

**Shad Advisory Panel Meeting
August 14, 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland**

AP Members Attending

Richard Anderson, ME
Michael Blanchard, MA
Alison Bowden, MA
Michael Burton, PA
Thomas Crowder, Jr., MA

David Ellenton, MA
Richard Fasanello, NJ
Joe Fletcher, VA
Pam Gromen, MD
Michelle Hollowell, NC
Dick St. Pierre, PA

Deborah Wilson, ME
Byron Young, NY
Public
Brooks Mountcastle
Lara Slifka (CCHFA)

Issue One

- The AP found it difficult to make a recommendation regarding the reference points due to the lack of sufficient data for shad stocks and the fishery; and the lack of understanding of the basis behind Z30. The AP strongly supports rebuilding goals that will the rebuild shad stocks, but can not determine if Z30 will be the most successful rebuilding goal. The AP is concerned that Z30 may not be conservative enough to successfully rebuild shad stocks.
- The AP recommends that standardized monitoring (where possible) and data collection programs be developed and become compliance criteria of the FMP in order to make informed decisions for the shad stocks.
- The AP recommends that M be estimated for each river system
 - Recommend stomach content studies to determine what species prey on shad in order to quantify predator prey relationships
- The ASMFC should work collaboratively with Canada in exchange of data, and reports on the status of Canadian shad runs and the fishery.

Issue Two

- AP recommends the continued closure of the ocean intercept fishery. There could be expansion of the shad fishery for river systems that are rebuilt, but only in the area of the river where there is NO mixing from other river systems that are still rebuilding.

Issue Three

- Fishing should be restricted in areas where Z is increasing and abundance is decreasing. Both recreational and commercial fisheries should be restricted. Measures to decrease non-fishing sources of mortality should also be addressed, especially when this mortality is the highest percent of the total mortality. If a stock is not meeting its rebuilding goals, than additional measures should be taken to improve rebuilding.

Other issues that are not in the PID but should be included in the Draft Amendment Document:

We heartily concur with the recommendations of the 2007 stock assessment with emphasis on the following in order to address non-directed fishing sources of mortality and habitat restoration:

1. Identify all fisheries where bycatch occurs, then quantify the amount and disposition of bycatch. In fisheries where bycatch is allowed, quantify the discards. Employ observer coverage to verify the reporting rate of the commercial catch and harvest as well as bycatch and discards.
2. Characterize passage-associated efficiency, mortality, migration delay, and sub-lethal effects on shad at hydroelectric dams.
3. Develop safe, timely and effective upriver and downriver passage for adults and downriver passage for juvenile at all barriers within spawning reaches. In Rivers with flow regulation, maintain flows at levels that ensure adequate fish passage, water quality, and habitat protection.
4. Maintain water quality and suitable habitat for all life stages of American shad in all rivers with shad populations (reference Amendment 1 and the ASMFC Diadromous Source Document)

The AP supports that all river systems where Z30 is exceed that management programs should be put in place for rebuilding. Components of this plan could include reductions in fishing mortality, reductions in bycatch, habitat restoration, improvements in fish passage. All stocks should have management plans that describe the fishery and habitat goals and both long and short term objectives.