



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Shad & River Herring Technical Committee Call Summary

June 19, 2017

TC Members: Brad Chase, Ken Sprankle, Mike Brown, Mike Dionne, Bryant Bowen, Brian Neilan, Genine Lipkey, Bill Post, Joe Swann, Jeremy McCargo, Eric Hilton, Holly White, Phil Edwards, Jacque Benway Roberts, Ruth Hass-Castro, Bob Adams, Johnny Moore, Reid Hyle, Chad Holbrook, , Ellen Cosby, Bob Adams, Joe Swann, Ruth Haas-Castro, Johnny Moore, Don Harrison, Wilson Laney

SAS Members: Ed Hale, Mike Bailey, Kevin Sullivan, Ben Gahagan, Mike Brown

ASMFC Staff: Jeff Kipp and Ashton Harp

Public: Sarah Madronal, Pam Lyons Gromen, Tara Trinko Lake, Ansley Sampson

The Shad and River Herring Technical Committee (TC) met via conference call to review the draft river herring stock assessment update. **TC members have until June 30, 2017 to submit clarifications, edits or feedback on the analyses and/or research recommendations to the full TC via email.** In addition, a blueback herring funding opportunity was presented and the timeline for Board review of the sustainable fishery management plans.

1. Review of the River Herring Stock Assessment Update

J. Kipp reviewed the coastwide and river specific trend analyses as determined by the Stock Assessment Subcommittee using the framework established in the 2012 River Herring Benchmark Assessment. The following changes will be made to the draft assessment report based on TC feedback:

- Add data time ranges to all columns in Table 1
- Add text to note the increases were mostly attributed to the New England region, primarily Maine.

There was TC discussion about the following:

- The Potomac River's status determination was based on a YOY survey, however other rivers with only a YOY were not given a determination. Why?
If a trawl survey covered a broad area like a bay and was the only available data than the SAS could not make a status determination. Given the Potomac River YOY survey was specific to the river, a determination was made.

- Does Maine stock river herring?
There is stocking in the Union River, however that river does allow commercial harvest. Maine does not allow river herring commercial harvest if a river is being stocked.

- The MD representative noted that Nanticoke River is listed as stable, but it is at a very low level.

The SAS added text in the document to remind the reader that trend determinations are relative to data from the most recent 10 years. Status determinations were made in the 2012 Benchmark Stock Assessment.

Public comment questions:

- Why are alewife and blueback herring only broken out in certain runs?
The run counts are not differentiated by species in every state.
- The trend determination seems subjective. Are you going to explain how and why you made the determination in the report?
As an assessment update, the decision making process follows the same framework as the 2012 Benchmark Assessment. It was a consensus based approach with all data sets for a given river taken into consideration.
- Was the Mann-Kendall test applied to all data sets?
No, it was only applied to those data sets that the 2012 Benchmark Assessment applied it to. If it is not reported in an analysis description it wasn't used for the respective trend analysis.
- Can you define stable versus no trend?
There are definitions in the footnotes of Table 1. Stable is flat and no trend indicates stable, increasing, or decreasing could not be determined due to high inter-annual variability.

2. Mid-Atlantic Blueback Herring Funding Opportunity

ASMFC is looking to fund high priority projects using available NMFS funds to contribute to future stock assessments of river herring, particularly blueback herring in the mid-Atlantic. This would build off the River Herring Data Collection Standardization meeting and include input from the ASMFC River Herring Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS). ASMFC appreciates input from the SAS on the biggest gaps/needs identified through development of the update, especially related to blueback herring in the mid-Atlantic. Additional information regarding how the funds will be allocated will be forthcoming. **Please send a short research overview by June 30, 2017 to Ashton, Toni, and Diane B.**

The blueback herring [Mid-Atlantic stock](#) includes the Connecticut River (CT) through the Neuse River (NC).

3. Sustainable Fishery Management Plans (SFMP)

SFMPs that will be presented at the Annual Meeting in October should be sent to the TC by August 31, 2017. The TC will have a call in early September to review the plans and submit a recommendation letter to the Board. The SFMP timeline is as follows:

August 2017 Board Meeting

- Florida Shad SFMP
- South Carolina River Herring SFMP

October 2017 Board Meeting

- Georgia Shad SFMP
- South Carolina Shad SFMP
- PRFC Shad SFMP
- North Carolina Shad SFMP
- Connecticut Shad SFMP