

Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP Action Plan

Council: New England Fishery Management Council (Council)

Fishery: Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

Title of Action: Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP

Scope: Consider revising the control rule for specifying acceptable biological catch (ABC CR) for Atlantic herring; address localized depletion inshore.

Objective of Action:

At its November 2014 meeting, the Council passed the following motion with respect to the 2015 Atlantic herring management priorities:

That for herring priorities, the Council prioritize an amendment to consider control rules for the Atlantic herring fishery that account for herring's role as forage in the ecosystem. The Council should also task the EBFM PDT and committee with developing ecological guidance for the herring PDT on managing forage fish within an ecosystem context by the June 2015 NEFMC Council meeting, and participating in the development of an appropriate control rule and reference points within an EBFM context for the herring fishery during this amendment.

At its June 2015 meeting, the Council approved the following goals and objective for Amendment 8:

Goals:

1. To account for the role of Atlantic herring within the ecosystem, including its role as forage;
2. To stabilize the fishery at a level designed to achieve OY;
3. To address localized depletion in inshore waters.

Objective:

1. Develop and implement an ABC control rule that manages Atlantic herring within an ecosystem context and addresses the goals of Amendment 8.

Likely Range of Alternatives:

- Atlantic herring ABC Control Rules, including those that account for herring's role as forage in the ecosystem.
- Measures to address localized depletion.

Applicable Laws/Issues:

NEPA Analysis (EIS/EA/CE/SIR): This amendment is expected to require an EA or EIS. A formal determination will be made once the range of alternatives is identified and analyzed. However, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS was published on February 26, 2015 in anticipation of the need to develop an EIS for this action. A supplemental NOI was published on August 21, 2015 to expand the scope of the amendment to include localized depletion issues.

Endangered Species Act/Marine Mammal Protection Act: This action is expected to have an informal ESA consultation.

Other Applicable Laws and Regulatory Requirements: Typical issues and analyses expected at this time.

Herring Plan Development Team Membership and Other Individuals:

	Organization	Name	Responsibility
Herring Plan Development Team	NEFMC	Rachel Feeney	Interim Chair of Herring PDT, Herring FMP Coordinator, and Amendment 8 project manager. Summarize scoping comments, collaborate on updating Affected Environment and writing Fishery Impacts/Social Impact Assessment.
	NEFMC	Deirdre Boelke	Transitioning to serve as Chair of Herring PDT and Herring FMP Coordinator. Support development of Amendment 8.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Carrie Nordeen	Primary point of contact in NMFS for Herring FMP. GARFO Implementation Team Chairman. Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs and development of document.
	NMFS GARFO Analysis & Program Support Division	Brant McAfee	Support Herring PDT data requests. Provide catch data to develop alternatives, Affected Environment, and impact analyses. Identify potential monitoring issues during development and review. Potentially support with GIS analysis.
	NMFS GARFO NEPA	Tim Cardiasmenos	Review document for completeness in terms of NEPA requirements during development and review.
	NEFSC Population Dynamics Branch	Jon Deroba	Technical analyses related to development of ABC CR alternatives. Coordinate Herring PDT work for MSE, if applicable. Technical work on localized depletion and analyze related management measures. Technical work associated with biological impact analyses. Assist in writing other elements of document.
	NEFSC Social Sciences Branch	Min-Yang Lee	Complete fishery/economic data requests for the PDT. Develop/write Economic Impact Analyses and impacts on fishery participants. Economic analyses related to ABC CR alternatives and other measures. Technical input on MSE, if applicable. Provide RIR/RFA analyses including summary of economic impacts.

	Maine DMR	Matt Cieri	Provide State fishery and biological data as needed. Technical work on localized depletion and analyze related management measures. Technical input on MSE, if applicable. Consultation on development of measures and biological impact analyses.
	Mass. DMF	Micah Dean	Portside sampling data assimilation/analysis if necessary. Technical work on localized depletion and analyze related management measures. Technical input on MSE, if applicable. Consultation on development of measures and impact analyses.
	NHFG	Renee Zobel	Provide State fishery and biological data as needed. Technical work on localized depletion and analyze related management measures. Technical input on MSE, if applicable. Consultation on development of measures and biological impact analyses.
	MIT Sea Grant	Madeleine Hall-Arber	Summarize scoping comments. Consultation on socio-economic elements of document and fishery/social impact assessment.
	NEFSC Fisheries Sampling Branch	Sara Weeks	Complete observer program data requests. Identify potential monitoring/observer program issues during development and review. Consultation on development of measures and impact analyses.
Other Individuals	NEFMC	Michelle Bachman	Development of background information and analyses of impacts on the physical environment and EFH.
	NMFS GCNE	Mitch MacDonald	Consultation on potential legal issues and questions.
	MAFMC	Jason Didden	Consultation/coordination with Mid-Atlantic Council to address overlapping issues with mackerel fishery.
	ASMFC	Ashton Harp	Consultation/coordination with ASMFC for state-federal overlapping issues.
	NMFS GARFO Protected Spec. Div.	Danielle Palmer	Consultation on background information and analysis of impacts on protected resources.
	NMFS GARFO SFD	Carly Bari	Primary GARFO contact for MAFMC MSB FMP. Consultation/coordination for overlapping issues with mackerel fishery.

Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Plan Development Team Membership:

	Organization	Name	Responsibility
EBFM PDT	NEFMC	Andy Applegate	Chair of EBFM PDT. Primary responsibility for coordinating work with EBFM PDT and Committee to provide ecological guidance on development of herring ABC CR alternatives in Amendment 8.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries	Tobey Curtis	Provide ecological guidance on development of herring ABC CR alternatives in Amendment 8. Assist in the development of EBFM PDT Report: <i>Scientific advice on herring control rules that account for forage requirements and the role of Atlantic herring in the</i>
	NEFSC Population Dynamics	Kiersten Curti	

NEFSC Social Sciences	Geret DePiper	<i>ecosystem</i> . Report completed June 2015.
NEFSC Ecosystem Assessment Program	Michael Fogarty, Sarah Gaichas	
SMAST	Saang Yoon-Hyun	
Rutgers University	Kevin St. Martin	
UConn	Peter Auster	
RI DEM	Chris Powell	
MAFMC	Rich Seagraves	

NMFS Amendment 8 Implementation Team Membership:

Organization	Name	Responsibility
NMFS GARFO SFD	Carrie Nordeen	Implementation Team Chair; primary GARFO contact for Amendment 8.
TBD	TBD	TBD

Implementation Team Issues:

TBD ó to be developed by IT Chair

Enforcement: TBD

Information Resource Management (IRM): TBD

Statistics: TBD

Observer Coverage: TBD

Administrative issues/costs: TBD

Regulatory clarification/simplification: TBD

Data Requirements: TBD

VMS: TBD

Protected Resources: TBD

Plan for How to Measure the Effectiveness of the Action: TBD

Other: TBD

Worksheet 1: Herring/EBFM PDT Resources and Work Schedule

Amendment 8	Specific Needs	Primary Participation	Start	End	Duration
Ecological guidance on managing forage fish within ecosystem context	Related technical work and development of guidance	Applegate, EBFM PDT, Deroba, Steele	Jan 2015	June 2015	6 mos.
Public comments summary	Review and summarize comments	Feeney, Hall-Arber	Aug 2015	Dec 2015	5 mos.
MSE for ABC CR Alts	Development of MSE, technical evaluation of ABC CR Alts	TBD, Herring PDT	Dec 2015	Mar 2017	15 mos.
Draft EA/EIS	Oversight of document development/completion	Feeney, Boelke	Jan 2016	Sept 2017	18 mos.
Affected Environment	Update data, tailor content.	Feeney, Lee, Hall-Arber other PDT	Jan 2016	Aug 2016	8 mos.
Alternatives - ABC CR	Technical work to support development of A8 CR alts	Herring PDT	Jan 2016	Sept 2017	18 mos.
Alternatives - localized depletion	Technical work to support development of alts to address localized depletion	Deroba, Dean, Cieri, Zobel, Boelke, other PDT	Jan 2016	Sept 2017	18 mos.
Impacts Analysis - Atlantic Herring	Discussion of impacts of alts on Atlantic herring resource	Deroba, Dean, Cieri, Zobel, Boelke, other PDT	Sept 2016	July 2017	10 mos.
Impacts Analysis - Non-Target Species	Discussion of impacts of alts on non-target species, including RH/S	Deroba, Dean, Cieri, Boelke, other PDT	Sept 2016	July 2017	10 mos.
Impacts Analysis - EFH	Discussion of impacts of alts on EFH	Bachman, Boelke	Sept 2016	July 2017	10 mos.
Impacts Analysis - Protected Resources	Discussion of impacts of alts on PR	Boelke, Palmer	Sept 2016	July 2017	10 mos.
Impacts Analysis - Fishery-Related Businesses/Communities	Discussion of impacts of alts on fishery participants, social and economic impacts	Lee, Feeney, Hall-Arber	Sept 2016	July 2017	10 mos.
Cumulative Effects Analysis	CEA for the A8 Final EIS	Boelke, Nordeen, Cardiasmenos	Jan 2018	Mar 2018	3 mos.
RIR/RFA Analysis	For Final EIS	Lee, Feeney, Boelke	Jan 2018	Mar 2018	3 mos.
Final EIS	Primary responsibility of document completion/submission	Boelke	Jan 2018	Mar 2018	3 mos.

Worksheet 2: Timeline for Development of Amendment 8

2015	
January	NEFMC - Review action plan and approve scoping document
February-Apr	NOI for developing an EIS is published ó Scoping period
June	NEFMC - Review EBFM Report and A8 scoping comments; revise goals and objectives; recommends peer review of Management Strategy Evaluation
August-Sept	Supplemental scoping period regarding expanded scope of A8 (localized depletion)
December	Herring PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A8
2016	
January	NEFMC - Review scoping comments, approve MSE approach to developing ABC control rule alternatives
February - April	Herring PDT, AP, Committee work to develop background information and alternatives regarding localized depletion. Planning for MSE workshop.
May	Public workshop on MSE.
June	NEFMC – approve range of ABC control rule objectives, performance metrics and control rules to be evaluated. Continued development of localized depletion alternatives.
July - October	MSE and localized depletion-related work continues
November	NEFMC - Identify/approve range of alternatives for Draft EIS
2017	
Spring	Impacts analysis and peer review of MSE (by SSC or other)
TBD	NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives
TBD	NEFMC - Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives
TBD	Preliminary submission of EIS
TBD	Final submission EIS
2018	
TBD	Implementation of action

Worksheet 3: Detailed Implementation Timeline

TBD ó to be developed by IT Chair

PROJECT PHASE	STARTING	ENDING
1. Council Meeting to select final measures		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

Action Plan Versions:

Version	Date	Author	Change Description
1	January 5, 2015	Steele	Prepared for Joint Herring PDT/EBFM PDT Planning Meeting on January 5, 2015.
2	December 15, 2015	Feeney	Revised to reflect expanded scope of Amendment 8, update timeline, and facilitate the transition of herring responsibilities among Council staff.
3	March 24, 2016	Feeney	Update timeline.