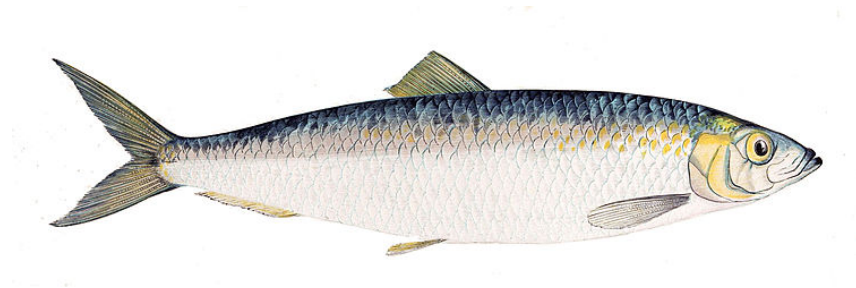




SSC Report to NEFMC

#2a



June 23, 2021

Jason McNamee, SSC Chair

Topics

- SSC meeting on March 26 covered a couple topics; this presentation will cover SSC comments on the technical basis of draft rebuilding plan options for Atlantic herring



Terms of Reference

- Review preliminary work by the Herring PDT and comment on the initial projections developed by the PDT to evaluate the rebuilding plan alternatives. Specifically, the PDT has developed projections using two different assumptions about recruitment, “average” and “autocorrelated” recruitment. The SSC should answer the questions:
 - Are these projections technically sound and appropriate ways to evaluate the potential impacts of the rebuilding plan?
 - Does the suite of the projections capture the potential states of nature appropriately?
- Second, the PDT has prepared an additional set of projections to help evaluate the longer-term impacts of the rebuilding plan. These projections either maintain the same control rule for the entire time series or apply a default control rule, in this case the control rule approved in Amendment 8, after the stock is estimated to be rebuilt. The SSC should answer the question:
 - Are the projections technically sound based on the scenarios used?



Atlantic herring rebuilding strategies – SSC Comments

- SSC felt that techniques being used in the rebuilding analyses were both technically sound and appropriate
 - some were more realistic than others, and some had more or less risk associated with them
- SSC had commented in the past that the standard approach for using average recruitment from the entire time series could be a risky assumption that could lead to optimistic rebuilding of the population if average recruitment were not achieved during the rebuilding period



Atlantic herring rebuilding strategies – SSC Comments

- SSC felt that autocorrelated recruitment method developed by the PDT was a good technique to better capture the short-term properties of recruitment, and therefore felt that this was a good addition to the recruitment assumptions for the projections
 - Method was better for capturing short-term trends, but longer-term trends still uncertain
 - Dynamics occurring that are not yet captured by the quantitative process and should continue to be explored as ways to define additional states of nature



Atlantic herring rebuilding strategies – SSC Comments

- SSC appreciated the exploration of other modeling techniques such as empirical dynamic modeling as alternatives to autocorrelation approach
 - SSC supports continuation of these explorations in next assessment process
- Public comment touched on consideration of the impact of the rebuilding strategies on fishing communities
 - SSC agreed its an important consideration
 - Amendment 8 control rule should have accounted for some of these types of impacts, though recognized desire to explore other options to make sure these impacts are covered by strategies explored



Questions?

