



New England Fishery Management Council

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

November 29, 2016

The Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) met on November 29, 2016 in Boston, MA primarily to discuss analyses being prepared for Framework 5 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The PDT also reviewed analyses comparing bycatch data from state portside monitoring programs and NEFOP at-sea observers.

**MEETING ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Deirdre Boelke (Herring PDT Chair); Dr. Rachel Feeney (Council staff); Ms. Marianne Ferguson, Mr. Daniel Luers, Mr. Brant McAfee; Ms. Carrie Nordeen (NMFS GARFO staff); Dr. Madeleine Hall-Arber (MIT Sea Grant); Dr. Min-Yang Lee (NEFSC staff); Dr. Matthew Cieri (MEDMR); and Mr. Micah Dean, (MADMF). Three members of the public attended.

Absent: Dr. Jonathon Deroba, Ms. Sara Weeks (NEFSC staff); and Ms. Renee Zobel (NHFG).

### ***KEY OUTCOMES***

- The PDT discussed potential impacts of Framework 5 alternatives.
- The PDT reviewed outstanding work for the Affected Environment for FW5 and A8.
- The PDT reviewed analyses of state portside monitoring data from MA and ME

### ***REVIEW NOVEMBER NEFMC COUNCIL MEETING***

Staff reviewed the recent Council meeting outcomes and summarized the status of actions currently under development. For example, the Council identified a preferred alternative in GF Framework 56 that would allocate 1.5% of the GB haddock sub-ACL to the herring fishery, as well as an annual review process that could lower the allocation for future years. The PDT was not clear what the default will be, 1.5% or 0%? The Council decided that the focus of 2017 work for the Herring FMP is completing FW5 and Amendment 8.

### ***REVIEW OF INITIAL ANALYSES FOR FRAMEWORK 5***

Staff reviewed the range of alternatives and the PDT discussed potential biological and economic impacts of each alternative. In general the PDT discussed the potential for effort shifts related to No Action as well as the proactive AM alternatives. The PDT also discussed potential impacts on spawning fish if effort shifts spatially and/or seasonally. The PDT discussed looking back at previous actions that have described spawning and including some generic discussion in FW5.

Dr. Min-Yang Lee presented some analyses about fishing trends inside and outside of the AM alternatives. The analyses were broken out by month and gear type. Overall, there is a lot of year to year variability; in some years the proactive AM areas are not a large component of total herring catch, and in some years and months they are. It was discussed that from year to year it is relatively uncertain where concentrations of herring are going to be.

The PDT also discussed the 80/20 alternative that would allocate most of the GB haddock sub-ACL in the beginning of the year, and reserve 20% of it for later in the year. This alternative is expected to have beneficial impacts on the winter fishery. But could have negative impacts on the summer/fall herring fishery if the reactive AM is triggered earlier as a result of a lower ACL (80% versus 100%). It was also discussed that triggering the GB AM earlier could have negative impacts on river herring if effort shifts to Area 2, which has higher bycatch of river herring compared to Area 3. The PDT discussed some monitoring concerns related to the 80/20 split. It will be challenging to monitor smaller sub-ACLs, as we know from the low TACs that need to be monitored in Area 1B.

#### ***DISCUSSION OF FRAMEWORK 5 AND AMENDMENT 8 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT SECTIONS***

The PDT discussed that more information about the GF fishery needs to be added to the Affected Environment, with focus on GB haddock. The PDT would also like to add more general maps of herring fishing effort, unclear what the status of the online tool is, some concerns were raised about confidentiality.

#### ***REVIEW OF BYCATCH DATA FROM STATE PORTSIDE PROGRAMS VS. NEFOP AT-SEA OBSERVERS***

Mr. Micah Dean from MADMF summarized a presentation he gave the PDT back in 2011 that compared bycatch estimates from portside and sea sampling in MA. Thirty trips were sampled by both portside and at-sea monitors used in the analyses. Overall, the portside “unsorted” was deemed to be good and closest to at-sea protocols.

Mr. James Becker gave a similar presentation for the ME portside data. To date only seven trips have been analyzed and compared, and most of those are on small mesh bottom trawl vessels. Overall, there was high variance, some trips were significantly different, and there are some elements that are likely impacting the results such as challenges with identification of river herring species, culling of haddock at sea, etc.

All of these data have been shared with NMFS, and GARFO is currently assessing whether it would be feasible and appropriate to incorporate dockside data in the current in-season bycatch monitoring program. There is a placeholder for this in FW5, but the analyses may not be complete before the Council is scheduled to take final action in January.

#### ***FUTURE MEETINGS***

The PDT has a conference call scheduled for December 20 to review outcomes of the December MSE workshop.