



New England Fishery Management Council

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Ernest F. Stockwell, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 2015
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)
FROM: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – Overfishing levels (OFLs) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Atlantic herring

1. OFL and ABC recommendations for Atlantic herring

Terms of Reference

Review the Atlantic Herring Operational Assessment Report for 2015 (Prepublication Draft) and the work of the Herring PDT and provide the OFL and ABC for each year for fishing years 2016-2018 that will prevent overfishing. (See list of documents for the assessment report and PDT report under Information below).

Background

An operational assessment was completed for Atlantic herring in April 2015. The Herring PDT met May 13 to develop recommendations including ABCs for fishing years 2016-2018.

Information

- 1.1 Review of the Atlantic Herring Operational Assessment Report for 2015, Prepublication Draft, May 7, 2015
- 1.1b Presentation Slides - Atlantic Herring Operational Assessment (Deroba)
- 1.2 May 13, 2015 Herring Plan Development Team Report (Draft) - *to be distributed*
- 1.3 Herring ABC for FY2013-2015 – SSC Memo to Paul Howard, September 21, 2012

2. SSC input on the development of an ecosystem-based control rule for Atlantic herring

Terms of Reference

Consider the presentation and other information provided by the EBFM PDT and provide advice to the Council, EBFM Committees and PDT on the development of an ecosystem-based control rule for providing future ABC advice for Atlantic herring. The control rule would be implemented under Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP.

Background

In November 2014 the Council passed a motion to develop consider control rules as part of a new amendment to the Atlantic Herring FMP that accounts for herring's role as forage in the ecosystem. It also tasked the EBFM PDT and Committee to develop ecological guidance for the Herring PDT on managing forage fish within an ecosystem context and to participate in

the development of an appropriate control rule and reference points within an EBFM context as part of the amendment. There have been several joint meetings of the Herring and EBFM PDTs in 2105; Mr. Applegate will provide the SSC a presentation summarizing the progress on this effort.

Information

2.1 Presentation – Herring Control Rule Advice (March 30, 2015)

2.2 Herring control rule performance comparisons (Deroba)

3.1 Differences in diet of Atlantic bluefin tuna at five seasonal feeding grounds on the New England continental shelf (Chase2001)

3.2 Consumption by marine mammals on the Northeast U.S. continental shelf (Smith, et al., 2015)

3.3 Herring ABC Control Rule Alternatives - SSC Memo to Paul Howard, December 10, 2012