

# Herring Committee Report

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April 2020 Council Meeting  
Webinar



New England  
Fishery Management Council

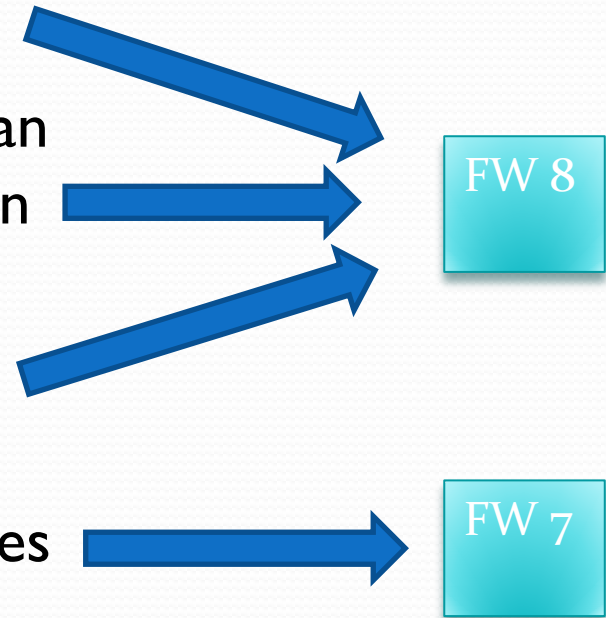
# Outline of presentation

1. 2020 herring priorities and working timelines
2. Update on development of Framework 8  
(2021-2023 specs and herring measures that potentially inhibit mackerel fishery)
3. Update on development of Framework 7  
(GB spawning action)  
*(2 Committee Motions)*
4. Other Business (ASMFC Addendum III)



# Part I. 2020 Herring Priorities and timelines

1. 2021-2023 specifications
2. Action to adjust measures in herring plan that potentially inhibit optimizing yield in mackerel fishery
3. Atlantic herring management track assessment (June 2020)
4. Action to consider GB spawning closures



- *Staff – coordination with MAFMC (discussion paper on coordinated mngt of RH/S)*
- *Staff – coordination with ASMFC (support PDT on Addendum III, track Area IA days out program, etc.)*



2020	Pending Actions	FW 7 (GB spawning)	FW 8 (Specs and mackerel)	Other
Jan	FW6 Proposed rule			
Feb				
Mar				
Apr	IFM Effective	Council update		
May	FW6 and A8 final rules?			<i>ASMFC Addendum III – final action</i>
June			Council update	<i>Assessment (6/22)</i>
July				
Aug				
Sep			<b>Final Action</b>	<i>Support MAFMC staff with RH/S discussion paper</i>
Oct				
Nov				
Dec			Submit Final	
Jan		<b>Final Action</b>		

## Part II. Framework 8 (Doc.#5)

- **GOAL 1** - Manage the Atlantic herring fishery at long-term sustainable levels consistent with the MSA.  
Objectives – set specifications for 2021-2023 to prevent overfishing etc.
- **GOAL 2** - Consider adjustments to the herring plan that potentially inhibit the mackerel fishery from achieving OY.  
Objectives - 1) consider an increase in the incidental herring possession limit up to 40,000 pounds; and 2) modify the seasonal closure of Area 1B, which is currently closed January through April.



# Specification related alternatives

- OFL and ABC (*No Action, and updated ABC*)
  - Management uncertainty (*No Action, 3-year, 5-year and 10-year average of Canadian weir catch*)
  - Border transfer (*omt, up to 250mt*)
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- Management area sub-ACLs and seasonal sub-ACL divisions
  - Research set-aside (*may look at timing issue?*)
  - Fixed gear set-aside
  - River herring/shad sub-ACLs
- 
- Carryover (*FW6 prevented FY2018 and FY2019*)

# Adjust measures that potentially inhibit mackerel fishery

1. Herring possession limit: currently when 92% of a sub-ACL for herring in a management area, or 95% of the total ACL is estimated to be caught, a herring possession limit is implemented (2,000 lbs.) in that area or fishery wide. *(This level of catch is not sufficient to target mackerel in most cases, idea to increase up to 40,000 lbs.)*
2. Seasonal closure of Area 1B: currently area closed Jan-Apr. Traditionally, mackerel fishing occurred in that area in the winter. *(Closure of Area 1B limits access to mackerel).*



# Potential mackerel alternatives - DRAFT

- 4.5.1 – Increase incidental possession limit
  - *Increase possession limit – 40,000 lb, what else?*
  - *Increase for which areas – All areas; Areas 1B, 2 and 3 only; Areas 2 and 3 only?*
  - *Increase for which permit types – All; Category A/B only?*
  - *Modify when incidental limit is triggered? 2-step process?*
  - *Modify management uncertainty buffer?*
- 4.5.2 – Modify seasonal closure of Area 1B
  - *Eliminate seasonal closure?*
  - *Modify seasonal closure to what months?*





## Part III. Framework 7 (Doc. #4)

- **GOAL** - Protect spawning adults of Atlantic herring and/or Atlantic herring egg mats to increase overall herring biomass.
- **Objective** - Consider similar measures that are in Area IA for other spawning components of this resource (i.e. Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals).

Cmte Motion #1 (See Document #2)



# Potential Alternatives

- Spawning Closures (adult herring, egg mats).
- Spawning closure seasons (default dates).
- Who is prohibited in spawning closures?
  
- Cmte tasking to explore more info about egg mats.
- **Cmte Motion #2 – ASMFC/NEFMC authorities.**



## IV. Other Business – ASMFC Addendum III

- **Quota management options**

1. SQ - quota allocation can be bimonthly, trimesters, and seasons.
2. Alternate seasonal quota allocation –0% Jan-May; 100% June-Dec.
3. Alternative trimester split –Jan-May (0%); Jun-Aug (80%); Sep-Dec (20%).

- **Days out of the fishery permit provisions (June-Sept only)**

1. SQ -C and D permits only subject to landing day restrictions (not weekly landing limits). Cat A permits subject to both.
2. Days out measures and weekly limits would apply to A, C and D permits.

- **Weekly landing limit per vessel**

1. SQ –weekly landings limit process the same as now (Cat A vessels only).
2. Same process, but removal of 45-day permit notification requirement.
3. Weekly limit for all permit categories, no notification requirement.

## IV. Other Business – ASMFC Addendum III

- Council motion from Jan 2020 – opposed Option 3.
- Council members provided oral input at ASMFC meeting in Feb and public hearing in March.
- Final Action on May 5, 2020 - intend to share similar input at final meeting.
- See NMFS Correspondence (Doc #6).



# IV. Summary of Council input to date

- NEFMC opposes new tools that exclude segments of the fishery and do not allow for fair and equitable access by gear type.
- Measures in Section 3.1 are inconsistent with the federal FMP and standards the Council is required to follow.
- Reallocation should not be a purpose or result of this action. Area 1A has been allocated/divided by season for many years and these alternatives potentially take fish from one segment and award them to another.
- At the public hearing the Herring Committee Chair added that he would perfect the Council motion to include opposition to Option 2 as well as Option 3, both reallocate the resource and do not provide equitable access.

