



New England Fishery Management Council

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**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
HERRING PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM WEBINAR**

December 20, 2016

The Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) met via webinar on December 20, 2016 primarily to discuss outcomes from the recent MSE workshop and ideas for a potential range of alternatives for the Committee to consider.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: Ms. Deirdre Boelke (Herring PDT Chair); Dr. Rachel Feeney (Council staff); Mr. Tim Cardiasmenos, Ms. Marianne Ferguson, Mr. Daniel Luers, Mr. Brant McAfee; Ms. Carrie Nordeen (NMFS GARFO staff); Dr. Madeleine Hall-Arber (MIT Sea Grant); Dr. Jonathon Deroba and Dr. Min-Yang Lee, and Ms. Sara Weeks (NEFSC staff); Dr. Matthew Cieri (MEDMR); Mr. Micah Dean, (MADMF); and Ms. Renee Zobel (NHFG). Eight members of the public participated as well.

KEY OUTCOMES

- The PDT reviewed a draft summary of the recent MSE workshop.
- The PDT discussed several recommendations for the Committee to consider when developing a range of ABC control rule alternatives to include in Amendment 8.

REVIEW STATUS OF HERRING PDT WORK AND COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Staff reviewed updated timelines for Framework 5 and Amendment 8, highlighting when the Council is scheduled to take final action, expected implementation dates, and timing of a peer review for the MSE ABC control rule analysis.

REVIEW DRAFT SUMMARY OF MSE WORKSHOP

Staff summarized general workshop outcomes including a summary of who attended, summary of oral and written input on recommendations for ABC control rule alternatives and tradeoffs, etc. Rachel – any specific points you want to highlight in the summary?

REVIEW UPDATED ANALYSES AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ABC CONTROL RULE

Dr. Jon Deroba presented several strawman ideas for identifying a reasonable range of alternatives based on input received from the MSE workshop. The PDT reviewed updated analyses and developed a handful of recommendations for the Committee to consider.

1. The PDT recommends removing three control rules from further consideration based on poor overall performance and stakeholder input from the recent workshop. Specifically, the PDT recommends removing: 1) the biomass based control rule that sets ABC for three years but restricts the inter annual variation to 15% or less; 2) the constant catch control rule; and 3) the conditional constant catch control rule that sets fishing mortality at a max of 0.5 of Fmsy.
PDT Rationale: 1) The tradeoff of annual yield for inter annual stability may be too high for these alternatives; annual yield is never above 80% of MSY; 2) The performance of these alternatives for the predator metrics is generally poor compared to other alternatives; 3) the probability of a rebuilding plan being needed may be too high; 4) removing these ideas is consistent with stakeholder input from the workshop from a wide variety of participants, not just one stakeholder type; and 5) a subset of the control rules will likely not meet the overall goals and objectives of the Herring FMP so those should be removed from consideration.
2. For this call the PDT reviewed four different control rule shapes to evaluate the general performance of the alternatives. If time permits, the PDT suggests that a method be developed that would identify potential control rule shapes based on their performance. For example, the most robust control rules for several different metrics could be teased out from the analysis and as control rule shapes to further evaluate the alternatives. In addition, to capture the variability of performance, the 25% and 75% could be added to the mean plots.
3. The PDT requests the AP and Committee provide more specific input about desired performance and tradeoffs; that input would help guide which control rule shapes should be selected for further consideration. For example, since there are no control rules that provide less than 10% inter annual variation in yield as well as yield over 80% of MSY, how could the existing control rule alternatives be tweaked to improve performance? How should the metrics be tweaked to identify desired performance?
4. Does the AP or Committee have any additional recommendations for tradeoff analyses? For example, several suggestions were made at the workshop about age structure and evaluating the proportion of small or large fish in the population. There are limitations on what can be completed, but are there any suggestions for additional tradeoffs plots that have not been presented yet?
5. The PDT wants the AP and Committee to be aware of serious caveats related to the MSE models and analyses. Specifically, these analyses are not predictions of current or future relationships between herring abundance and predators. Many assumptions were made in order to generate a relationship between herring and predators; therefore, users need to be careful about how these analyses are interpreted and some may not remain in the analyses after the peer review.

REVIEW OF INITIAL ANALYSES FOR FRAMEWORK 5

The PDT plans to complete most of the draft analyses before the January AP and Cmte meetings. Staff will follow up with individual PDT members about timing and what is feasible before the January meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS / FUTURE MEETINGS

The PDT did not schedule any future meetings.