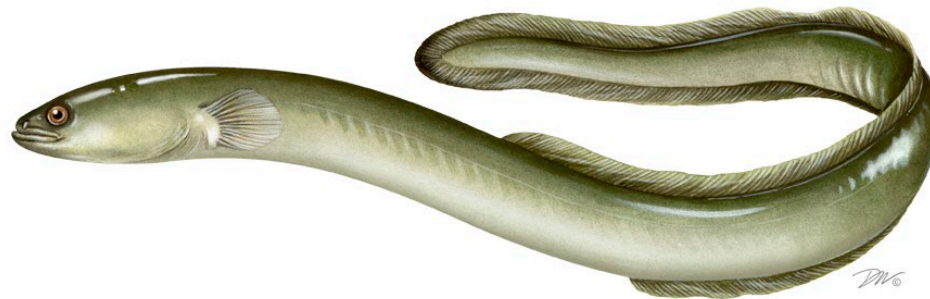




Update on Development of American Eel Draft Addenda VI and VII



American Eel Management Board
October 19, 2023

Background



August 2023:

- Board approved Benchmark Stock Assessment for management use
 - American eel stock is depleted
 - Recommended reduction in yellow eel fishing mortality
- The Board initiated two addenda
 - Yellow eel coastwide cap
 - Maine's glass eel quota

Background



Motions:

- ***Move to form a Plan Development Team to draft an addendum to consider using I_{TARGET} to recommend various catch caps, but not use I_{TARGET} to set biological reference points or stock status, using the supplemental report as presented today as a starting point.***
- ***Move to initiate an addendum to address the Maine glass eel quota.***

Glass Eel Draft Addendum



- PDT met September 14, 2023
- Discussed potential management options
 - Status quo (9,688 pounds)
 - Considered including an option to reduce the quota based on depleted stock status
 - Options for duration of Maine glass eel quota
- PDT will further review provisions of Addendum V (reporting requirements, glass eel allowance for restoration) and recommend potential improvements

Glass Eel – Next Steps



Timeline	Action
Winter 2024	Consider Draft Addendum for public comment
Feb-March 2024	Public hearings & comment period
Spring 2024	Review public comment, consider draft addendum for final approval
January 1, 2025	Implementation of selected quota

Yellow Eel Draft Addendum



- PDT met twice in September to discuss potential management options
 - Status quo (916,473 pounds)
 - Coastwide cap based on the I_{TARGET} configuration recommended in the stock assessment
 - Coastwide cap using I_{TARGET} with 1988-1999 reference period

I_{TARGET} Configuration



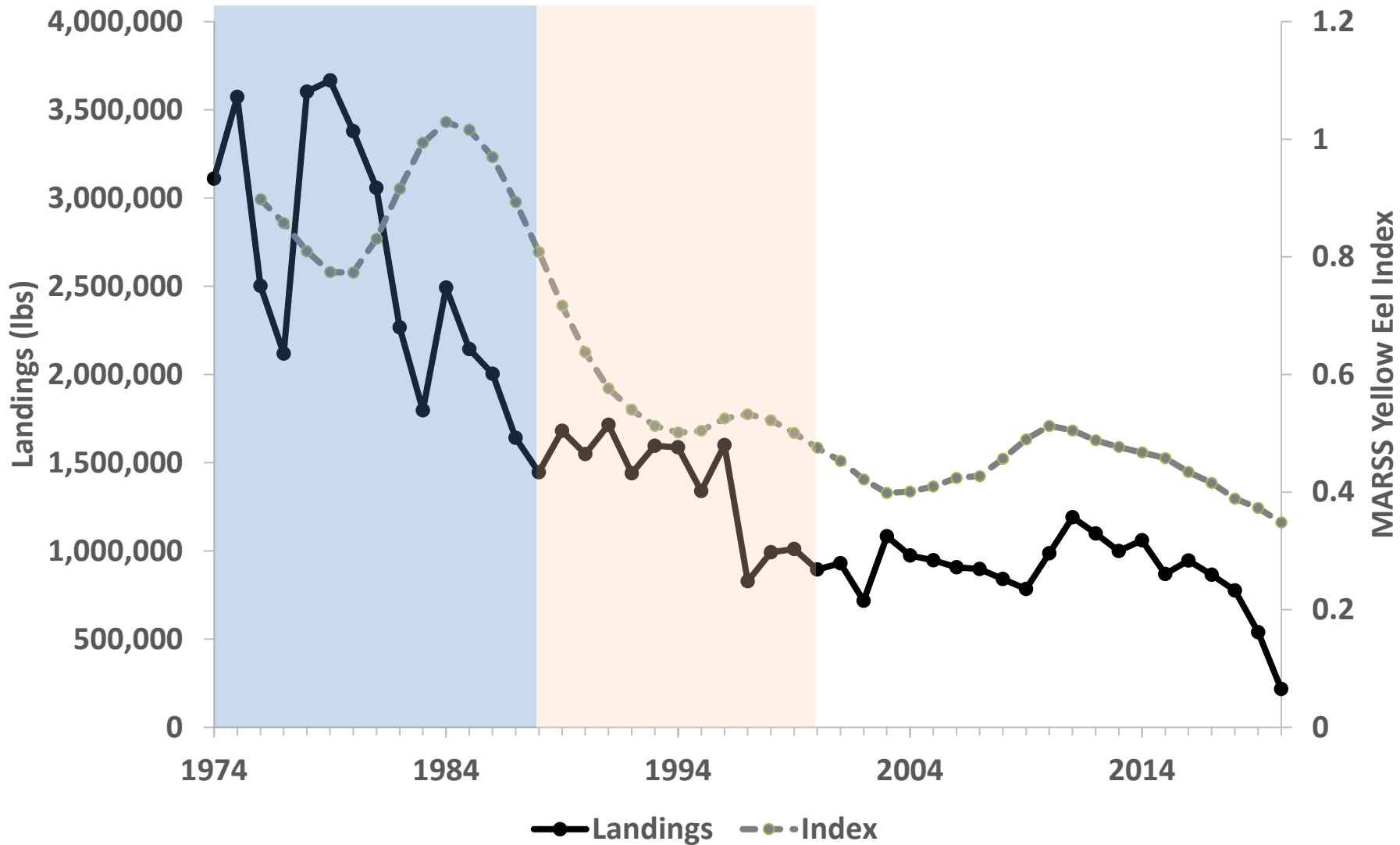
- Three “knobs” to adjust configuration:
 - 1. Reference period:** a time period where the population is stable or at a desirable abundance level
 - 2. Multiplier:** determines the level of abundance that management is aiming to achieve.
 - 3. Threshold:** This value reflects goals of the fishery. A threshold of 0.5 is less conservative, whereas a threshold of 0.8 was recommended by the NEFSC.

Yellow Eel Draft Addendum



- Coastwide caps using I_{TARGET} configurations

Reference Period	Multiplier Value	Threshold Value	Recommended 2020 Catch (lbs)
1974-1987	1.25	0.8	202,453
1988-1999	1.5	0.5	509,780



Additional Recommendations



- It should be clear in each option what target abundance level it is aiming to achieve
- The addendum should consider additional options for management response to exceeding catch cap, in addition to status quo from Addendum V
- When reevaluating the catch cap, the PDT does not recommend changing I_{TARGET} configuration, but rather adding additional years of data

Guidance to PDT



- What abundance level does the Board want to aim to achieve?
- Reconsider the use of state-by-state quotas?
 - How will states control or reduce yellow eel landings to prevent exceeding the coastwide cap?
- Are there bounds on the landings caps the Board is willing to consider?
- Does the Board want to use the Addendum V process if the coastwide landings exceed the cap?
- How often to reevaluate the catch cap?

Yellow Eel Draft Addendum



Timeline	Action
Winter 2024	Approve Draft Addendum for public comment
Feb-March 2024	Public hearings & comment period
Spring 2024	Review public comment, consider draft addendum for final approval
January 1, 2025	Implementation of selected management measures



Questions?



Reference Period	Multiplier Value	Threshold Value	Recommended 2020 Catch (lbs)
1974-1987 (Base)	1.25 (Base)	0.5	518,281
1974-1987 (Base)	1.25 (Base)	0.6	359,917
1974-1987 (Base)	1.25 (Base)	0.7	264,429
1974-1987 (Base)	1.25 (Base)	0.8 (Base)	202,453
1974-1987 (Base)	1	0.8 (Base)	316,334
1974-1987 (Base)	1.1	0.8 (Base)	261,433
1974-1987 (Base)	1.2	0.8 (Base)	219,676
1974-1987 (Base)	1.3	0.8 (Base)	187,180
1974-1987 (Base)	1.4	0.8 (Base)	161,395
1974-1987 (Base)	1.5	0.8 (Base)	140,593
1988-1999	1	0.8 (Base)	448,049
1988-1999	1.25 (Base)	0.8 (Base)	286,751
1988-1999	1.5	0.8 (Base)	199,133
1988-1999	1.25 (Base)	0.5	716,497
1988-1999	1.25 (Base)	0.6	509,780
1988-1999	1.25 (Base)	0.7	374,533
1988-1999	1.5	0.5	509,780
1988-1999	1.5	0.6	354,014
1988-1999	1.5	0.7	260,092



Addendum V process if coastwide landings exceed cap

- The Board will initiate an addendum to reduce landings to or below the cap.
- A PDT will consider a variety of actions to reduce harvest back to the cap
 - equal percent reduction only from the >1% states whose harvest increased in the overage year(s)
 - equal percent reduction from all >1% states regardless of whether their harvest increased or decreased
 - each >1% state takes a base reduction that is less than the total reduction needed, and the remainder of the reduction is taken only by those 1% states with substantially increased harvest in the overage year(s)

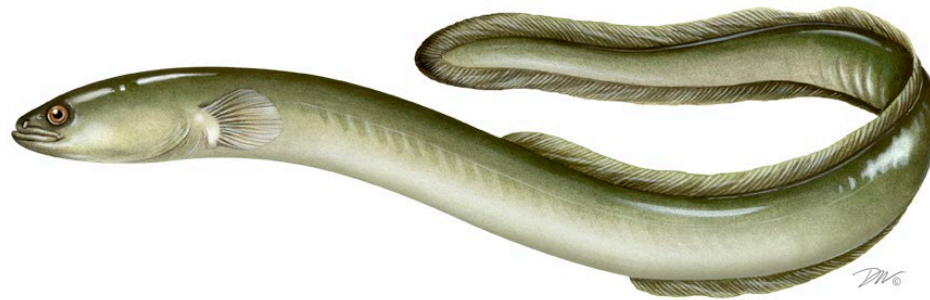
Landings



Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*	2022*
Maine	6,811	6,358	2,832	2,567	7,012	457	856
New Hampshire	Time series average of less than 400						
Massachusetts	1,705	592	375	1,577	84	C	0
Rhode Island	2,651	2,968	3,988	4,056	1,425	1,863	585
Connecticut	2,445	905	3,268	5,275	2,783	3,255	3,755
New York	36,371	41,732	39,218	33,039	16,411	16,097	27,039
New Jersey	67,422	77,499	69,679	76,241	23,742	26,273	52,543
Delaware	44,558	29,945	31,378	13,628	1,942	4,433	2,967
Maryland	583,578	541,270	514,226	331,878	159,816	204,701	188,903
PRFC	58,223	33,555	31,151	27,111	24,971	10,439	12,814
Virginia	96,336	97,328	57,281	34,247	21,916	46,345	35,516
North Carolina	39,911	24,752	18,058	8,140	3,291	5,705	3,602
South Carolina	Time series average of less than 400						
Georgia	Time series average of less than 400						
Florida	6,034	7,456	4,659	1,542	499	9,050	6,073
Total	946,045	864,360	776,112	539,301	263,892	328,618	334,653



American Eel Advisory Panel Report



American Eel Management Board
October 19, 2023

Background



The Advisory Panel met virtually September 21, 2023, to review the recent benchmark stock assessment receive an update on ongoing management actions provide comments on the fishery.

- Only three AP members were on the call:
 - Mari-Beth DeLucia (TNC, PA/DE)
 - Mitch Feigenbaum (PA)
 - Richard Stoughton (SC)
- Additional Attendees:
 - Phil Edwards (RI DEM)
- Staff recommends that jurisdictions revisit their current AP membership to improve attendance and participation.

Stock Assessment



- Stock assessment results are heavily driven by fishery dependent data and low catch could be influencing results.
- Not enough data to call the stock “depleted”
- YOY surveys are important but may need to focus on quality over quantity. TC could evaluate and identify ones that are not meaningful.
- Genetic work to evaluate genetic diversity of the stock.

Draft Addenda



- Yellow eel addendum should include an option for no change.
 - Status quo seems effective
 - Catch is not going to increase due to lack of market.

General Comments



Markets:

- Price for eels in worldwide market has gone up over last 5-6 years.
- Low harvest in last five years have no relationship to abundance. Decreased effort.

Advisory Panel

- Same AP chair for last 6 years
- Advisors would like to elect a new chair.
 - Staff acknowledged this but noted that the lack of participation is a challenge.
- AP participation nearly nonexistent last few years.
- Only 2 commercial fisherman on the call.



Questions?