



## New England Fishery Management Council

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# MEETING SUMMARY

## Herring Committee

Webinar

August 27, 2020

The Herring Committee met on August 27, 2020 at 9:30 AM via webinar primarily to review the recent management track assessment, SSC advice on 2021-2023 OFL/ABC recommendations, and finalize the range of alternatives for Framework 8.

**MEETING ATTENDANCE:** Rick Bellavance (Chair), Vincent Balzano, Peter deFur, Emily Gilbert (GARFO), Ritchie White, Melissa Smith, Melanie Griffin, Cheri Patterson, Scott Olszewski, John Pappalardo, Matthew McKenzie and Peter Hughes; Bert Jongerden (Advisory Panel Chair); Deirdre Boelke (PDT Chair), Rachel Feeney, and Janice Plante (NEFMC staff); Mitch MacDonald, Aly Murphy, Carrie Nordeen, and Aly Pitts (GARFO staff). In addition, about 18 others attended.

### **KEY OUTCOMES:**

- Dr. Jonathon Deroba reviewed the results of the 2020 management track assessment and AP members were provided the opportunity for questions.
- Deirdre Boelke reviewed the SSC recommendation for 2021-2023 OFL/ABC recommendations.
- The AP developed several new ideas for consideration in Framework 8.

### **AGENDA ITEM #1: REVIEW 2020 MANAGEMENT TRACK ASSESSMENT**

Dr. Jonathon Deroba presented slides reviewing the results of the recent management track assessment. The stock is considered overfished, and poor recruitment trends have continued since the last assessment in 2018. There were several questions and one AP member expressed concern that there is no accountability for Canadian weir catches; while the US is severely reducing quotas there are no real limits imposed in the fixed gear fishery in Canada across the border.

### **AGENDA ITEM #2: REVIEW 2021-2023 OFL/ABC RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SSC**

Ms. Deirdre Boelke reviewed the SSC and PDT memos related to OFL and ABC recommendations. There were a handful of questions and the group moved on to other aspects of Framework 8.

### **AGENDA ITEM #3: CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT OF FRAMEWORK 8 ALTERNATIVES**

The Committee reviewed input from the AP and passed several motions related to final alternatives for Framework 8.

### **Motion 1: Smith/Patterson**

Establish two alternatives under Section 3.1.1: Alternative 1, no action OFL/ABC for 2021-2023; and, Alternative 2, SSC recommendation for 2021-2023 OFL/ABC.

*Rationale: This motion adopts already established procedures for setting catch limits (ABC control rule) that were developed and approved in Amendment 8. While the Council has not approved the SSC recommendation yet, it is expected to at the next Council meeting.*

**Vote: 11:0:0, carries**

Rick Bellavance, RI (Chair)		Matt McKenzie, CT	Y
Vincent Balzano, ME	Y	Dan McKiernan/Melanie Griffin, MA	Y
Peter deFur (MAFMC)	Y	Scott Olszewski, RI	Y
Emily Gilbert (NMFS)	Y	John Pappalardo, MA	Y
Peter Hughes (MAFMC)	Y	Cheri Patterson, NH	Y
Patrick Keliher/Melissa Smith, ME	Y	Ritchie White, NH (ASMFC)/ Toni Kearns (ASMFC proxy)	Y

### **Motion 2: Smith/Patterson**

Establish two alternatives under RSA (Section 3.2.6): No Action (3% for 2021-2023) and a second alternative that would set RSA to 0% for 2022 only, maintain 3% of each sub-ACL for 2021; and 0% as a default for FY2023 to be revisited for 2023-2025 specifications.

*Rationale: An RSA award has already been assigned for 2019-2021, RSA utilization data shows it is challenging to harvest herring RSA, the RSA program review may bring about modifications to this program, and the herring RSA program is out of sync with the herring specifications cycle. Taking a pause for one year will provide time to address these issues.*

**Vote: 11:0:0, carries**

Rick Bellavance, RI (Chair)		Matt McKenzie, CT	Y
Vincent Balzano, ME	Y	Dan McKiernan/Melanie Griffin, MA	Y
Peter deFur (MAFMC)	Y	Scott Olszewski, RI	Y
Emily Gilbert (NMFS)	Y	John Pappalardo, MA	Y
Peter Hughes (MAFMC)	Y	Cheri Patterson, NH	Y
Patrick Keliher/Melissa Smith, ME	Y	Ritchie White, NH (ASMFC)/Toni Kearns (ASMFC proxy)	Y

### **Motion 3: Smith/Hughes**

Recommend the Council maintain the fixed-gear set-aside at 30mt (status quo).

*Rationale: This fishery is tied to recruitment since it targets age2 fish, and with recruitment as low as it has been recently, this fishery is expected to be limited. Because this fishery targets young fish observation of this fishery can serve as an additional source of sampling recruitment trends. Maintaining some level of a set-aside recognizes the historical importance of this fishery in Maine.*

**Vote: 11:0:0, carries**

Rick Bellavance, RI (Chair)		Matt McKenzie, CT	Y
Vincent Balzano, ME	Y	Dan McKiernan/Melanie Griffin, MA	Y
Peter deFur (MAFMC)	Y	Scott Olszewski, RI	Y
Emily Gilbert (NMFS)	Y	John Pappalardo, MA	Y
Peter Hughes (MAFMC)	Y	Cheri Patterson, NH	Y
Patrick Keliher/Melissa Smith, ME	Y	Ritchie White, NH (ASMFC)/Toni Kearns (ASMFC proxy)	Y

**Motion 4: Smith/Hughes**

Establish three alternatives for carryover: Alternative 1, 10% automatic carryover (no action), Alternative 2, maintain the prohibition of automatic carryover of unharvested catch throughout the 2021-2023 specification package; and Alternative 3, allow for a 5% automatic carryover.

*Rationale: The current prohibition on carryover approved in Framework 6 sunsets, so the no action option would revert to an automatic 10% carryover. Considering the status of the stock, finding a balance that allows for an increased contribution to the recovering biomass, but also benefit the depressed fishing industry, seeing rollover options for 5% and 10% would allow for a more informed decision. The intent of this motion is to cover fishing years 2019 and 2020 only, carryover into FY 2021 and FY2022.*

**Vote: 10:0:1, carries**

Rick Bellavance, RI (Chair)		Matt McKenzie, CT	ABS
Vincent Balzano, ME	Y	Dan McKiernan/Melanie Griffin, MA	Y
Peter deFur (MAFMC)	Y	Scott Olszewski, RI	Y
Emily Gilbert (NMFS)	Y	John Pappalardo, MA	Y
Peter Hughes (MAFMC)	Y	Cheri Patterson, NH	Y
Patrick Keliher/Melissa Smith, ME	Y	Ritchie White, NH (ASMFC)	Y

**Motion 5: Griffin/Hughes**

Add an alternative in Section 3.5 that would close the directed herring fishery at 90% of the Area 2 sub-ACL, with a 40,000 lb incidental limit until 98% of the herring sub-ACL in Area 2 has been reached. At 98% of the Area 2 sub-ACL, the incidental limit would revert to 5,000 lbs. This alternative would apply to Area 2 only.

*Rationale: This motion was supported by the Advisory Panel and would add to the range of alternatives under consideration already. It includes a lower percent trigger (90%), and widens the range between triggers (90-98%), which is especially important under low quota conditions.*

**Vote: 7:2:0, carries**

Rick Bellavance, RI (Chair)		Matt McKenzie, CT	N
Vincent Balzano, ME	Y	Dan McKiernan/Melanie Griffin, MA	Y
Peter deFur (MAFMC)	Y	Scott Olszewski, RI	Y
Emily Gilbert (NMFS)	Y	John Pappalardo, MA	Y
Peter Hughes (MAFMC)	Y	Cheri Patterson, NH	Offline
Patrick Keliher/Melissa Smith, ME	N	Ritchie White, NH (ASMFC)/Toni Kearns (ASMFC proxy)	Offline

**Motion 6: Smith/Gilbert**

Develop an alternative in Section 3.5, for Areas 2 and 3 when estimated catch is 85% of a sub-ACL a herring possession limit is limited to 40,000 lbs., and at 98% of a sub-ACL the herring possession limit is reduced to 5,000 lbs for that area.

*Rationale: This alternative was added to develop an alternative that adds more flexibility for nboth Area 2 and 3. This option also includes a wider range between triggers to provide more flexibility to access mackerel after the directed herring fishery is closed. The intent of this option would be to maintain the current possession limit trigger of 95% of the total ACL, if that is met a 2,000-pound possession limit would be implemented for all areas. This alternative could be selected with other alternatives in this section (Options A, B or C in Framework 8).*

**Vote: 5:4:0, carries**

Rick Bellavance, RI (Chair)		Matt McKenzie, CT	Y
Vincent Balzano, ME	N	Dan McKiernan/Melanie Griffin, MA	N
Peter deFur (MAFMC)	Y	Scott Olszewski, RI	N
Emily Gilbert (NMFS)	Y	John Pappalardo, MA	Y
Peter Hughes (MAFMC)	N	Cheri Patterson, NH	Offline
Patrick Keliher/Melissa Smith, ME	Y	Ritchie White, NH (ASMFC)/Toni Kearns (ASMFC proxy)	Offline

**Other Business**

Melissa Smith asked NOAA Fisheries if Area 1A would reopen later in 2020 if it is determined that 1,000 mt of the management uncertainty buffer is available to revert back to Area 1A because catch in the New Brunswick weir fishery in Canada is less than the buffer considered. NOAA Fisheries is working with Canada to confirm landings and will respond as soon as possible.