

Draft Herring Work Priorities for 2020

For AP and Committee Consideration – September 2019

Priority Item	Status	2020 Workload notes
<i>Already on the list</i>		
2021-2023 Specs Fishery allocations for 2021-2023	Initiate in June, after assessment report presented. Final action in Sept, only if no additional issues added.	Significant PDT workload June-Oct. SSC meeting early August. AP/Cmte meetings late August.
<i>Potential items for 2020</i>		
Action to adjust measures in the herring plan that potentially inhibit optimizing yield in the mackerel fishery (i.e. increase herring incidental possession limit, modify seasonal closure of Area 1B).	Tabled Council motion from June 2019.	Average PDT/AP/Cmte work needed. Could do some before June, but would need to halt work over summer/fall to focus on specs. Would require collaboration with MAFMC staff at a minimum, may need to reserve time for additional MAFMC input.
Action to consider GB spawning closures	Pending review of GB spawning discussion document	Discussion Document will be useful start, but would take additional PDT/AP/Cmte time to develop and analyze measures. Could try to squeeze in before June, but not certain it could be completed before focus needs to shift to specs.
<i>Other work items for 2020</i>		
Management Track Assessment	Herring assessment scheduled to be updated every 2 years now. Review meeting likely in late June, draft report presented in June 2020, final report available late July/early Aug.	Significant work for a few PDT members Jan-June, no AP or Cmte meeting time required.
IFM Amendment	Final rule expected in Fall 2019 and implementation in 2020.	Some resources needed by handful of PDT members and other Council staff.
Coordinate with ASMFC and MAFMC , including support for RH/S TEWG	Uncertain what ASMFC herring or MAFMC mackerel work is planned for 2020 yet.	Some resources needed by handful of PDT members. Some AP/Cmte input may be requested.
RSA Program Review	Report finalized in April 2019. Council still discussing next steps.	If modifications to Herring RSA program considered, some resources may be needed by several PDT/AP and Committee members.

PDT Recommendations to consider (based on discussion at August 5, 2019 PDT meeting)

1. In general, may be useful to let Amendment 8 and Framework 6 measures settle a bit before other actions taken.
2. In general, completing the management track assessment, specifications for 2021-2023, and tracking other herring related work items would keep the Herring PDT busy.
3. If the Committee decides to identify an additional work priority for 2020 it should consider one of the 5-year herring research recommendations:

Analysis of previous actions implemented in the Herring FMP to determine if they have been effective and are meeting intended goals.

As a first step, the PDT recommends the Committee list all relevant actions and prioritize which ones should be analyzed first.

4. If the Committee decides to identify an additional work priority for 2020 it should consider the regulations the Council identified as unnecessary, outdated, or ineffective in 2018 in response to Executive Orders 13771 and 13777.
 - a. *Restricts possession of herring once ACL harvested.*
 - b. *Pre-landing VMS notification requirement 6 hours before landing.*
 - c. *Prohibition of operational discards in groundfish closed areas.*

5. If the Committee decides to identify an additional work priority for 2020 it should consider reviewing and updating any herring regulations that are not clear or required.

GARFO and Council staff could take the lead and identify any sections of the regulations that may not be clear, and identify whether those could be modified under 305 (d) authority, or if they would require an action to modify the Herring FMP.