



## New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 12, 2019  
**TO:** Herring Advisory Panel (AP) and Committee  
**FROM:** Peter Kendall, Herring Committee Chairman  
**SUBJECT:** Charge to AP and Committee for March 27 and 28, 2019 meetings

There will be a Herring AP and Committee meeting at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield, MA, on **Wednesday, March 27, 2019 and Thursday, March 28, 2019. Please note the AP meeting on March 27 is a half-day meeting only and does not start until 12pm.**

**Purpose** The primary purpose of these meetings is to plan work for 2019 and being development on the 2019-2021 herring specifications action (Framework 6). Staff has developed several documents to help you prepare for this meeting and will be summarizing those materials at the meeting (*Document #2*). As documents are available they will be posted on the Council website for this meeting (<https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/mar-28-2019-herring-committee-meeting> ). Please take time to familiarize yourself with the documents before the meeting; staff will have paper copies of all materials for you at the meeting.

#### **2019 Priorities**

*Document #3* summarizes the work priorities the Council approved for 2019 with potential milestones for completion.

#### **2019-2021 Specifications (Framework 6)**

NMFS implemented an in-season adjustment to set catch limits for 2019, effective February 8, 2019. The Agency took this step at the request of the Council to help prevent overfishing. The final rule is available here: [Federal Register notice](#). The Council will develop specifications for fishing years 2020 and 2021 to complete the three year specifications. *Document #4* is a draft action plan for the 2019-2021 specifications identifying the issues that will be considered, as well as *Document #5*, an outline of the various measures that will likely be included. Within Draft Framework 6 staff has identified just over a handful of specific issues that require input at this meeting. Seven specific issues have been identified by a comment in the right hand margin of the document; for example, “AP/Cmte Input #1 – Review and approve purpose and need” on page 1). Please be prepared to provide specific input related to these items.

The Council is scheduled to approve the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) for fishing years 2019-2021 at the April 2019 Council meeting. The Herring AP and Committee are tasked with providing a recommendation for the Council to consider at this meeting. The Herring PDT has prepared a memo with relevant information for that agenda item, *Document #6*. The PDT is working on potential alternatives and analyses for all measures within the specifications package, and is seeking specific input on several aspects of the specifications including river herring / shad catch cap alternatives. The AP and Committee are tasked with providing input on alternatives that should be included for consideration. A background document with initial analyses has been prepared by the Herring PDT on several topics, *Document #7, #7a, and #7b*.

### **ASMFC Addendum II**

Staff will review Addendum II, an action ASMFC is working on to potentially adjust the Gulf of Maine spawning protections. AP and Committee members are invited to provide input on the action that is available for public comment through April 4, 2019.

### **Five-year Research Priorities**

The Council approved five-year research priorities in 2018 and committed to annually review and update those priorities. *Document #8* is a summary of the herring related research topics, with Herring PDT recommendations included. The Herring AP and Committee are requested to review the priorities and provide recommendations for the full Council to consider at the April 2019 Council meeting.

If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Deirdre Boelke (dboelke@nefmc.org; (978) 465-0492 x105).