



New England Fishery Management Council

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

DRAFT Herring Committee Motions

September 19, 2018

There were four main agenda items for both the Committee and AP meetings.

- 1) The group reviewed results from the 2018 Atlantic herring benchmark assessment. Dr. Jonathon Deroba presented the summary and answered questions.
- 2) The group reviewed public comments on Amendment 8 and discussed final preferred alternatives.
- 3) Discuss specifications for 2019-2021, including potential in-season action by NOAA Fisheries to set catch limits for fishing year 2019.
- 4) Initial discussion of herring work priorities for 2019.

Amendment 8

1. Stockwell/Pappalardo

Recommend Alternative 4b as the preferred alternative for the ABC control rule in Amendment 8 (Section 2.1.1), and recommend Alternative 2 for Section 2.1.2 as preferred, which would set ABC for three years with annual application of the control rule.

1a. Motion to amend: Grout/Smith

Recommend Alternative 4b as the preferred alternative for the ABC control rule in Amendment 8 (Section 2.1.1), but modify the maximum fishing mortality (maxF) parameter to be 0.8 from 0.7, and recommend Alternative 2 for Section 2.1.2 as preferred, which would set ABC for three years with annual application of the control rule.

Vote: 9:0:1, carries

Main motion as amended: 9:0:1, carries

2. Stockwell/Grout

Recommend Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative for Section 2.2 of Amendment 8 to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts, but modified to extend the 12-mile buffer to include Area 1A so it is a coastwide prohibition of mid-water trawl gear inside of 12-nautical miles, including seasonal sub-option A so it is year-round, and including spatial sub-option A to include Areas 2, 3, and 1B.

Vote: 6:3:1, carries

2019-2021 Specifications

3. Grout/O'Keefe

Recommend the Council request NOAA fisheries develop an in-season action that would set 2019 catch limits with the following guidance:

- Using the most recent assessment and projections;
- Using the ABC control rule approved the by Council;
- Proportionally reduce the fixed gear set-aside;
- Set the border transfer to 0mt; and
- Maintain the sub-ACLs for herring management areas based on the same proportions as the last specifications package (Area 1A=28.9%, Area 1B=4.3%, Area 2=27.8%, Area 3=39%).

4. Stockwell/Pappalardo

Motion to postpone until the Herring report at the September Council meeting, after decisions on Amendment 8.

Vote: 5:4:1, carries

2019 Work Priorities

Committee supports PDT recommendation #3 – Recommend NRCC or other appropriate group discuss the specifics and timing of a review of the Herring MSE (5-10 years?). When can that be integrated into the overall schedule of work items? Analysts will want to know in advance to plan model updates.

Committee supports PDT/NEFSC research into identifying the possible causes of recent declines in herring recruitment, what information is available about the most likely drivers of below average recruitment in recent years.



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DRAFT Herring Advisory Panel Motions

September 18, 2018

Amendment 8

1. Kaelin/Ruhle

Recommend to the Committee that the final preferred alternative for an ABC CR in Amendment 8 be Alternative 1 (Strawman A) in Section 2.1.1, and the ABC be set for three years with annual application of the control rule (Alternative 2 in Section 2.1.2).

Vote: 7:3:1, carries

2. Kaelin/Bilodeau

Recommend to the Committee that the final preferred alternative for Section 2.2, measures to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts, be No Action.

Motion withdrawn

3. Ruhle/O'Neill

Recommend to the Committee that the final preferred alternative for Section 2.2, measures to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts, be Alternative 9.

Vote: 7:4:0, motion carries

Herring Specifications

4. O'Neill/Lapp

Recommend the Committee and Council request NMFS take in-season action for FY2019. Whatever the total catch limit is the area sub-ACLs should be based on the same proportions as they have been in recent specification packages (Area 1A=28.9%, Area 1B = 4.3%, Area 2 = 27.8% and Area 3 = 39%).

Vote: 8:2:1, carries

5. Kaelin/Ruhle

Ask the Committee and Council to consider including, in the potential future work priorities for the 2019-2021 herring fishery specs process, the analysis of an increase in the herring incidental possession limit for

vessels targeting mackerel, from 2,000 pounds to as much as 40,000 pounds, in herring management area 2 and 3, from January 1-May 31 and the month of December of each fishing year.

Vote: 6:4:0, carries

2019 Work Priorities

AP support the PDT recommendation #4, analysis of previous actions implemented in the Herring FMP.

AP would not support #2 in 2019, MSE meeting/workshop to discuss process, pros/cons, etc., maybe later.

Other Business

6. Casoni/Kaelin

Ask the Committee to recommend to the Council to declare a resource disaster in the herring fishery given the low recruitment projections and significant negative economic impacts on the directed herring fishery and the lobster fishery that depends on herring for bait.

Vote: 7:1:2, motion carries