

## Shad and River Herring Technical Committee

January 17th – 19th, 2012

Baltimore, Maryland

Members Present: Brad Chase (MA), Ellen Cosby (PRFC), Ruth Haas-Castro (NMFS-NE), Mike Hendricks (PA), Larry Miller (USFWS-NE), Harry Rickabaugh (MD), Karen Capossela (MDDNR), Kathy Rawls (NCDMF), Bennett Wynne (NCWRC), Bill Post (SCDNR-MRD), Laura Lee (NCDMF), Joe Cimino (VMRC), Don Harrison (GADNR), Daryl Pierce (PAFBC, sitting in for DE River Fish & Wildlife Cooperative Technical Committee), Mike Stangl (DE), Joe Swan (DC), Mike Dionne (NH), John Sweka (USFWS), Wilson Laney (USFWS – SE), Kathy Hattala (NY), Katie Drew (ASMFC), Kate Taylor (ASMFC)

Observers: Jeff Kailin (Lund's Fisheries), Pam Lyons Gromen (NCCM), Jamie Courname (UNH), Kim Damon-Randall (NMFS)

### American shad Sustainable Fishing Plans

#### **Delaware River Fish and Wildlife Cooperative**

Plan initially reviewed by the TC in September 2011. At that time the TC did not recommend approval of the plan and requested the following revisions:

1. Include lower Delaware Bay versus River landings
2. Include tagging data and mixed stock composition
3. Management action – State specifically what management actions will occur or which ones will be considered.
4. Develop a commercial fishery benchmark or control rule to prevent expansion of and to reduce exploitation (harvest) on out of basin stock and harvest of non-DE fish harvested in the commercial fishery in lower Delaware Bay.

*TC recommends:*

- **DE Cooperative revised the plan to meet the above requests. TC recommends Board consider approval of the plan.**

#### **Georgia**

Plan initially reviewed by the TC in September 2011. At that time the TC did not recommend approval of the plan and requested the following revisions:

1. Provide more detail on tagging methods used to estimate population
2. Add hydrograph since plan reports catch is dependent on flow
3. Provide more information on how exploitation target was developed.
4. Look into using different time series.
5. TC supports addressing the issues brought up in the 2007 assessment
6. Include timeframe of when the plan will be revisited so as to be adaptive

*TC recommends:*

- **Georgia revised the plan to meet the above requests. TC recommends Board consider approval of the plan.**

#### **North Carolina**

Plan reviewed for the first time. NC requests fisheries in the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River, Tar-Pamlico River, Neuse River, and Cape Fear Rivers. Populations in the Albemarle Sound and Roanoke River are stable and low, whereas stock status in the Tar-Pamlico, Neuse and Cape Fear rivers is unknown. Sustainability parameters for each river system were based on relative abundance and relative fishing mortality rate.

- Relative abundance was calculated using FI survey data, although environmental conditions, especially flow rates, are a major source of variability.

- Relative fishing mortality rate is calculated by dividing catch by a fisheries-independent index of relative abundance.

*The TC requests:*

- Add age and length data analysis (e.g. As an appendix or some part of the report)
- Include more detailed summary of caveats in age data and why data wasn't included
  - o Include information on why Z benchmark for Albemarle Sound from 2007 assessment was not used
- Extension of time series to include combined sex data (e.g. data prior to sex-specific data collection)
- Inclusion of current (2011) data in SFMP.
- Add table of most current restrictions (by area)

*The TC recommends:*

- **Approval of SFMP for Albemarle Sound, Neuse, Roanoke, and Tar-Pamlico Rivers**
- Cape Fear system is currently not sustainable, based on indices presented. Measures recommended by the TC include 1) closure of this system or 2) allowance of restricted fishery along with continued monitoring and reporting should be implemented.
- TC recognizes that the NC plan will still have to go through NC MFC review and public comment

## **PRFC**

Plan initially reviewed by the TC in September 2011. At that time the TC did not recommend approval of the plan and requested the following revisions:

1. Include additional data to produce more of a basin wide plan (data from MD, VA and hatchery takes)
2. Document broodstock numbers, and require reporting of biological data from partners
3. Add in a column to Table 1 showing the annual numbers.

*The TC requests (from the January 2012 review):*

- Consider limitations on allowable take for hatchery fish
- Including more specific language if PRFC falls below restoration benchmark then action will be taken to reduce allowable take
- Sample size needs to be sufficient for biological data collection for hatchery fish. TC recommends 200 fish (min) for sample size for each gear type/size.

*The TC recommends:*

- PRFC revised the plan to meet the September 2011 requests. The TC noted that, while additional data from other states and jurisdictions was included, the plan needs to be more comprehensive and include participation of all jurisdictions to produce a Basin plan as recommended in Amendment 3. **TC recommends Board consider approval of the plan with the above recommendations from the January 2012 review.**

## **Recovery Plans**

### **New Hampshire**

*The TC requests:*

- Incorporate recommendations and action items from 2007 stock assessment. Include current status in addresses these items.
- Incorporate 2010 Merrimack Plan.
- Encourage open and continued dialogue with inland fisheries on restoration efforts.

*The TC Recommends:*

- **Board consider approval of the NH plan with the above recommendations**

## **Delaware – Nanticoke River**

*The TC requests:*

- Include the current hatchery operations and monitoring as continued action items
- Include summary/conclusions

*The TC Recommends:*

- **Board consider approval of the DE (Nanticoke River) plan with the above recommendations**

## **Maryland**

*The TC requests:*

- Better describe the fish population in the Patuxent River (i.e., why restocking ended)
- Include bycatch/discards section and explain why monitoring does not occur; explain how previous estimate was quantified.
- Cross reference other complementary plans that MD participates in
- Incorporate study results from FERC process (creel survey)
- Include description of operating fisheries that could have impact on shad populations

*The TC Recommends:*

- **MD Plan be re-submitted to the TC for review with the above recommendations.**

## **Pennsylvania – Susquehanna River**

*The TC Recommends:*

- **Board consider approval of the PA (Susquehanna River) Plan**
- The TC notes that, with some revisions, this could serve as a template for the “Habitat Plans” jurisdictions need to submit under Amendment 3 in 2013.

## **District of Columbia**

*The TC requests:*

- TC recommends basin plan prepared by all Potomac River jurisdictions, but the ultimate decision is left to those jurisdictions.

*The TC Recommends:*

- **DC Plan be re-submitted to the TC for review with the above recommendations.**

## **2012 Bycatch Request**

PRFC submitted a request for expansion of their American shad bycatch fishery in 2012 in September 2011. The TC had concerns with the expansion of the fishery based on the benchmark being exceeded for only one year. The Board preliminarily approved the bycatch request at the ASMFC Annual Meeting. PRFC revised the plan to incorporate the recommendations by the TC.

*The TC requests:*

- Validation of bycatch reporting rates through an observer program
- Increase coordination on and improve FI spawning stock monitoring

*The TC recommends:*

- **Approval of the PRFC request for 2012, with the above recommendations.**