



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

DRAFT Herring Committee Motions – May 30, 2019

Members present: Kendall, Bellevance, Balzano, Grout, Smith, McKenzie, Olszewski, Pappalardo, O’Keefe, Stockwell, Christopher, Hughes, DeFur, and White.

Framework 6

1. Grout/Stockwell

Move to recommend the Council select as preferred in Section 4.1, alternative 2 update overfishing/overfished definitions, described as Option 1 in Draft Framework 6.

The stock will be considered overfished if stock biomass is less than 1/2 the stock biomass associated with the MSY level or a proxy (e.g., SSB_{MSY} or $SSB_{MSY proxy}$). The stock will be considered subject to overfishing if the estimated fishing mortality rate exceeds the fishing mortality rate associated with the MSY level or a proxy (e.g., F_{MSY} or $F_{MSY proxy}$).

Vote: 13:0:0, motion carries

2. Grout/Stockwell

Recommend the Council select as preferred in Section 4.2.1, alternative 2a, OFL and ABC consistent with the proposed Amendment 8 ABC control rule.

Vote: 13:0:0, motion carries

3. Stockwell/White

Recommend the Council select as preferred in Section 4.2.3 alternative 2, set border transfer at 100mt.

Vote: 13:0:0, motion carries

4. Stockwell/Christopher

Recommend the Council include several RH/S alternatives that were discussed but not included as alternatives in Framework 6 to the considered and rejected section (items 1-5 in Section 5.0).

Vote: 13:0:0, motions carries

5. Grout/Stockwell

Recommend the Council select as preferred in Section 4.2.2.2, option 3 for management uncertainty and use a 10-year average (2009-2018) of landing in the New Brunswick weir fishery, or 4,560 mt.

Vote: 13:0:0, motion carries

6. Grout/Stockwell

Recommend the Council add an additional alternative for consideration in Section 4.2.2 for a management uncertainty buffer option of 6,200 mt (No Action).

Vote: 13:0:0, motion carries

7. Grout/Stockwell

Recommend the Council temporarily prohibit carryover under low quotas, for this action only (2020 and 2021).

Vote: 13:0:0, motion carries

Review of MSE Process

By consensus, Committee supports the proposed plan for the review of the MSE process outlined in the PDT memo (May 21, 2019).



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Herring AP Meeting – May 29, 2019

DRAFT STATEMENTS FROM AP MEMBERS PRESENT, NO QUORUM

(AP MEMBERS PRESENT: Bilodeau, Casoni, Kane, Kaelin, Lapp, O’Neill, Weiner)

Framework 6

1. The Herring AP supports that Option 1 described in Framework 6 be Alternative 2 for the overfishing definition in Framework 6.

The stock will be considered overfished if stock biomass is less than 1/2 the stock biomass associated with the MSY level or a proxy (e.g., SSB_{MSY} or $SSB_{MSY proxy}$).

The stock will be considered subject to overfishing if the estimated fishing mortality rate exceeds the fishing mortality rate associated with the MSY level or a proxy (e.g., F_{MSY} or $F_{MSY proxy}$).

Rationale: This option is more scientific in that it incorporates the results of the most recent assessment upfront and would require less administrative workload in terms of council actions.

Minority opinion– Option 2 may include more public participation and awareness and is more consistent with process used in New England.

2. The Herring AP does not support using the Amendment 8 control rule and recommends that Framework 6 include a new OFL/ABC option that would set ABC at a level that has a 50% probability of overfishing in 2020.

Rationale: While that alternative could not be selected because it would be higher than the SSC approved ABC it would be useful to see for comparison. The Amendment 8 ABC control rule should not be used unless it is approved by NMFS. The economic hardship is real and that needs to be considered; we are seeing reductions in lobster effort already because of increased bait prices.

3. The AP recommends that Option 2, the 5-year average be the final preferred alternative for the management uncertainty buffer (3,992 mt).

Rationale: It appears Canadian catch is increasing, and recruitment may be improving. We are facing a bait crisis and need to support our domestic fishery in any way we can.

4. The AP recommends border transfer be set at 250mt for Framework 6, Alternative 2.

Rationale: This measure would help support the traditional free flow of herring across the border.

5. The AP supports maintaining the carryover provision in this action, but limit the allowable carryover to 10% of each sub-ACL allocation in the year those fish are available (in this case FY2020). In addition, adjust the in-season accountability measure that closes a herring management area to directed herring fishing when 92% of that sub-ACL is estimated to be harvested to 95% of each area sub-ACL instead. These two measures would be temporary for this package only.

Rationale: Projections assume 2018 fish are harvested, and if they are not the underage should be returned to the fishery in 2020, but allowing all the rollover would exceed the 2020 ACL. This is a compromise that would allow some rollover but not the full amount.

6. The AP recommends the Committee add several RH/S catch cap alternatives to the considered and rejected section of Framework 6.

Rationale: Catch caps are not biologically based so preserving the status quo allocations is a sensible outcome at this time.

Review of MSE Process

7. The AP supports the draft MSE review program outlined in the PDT memo.