

## Atlantic Herring / Georges Bank Haddock Action Draft Action Plan

**Council:** New England Fishery Management Council (Council)

**Fishery:** Atlantic Herring and Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

**Title of Action:** *The specific vehicle for this action has not been determined yet. Once the range of alternatives is specified at the June Council meeting a FW action will be specified.*

**Scope:** **Consider amending the herring fishery catch cap of Georges Bank haddock, associated accountability measures, and their implementation using approaches that are frameworkable**

### **Goal of Action:**

At its April 2016 meeting, the Council passed a motion to initiate an action to consider amending the herring fishery catch cap of Georges Bank haddock, associated accountability measures, and their implementation using approaches that are frameworkable. The Council also specified the goal for the management action: to incentivize the midwater trawl fleet to minimize the incidental catch of haddock in the herring fishery while providing the opportunity to fully harvest the sub-ACL of herring for Herring Management Areas 3 and 1B.

### **Likely Range of Alternatives:**

During the April 2016 Council meeting staff summarized a list of potential alternatives that could be considered based on input to date and categorized the measures based on the type of action that could be required, and level of involvement likely needed by the Groundfish PDT and Committee. The list below summarizes the list that was presented to the Council, but the ultimate range of alternatives considered in this action may include other measures. The Council did specify that only frameworkable items should be considered. It was discussed that the ultimate range of alternatives considered could impact the timeline for developing Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP and/or work on the Groundfish FMP, since this action is expected to require some level of resource from both PDTs and Committees. This action may or may not be folded in with the framework planned to set specifications for the Multispecies fishery.

- **Range of measures that would likely only require modification to the Herring FMP:**

1. Seasonal split of herring sub-ACL (allocate majority at the beginning of the year and reserve some (e.g. 20%) for later in the year);
2. Refine the accountability measure (AM) area (e.g., to only close areas with the highest GB haddock abundance and/or bycatch);
3. Define a season for the AM so it is not the majority of a fishing year (e.g. a season with higher bycatch rates);

4. Replace in-season AM with subsequent year AM; using full year of data and AM could be timed with highest bycatch rate season.
- **Range of measures that would likely require modification to the Groundfish FMP as well:**
    1. Only trigger AMs for Herring MWT fishery if either: 1) the total GB haddock ACL is caught and the herring MWT sib-ACL is exceeded or 2) the herring MWT sub-ACL is exceeded by more than 50%;
    2. Implement a mechanism to allow the transfer of GB haddock from the GF ACL to Herring MWT sub-ACL, if the GF ACL is not expected to be reached in a particular fishing year;
    3. Increase herring sub-ACL (e.g. 2% compared to status quo of 1%);
    4. Herring AM does not trigger if the total ACL is below a certain threshold.

#### **Applicable Laws/Issues:**

**NEPA Analysis (EIS/EA/CE/SIR):** This framework is expected to require an EA. A formal determination will be made once the range of alternatives is identified and analyzed.

**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. Support with development and analysis of this action; in particular, 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. Co-project manager for this action. Collaborate on impact analyses and document preparation and submission.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Carrie Nordeen	Primary point of contact in NMFS for Herring FMP. GARFO Implementation Team Chairman (? Or Aja if more of a GF action). 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 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 and provide RIR/RFA analyses including summary of economic impacts.
	Maine DMR	Matt Cieri	Provide State fishery and biological data as needed. Technical work and consultation on development of measures and biological impact analyses.
	Mass. DMF	Micah Dean	Portside sampling data assimilation/analysis if necessary. Technical work and consultation on development of measures and impact analyses.
	NHFG	Renee Zobel	Provide State fishery and biological data as needed. Technical work and consultation on development of measures and biological impact analyses.
	MIT Sea Grant	Madeleine Hall-Arber	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.

## Groundfish Plan Development Team Membership and Other Individuals:

	Organization	Name	Responsibility
Plan Development Team	NEFMC	Dr. Jamie Cournane	Chair of Groundfish PDT, Groundfish FMP Coordinator Co-project manager for this action. Collaborate on Biological and Economic Impact Analyses. Collaborate on document preparation and submission.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Aja Szumylo	GARFO Project Manager ? (or Carrie?), Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs. Prepare document for rule-making.
	NEFMC	Maria Jacob	Consultation on development of measures and data analysis. Coordinate updating of the Affected Environment related to the Groundfish Fishery and regulated groundfish species.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Brett Alger	Collaborate on the development of the alternatives.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Mark Grant	Collaborate on the development of the alternatives.
	NMFS GARFO Analysis & Program Support Division	Dan Caless	Support data requests. Identify potential monitoring issues during development and review.
	NMFS GARFO NEPA	Tim Cardiasmenos	Review document for completeness in terms of NEPA requirements during development and review
	NMFS GARFO Protected Resources Division	Danielle Palmer	Consultation on Protected Species Impact Analyses. Consultation on development of measures and impacts on protected resources.
	NMFS NEFSC Population Dynamics Branch	Paul Nitschke	Consultation on development of measures, data analysis, and biological impact analyses.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Branch	Chad Demarest	Consultation on development of measures. Complete data requests for the PDT. Complete Economic Impact Analyses for Groundfish Fishery.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Branch	Greg Ardini	Consultation on development of measures. Complete data requests for the PDT. Collaborate on Economic Impact Analyses for Groundfish Fishery.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Branch	Dr. Matthew Cutler	Collaborate on Social Impact Analyses for Groundfish Fishery.

	Maine DMR	Sally Sherman	Consultation on development of measures and data analysis.
	Massachusetts DMR	Dr. Gregory DeCelles	Consultation on development of measures and data analysis.

	Organization	Name	Responsibility
Other Individuals	NEFMC	Michelle Bachman	Complete Essential Fish Habitat Impact Analyses.
	NMFS GCNE	Mitch MacDonald	Consultation on potential legal issues and questions.
	NMFS GARFO Habitat Conservation Division	David Stevenson	Consultation on development of measures and impacts on habitat.

### **NMFS Implementation Team Membership:**

Organization	Name	Responsibility
NMFS GARFO SFD	Carrie Nordeen Aja Szumylo	Implementation Team Co-Chairs; primary GARFO contacts for this action
TBD	TBD	TBD

### **Implementation Team Issues:**

TBD – 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: Timeline for Development of this action

<b>2016</b>	
<b>April</b>	<b>Council initiation</b>
May	Develop alternatives with PDT and plan analyses
June	AP/Cmte – develop alternatives <b>NEFMC – approve range of alternatives</b>
July - August	Impact Analysis
September 7-9	TMGC meeting to set GB Haddock TAC
<b>September</b>	<b>AP/Cmte – Identify preferred alternatives</b> <b>NEFMC – Final action*</b>
October	Preliminary submission of EA
December	Final submission EA
<b>2017</b>	
May 1	Implementation of action

*\* If document is not ready for September Council meeting final action could shift to November and it is still possible for measures to be in place for start of GF FY (May 1, 2017). If these measures are folded into Groundfish FW56 final action will be later.*

### Worksheet 2: Detailed Implementation Timeline

TBD – to be developed by IT Chair

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

### Action Plan Versions:

Version	Date	Change Description
1		
2		
3		