



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 MEETING SUMMARY **HERRING PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

GARFO – Gloucester, MA

May 10, 2019

The Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) met in Gloucester, MA on May 10, 2019 primarily to review work planned for the rest of 2019, develop Framework 6, discuss a recommendation for the MSE review process the Council has planned for 2019, and discuss initial input on the RSA Program Review findings and recommendations specific to the Herring RSA program.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: Ms. Deirdre Boelke (Herring PDT Chair); Dr. Rachel Feeney (Council staff); Ms. Marianne Ferguson, Ms. Carrie Nordeen, Mr. Danielle Palmer, and Mr. Dan Luers, (NMFS GARFO staff); Dr. Jonathon Deroba, Ms. Katherine Connelly, and Ms. Sara Weeks (NEFSC staff); Dr. Matthew Cieri (MEDMR); Ms. Renee Zobel (NHFG); and Mr. Micah Dean, (MADMF); Mr. Kirby Roots-Murdy (ASMFC). Mr. Glenn Chamberlain from NEFOP attended the meeting as well.

Audience: Mr. Greg Wells attended the meeting in-person, as well as Mr. Gerry O'Neill. There were about ten people that called into the webinar.

KEY OUTCOMES

- The PDT identified a handful of issues the Committee should clarify related to Framework 6.
- The PDT identified who and when Framework 6 work would get completed between now and the end of May as a recommendation for the Committee to consider to clarify the language of the measures to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts in the herring fishery.
- The PDT prepared a strawman recommendation for how the Committee could approach a review of the MSE process used in Amendment 8.
- The PDT discussed a few initial recommendations for the Committee to consider for the RSA Final Report relevant to the Herring RSA program.

TIMELINES AND STATUS OF HERRING ACTIONS

Ms. Boelke reviewed the short-term and long-term planning for the Herring FMP including a summary of the recent Council meeting. Mr. Kirby Roots-Murdy reviewed the Herring Board meeting outcomes from the spring meeting.

FRAMEWORK 6

Ms. Boelke reviewed the draft Framework 6 document. The PDT provided input on the draft alternatives, identified items to include in the Affected Environment, and discussed how the impacts should be approached for this action and who is available to work on them. This section includes an overall summary of the discussion, and Attachment 1 includes a more specific list of follow-ups by PDT member for this action with target deadlines included.

The PDT discussed that with low quotas in the next few years it would be helpful to include a summary of how the sub-ACLs are monitored and how accountability measures work both in-season and after final catch estimates are available. The PDT plans to include some additional language in the overfishing definition to make it more generic, hopefully requiring less changes in the future. The PDT recommends that the No Action management uncertainty buffer should be included as an alternative (6,200 mt). The PDT also recommends that the RH/S alternatives that were discussed and not included in Framework 6 should be included and described in the considered and rejected section. GARFO explained that public comments came in on the in-season 2019 action suggesting NMFS consider other alternatives for setting RH/S catch caps, and it would be useful to include the input from the PDT to date explaining why those are not considered fruitful alternatives this time.

REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) PROCESS

Dr. Feeney reviewed a strawman that several PDT members worked on. The PDT generally supports the potential approach presented. Some concerns were expressed about timing and how much resources will be available to work on this with other Council priorities. Some commented that the review will need to be cautious to separate input on the process, from input about decisions made in Amendment 8. After the Council agrees on an overall work plan the PDT will be solicited for more specific input, i.e. review draft survey and interview questions.

RSA PROGRAM REVIEW – INITIAL INPUT

Ms. Boelke reviewed the RSA program review report very briefly and identified some of the more relevant findings and recommendations for the Herring RSA program. The PDT had some initial input summarized here, and more input may come after the meeting if PDT members have time to complete a table identifying which recommendations are the most important to work on first. PDT members agreed that some measures in the herring and mackerel plan make it very challenging to harvest all RSA; there may be some that are less controversial, but many will likely face political challenges. For example, fishing for RSA on a days out does not have biological concerns for herring, but may have political challenges. One member commented that because herring is a relatively low value species, having the ability to carry RSA over or bank up compensation may be useful until sufficient funds are there to support research projects.

Attachment 1

Item #	Topic	PDT member	Due date
1	Add section in FW6 that explains how monitoring of sub-ACLs is currently done, notification windows, reporting requirements, and if any modifications are expected under low quotas. Identify any issues/concerns for 2019/2020/2021. Any adjustments necessary?	Boelke and McAfee	May 20 (ideal) May 28 to make Council meeting
2	Update OFD alternative 2 to be more generic. Impacts will be basic – this is an administrative issue.	Deroba	May 20
3	Update Table 9	Cieri and Roots-Murdy	May 28 to make Council meeting, June 17 for EA
4	Update Table 10 and Table 12	McAfee	May 28 to make Council meeting, June 17 for EA
5	Add MU alternative – No Action (6,200 mt)	Boelke	May 20
6	Update Table 11 with correct values and add in RSA and FGSA removals	Boelke and Luers	May 20
7	Get best estimate of 2018 catch to date so we can develop section about possible underages from 2018 and what that means for 2020. Develop section and table with 2018 underages and how much room there is until ABC values.	McAfee Boelke and Luers	May 20
8	Describe regs in Maine for FG – additional restrictions beyond ASMFC rules - Section 2.3.8	Cieri	May 20 (ideal) May 28 to make Council meeting
9	Add RH/S alternatives in Section 3.0 (as placeholder if Cmte agrees to add)	Boelke	May 20
10	Update several tables in Human Communities Section	Feeney and Connelly	May 20 (ideal) May 28 to make Council meeting
11	Beef up section in AE on bait <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey of lobstermen (ASMFC effort) - ME alternative bait legislation - Reference to menhaden and RH 	Feeney Zobel Cieri	May 28 to make Council meeting, June 17 for EA
12	Update Aff Env summarizing A8 – Recommendation to remove BT emphasis in PR section from A8.	Boelke	May 20 (ideal) May 28 to make Council meeting
13	Clarify that FGSA is a proportional reduction in Area 1A sub-ACL not the full ACL. Clarify language for alternative and what mt values would be for each alternative.	Luers	May 20 (ideal) May 28 to make Council meeting
14	Complete a projection for No Action OFL/ABC	Deroba	May 20 (ideal)
15	Any additional figures or presentation of results for OFL/ABC alternatives – anything from MSE?	Deroba, Boelke, Feeney	May 20 (ideal) May 28 to make Council meeting