



New England Fishery Management Council

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Eric Reid, Ph.D., *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2022
TO: Herring Committee
FROM: Cheri Patterson, Herring Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Charge for meeting on June 10, 2022**

There will be a webinar meeting of the Herring Committee on **Friday June 10 starting at 1:00 PM**. Please join the webinar ten minutes prior to test audio and to help the meeting start on-time.

PURPOSE: The primary purpose of this meeting is to continue progress on Framework 7, an action to protect spawning adults of Atlantic herring on Georges Bank. The group will specifically discuss if there are additional alternatives that should be considered in that action. The secondary purposes of the meeting are to receive an update on the Atlantic herring Industry-Funded Monitoring Program, review a draft memo related to a sub-annual catch limit (sub-ACL) of Georges Bank haddock allocated to the herring fishery, and review and discuss recommendations for annual Atlantic herring research priorities.

MEETING MATERIALS. To make the most of our meeting time, please familiarize yourself with the documents beforehand and come ready to make any recommendations. As documents become available, they will be posted on the Council webpage for this meeting:
<https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/jun-10-2022-herring-committee-meeting>

WEBINAR REGISTRATION. To be able to attend, view, listen, and talk during a webinar, you must: 1) register for the webinar in advance and 2) join the webinar on the day of the meeting (you can then select phone or computer for your audio connection). If you just call using the phone number provided on the meeting notice, you will be in listen-only mode and will not be able to speak during the meeting.

QUESTIONS/TECHNICAL SUPPORT. If you have questions about the meeting documents, agenda, or how to participate, please contact Rachel Feeney (rfeeney@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 x110). A [Public Participation Guide](#) is available with tips on joining Council webinars. Staff would be happy to set up a practice webinar for you ahead of the meeting if that would be helpful. For technical support during the meeting, please email helpdesk@nefmc.org or call 978-465-0492 x107.

2022 work priorities and timeline

In December 2021, the Council approved the following 2022 work priorities for the Atlantic Herring FMP. On June 10, the Committee will review the status of these priorities and discuss the timeline for the remainder of the year (Document #1c).

- Specifications for fishing years 2023-2025
- Complete submission of Framework Adjustment 9 (rebuilding plan, herring AMs)
- Complete Framework Adjustment 7 (GB spawning closures)
- Coordinate with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (largely a staff task)
- Staff participate in the 2022 herring management track assessment.

Framework Adjustment 7

RECENT ACTIVITY. In June 2021, the Council decided to delay the timeline on the development of Framework 7. The Herring Committee requested more time to explore potential alternatives to default closures already developed. The Committee recommended that the PDT and AP meet to discuss the feasibility of in-season monitoring as it related to spawning protection measures. The Committee recommended that the meeting be in-person to facilitate collaboration. The Committee supported taking more time to develop viable options because the risks to spawning herring are relatively low right now. Specifically, under low herring quotas the sub-ACLs are generally harvested before spawning season, so there is minimal overlap of herring fishing and herring spawning, which is typically in later summer/fall.

The PDT has provided initial input on the alternatives developed to date – see notes provided at the end of each alternative within the Framework 7 Discussion Document (Document #2). The PDT has drafted questions about these alternatives to facilitate discussion. Section 4.4 was added to Framework 7 with background information on the existing GOM spawning closures, as well as the original spawning closures proposed in the federal FMP that were later disapproved by NOAA Fisheries in 1999.

On May 17, the Advisory Panel addressed many of the questions posed by the PDT for Committee consideration. AP members advised that Framework 7 should be put on hold until the Atlantic herring stock has rebuilt, but if Framework 7 continues to be analyzed all the alternatives in the current draft should be included and further developed.

ON JUNE 10. The Committee will review the background information and AP input and continue developing this action. The Committee should develop recommendations to the Council for alternatives and/or on the future of this action. In the discussion document, there are text boxes with notes and lists of specific questions where our input would be helpful. The questions are also listed here:

Discussion questions (See Document 2 for details)

- For Action 2 (Section 4.2.2), the Committee has not defined what the “spawning tolerance area” would be yet. Same as the spawning closure options in Action 1? Larger area?
- For Action 2, Alternative 3 (*Implement a herring spawning tolerance possession limit that triggers a fleetwide spawning closure*) is still under development. Requires more discussion.
- Action 3 (*Spawning avoidance program/in-season monitoring with trigger based spawning closure*) still under development. Requires more discussion.

FUTURE STEPS. The Council will receive an update in June and consider the Committee’s recommendations.

Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Program

RECENT ACTIVITY. The Herring IFM program became fully effective on July 1, 2021. At the April Council meeting, NOAA Fisheries provided an update on the program (Document #3). The Council wanted the Herring Committee to discuss IFM at an upcoming meeting. On May 17, NOAA updated the AP and PDT on the status of the IFM program. The AP recommended that a framework action be initiated to revise the IFM weighting approach for the herring fishery.

ON JUNE 10. After a brief review of the issues, the Committee will consider the AP recommendation. Note the letter of correspondence sent to the Council in April 2022 regarding concerns about the industry-funded requirements of the IFM program to date (Document #6). Should the Committee accept the AP recommendation, the Committee should discuss the timing of this action. If the recommendation is to initiate this action in 2022, this would be considered a change to annual work priorities, and the Committee should also discuss what work to recommend postponing or canceling to accommodate this change.

FUTURE STEPS. The Council will receive an update in June and consider the Committee's recommendations.

2022-2026 Council Research Priorities and Data Needs

RECENT ACTIVITY. Each year, the Council updates its list of 5-year research priorities and data needs. The last update occurred in June 2021 and is available on the [Council's website](#). The PDT and AP prepared recommendations for herring-specific updates for the *2022-2026 Council Research Priorities and Data Needs* during their May 17 meeting (Document #4). The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is meeting on June 7 to review priorities, but updates that have not been approved by an FMP committee are not included in the SSC review. However, the SSC could make herring-related recommendations for the Committee to consider.

ON JUNE 10. The Committee will review the PDT and AP input (and potentially SSC input) and make any recommendations to the Council on updating this list.

FUTURE STEPS. The Council is expected to approve the entire list in June 2022.