting that occurred since the last progress report on May 7, 2013 (M#13-032). Given the amount of preparatory work required for this benchmark, the TC/SAS felt it necessary to begin preliminary data gathering and analyses in 2013. The primary goal of these meetings is to identify and explore the utility of agency-collected data sources in advance of the 2014 Data and Assessment Workshops. These meetings have also included preliminary discussions about potential alternative modeling approaches. The TC/SAS plan to continue meeting regularly via webinar and at TC Meeting Weeks through 2013 to ensure steady progress on data collection tasks. Final vetting of data and decision-making with regard to modeling approaches will be made at the 2014 Data and Assessment Workshops, respectively. Consideration of public data submissions and analyses will occur at the 2014 workshops as well.

Below is a brief summary of topics discussed and progress made at each meeting since May 7, 2013. A tentative timeline for 2014 Atlantic menhaden workshops follows.

Meeting summary:

June 26th-27th, 2013 in-person meeting

- Reviewed existing state and regional datasets (Maine to Florida) collected from fishery independent surveys that have potential to be developed into relative abundance indices.
- Successfully identified 40 data sources (34 state surveys and 6 regional survey datasets) as candidates for index development. Data collection methods used on the surveys include trawl, seine, gillnet and ichthyoplankton nets targeting juveniles, adults or both.
- Assigned a subcommittee to analyze and scrutinize the candidate dataset for further development of both juvenile and adult indices.
- Reviewed details of historical tagging data publications, and began discussion on potential data analyses options for tagging data.

Tentative timeline for 2014 Atlantic menhaden workshops:

January 2014 – Data Workshop

June 2014 – Assessment Workshop

December 2014 – Peer Review Workshop (SEDAR)

M13-067