

Chair's Summary of Accomplishments
Shad Technical Committee Meeting
5-6 September 2001

1. The Technical Committee (TC) reviewed the annual compliance reports of 2000 spawning stock surveys by participating states. After discussion, the TC unanimously recommended approval of the reports. As part of this review, the TC discussed the requirement for analysis of recreational harvest and effort.
 - a. The TC concluded that MRFSS data were unreliable and recommended that states presently enjoying or requesting *de minimis* status need to document that their recreational landings are <1% of the coast-wide total. The TC further recommended that all states should uphold the requirement for recreational surveys that are independent of MRFSS.
 - b. In like manner, the TC discussed the requirement for calculation of survival and/or mortality in spawning stock surveys. It was the sense of the TC that all requirement should be upheld and the Plan Review team (PRT) should expect data on age composition and total mortality in future compliance reports.

2. The TC heard presentations on methods to estimate mixed stock contributions in the offshore intercept fishery from John Olney (hatchery evaluation) and Simon Thorrold (otolith microchemistry). The TC discussed all available approaches, listing their primary deficiencies as follows:
 - a. Natal river tagging - serious concerns about reporting rate in the offshore fishery; the method will yield no data on semelparous stocks
 - b. Genetic analysis - restoration programs are contributing to genetic homogeneity; lack of confidence in the discriminatory power of the method
 - c. Hatchery evaluation - applicability limited to stocks under hatchery restoration and in-river screening for OTC marks
 - d. Otolith microchemistry - unanswered question of inter-annual variability; some misclassification of stocks for which no microchemical signature has been obtained (due to lack of available juvenile samples); sample sizes must be large to increase power to detect small stocks

The TC concluded that we have no method that will effectively address the potential exploitation of small stocks in the offshore fishery.

3. Based on the considerations in item 2, the TC recommended that otolith microchemistry is the most appropriate method to apply to the question of mixed stock composition. The TC noted that, in an earlier motion, it had recommended that ‘participation in an ocean landings composition study be deferred.’ However, this new information suggested a significant improvement in methodology and warranted a change in the recommendation. The TC further recommended the following:
 - a. Thorrold and Olney will develop a study plan and proposal(s) to seek funding for a coast-wide analysis in 2002. (In my notes are the following considerations. Components of the study plan are: re-sample juveniles from stocks already sampled to address question of inter-annual variation; sample stocks where microchemical signatures are lacking; collect otoliths from intercept fishery. It was noted that landings from five states make up 90% of the ocean catch. A sample of not less than 100 or more than 400 fish in the early, middle and late portions of the fishery would be adequate. The target sample saize should be 1-2% of the states catch.)
 - b. States currently conducting JAI surveys will donate up to 50 specimens for this planned analysis.
4. The TC discussed the upcoming required peer review and the need for a coastwide stock assessment. The TC reformulated the stock assessment subcommittee (Allen, Carmichael, Hatalla, Kahnle, Lee, Olney, Gamble, Sadsinski) and named Andy Kahnle as its interim chair. The subcommittee was charged to consider the following questions:
 - a. Can state compliance reports serve as a stock assessment for the upcoming peer review?
 - b. If not, what is needed? (At this point, Megan Gamble noted that the TC could recommend postponement of this trigger.)
 - c. Develop a standard electronic format for reports and data.
5. The TC discussed the recent issue of non-compliance by South Carolina that was discussed by the PRT and resolved by the management board without full and timely consultation with the TC. The following statement was agreed upon by the membership and the chair was asked to send this statement to the PRT:

“The TC unanimously concurs that the integrity of the Fishery Management Plan and the management process is degraded when timely advice from the TC is not sought in technical matters related to non-compliance issues (e.g., determination of conservation equivalencies) by the PRT or the management board. We urge the PRT to always formally include the TC in these or similar discussions.”

6. The TC briefly discussed the role of the TC in shad management once the offshore fishery was closed. The TC agreed that this question was beyond the authority of the TC and not an appropriate question for consideration.
7. The TC nominated Dr. Richard McBride, representative from Florida, to serve as vice-chair of the TC. Dr. McBride accepted pending approval from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. (Chair's note: Rich McBride subsequently received this authorization.)
8. After a presentation by Mike Hendricks, chair of the OTC Task Force, the TC discussed the protocols for marking shad larvae and juvenile in restoration programs. The TC agreed that the requirement for river-specific marking was negatively impacting hatchery production. The TC recommended to strike the word 'unique' from sections of Amendment 1 and charged the OTC Taskforce to assemble a tagging plan that would allow for versatility in marking sequences on a state-by-state basis. Suggested uses were OTC marks for age determination studies and for validation of otolith micro-chemistry studies.
9. The TC discussed recommendations for changes to Tables 2, 3 and 10 of Amendment 1. There are as follows:
 - a. Table 10: Strike 'juveniles' on page 67
 - b. Table 2: Strike 'recovery of any visibly marked animals' throughout
 - c. Table 2: Strike requirement for Virginia to sample juveniles in the Rappahannock River (chair's note: this request was later withdrawn by the representative from Virginia)
 - d. Table 2: Designate the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and the District of Columbia as responsible for the Potomac River spawning stock survey
 - e. Table 2: Remove requirement for spawning stock survey on the Lamprey River
 - f. Table 3: strike requirement to use MRFSS data and the requirement for bi-annual monitoring of recreational catch/effort in Connecticut. Replace all of the above with the requirement to monitor recreational landings, catch and effort every five years. (At this point, the question was raised as to why Massachusetts and DC do not have this monitoring requirement. In my notes, no recommendation was made, however.)
10. The TC discussed the urgent need for a representative from the National Marine Fisheries Service on the TC since there are serious discrepancies in landings data. Kathy Hattala agreed to provide a graph of these discrepancies so that the issue could be discussed further.
11. The TC discussed the guidelines for the upcoming 40% reductions in effort for the offshore fishery. After considerable discussion, the TC recommended that states reduce effort based on the best available data on effort between 1992 and 2001.