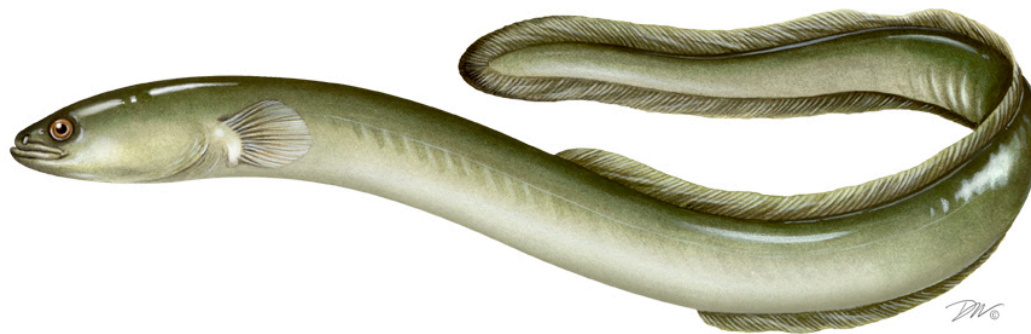


2017 Stock Assessment Update Schedule



Recent Activity



- April 2016: TC met via conference call to discuss 5-yr trigger of an assessment, decided on an update
- September 2016: TC met to review YOY surveys and discuss 2017 update planning, timeline
- December 2016: Repopulated the SAS
 - Jeff Brust (Chair), John Sweka, Sheila Eyler, Keith Whiteford, Brad Chase, Troy Tuckey, Laura Lee, Matt Cieri, ASMFC staff
- January 2017: SAS call to develop timeline, identify needed data sets, assign tasks

TC & SAS Timeline



- January 2017: Data requests sent out
- March 1st, 2017: Fishery independent surveys, biological data due to SAS
 - 2016 Terminal year
- April/May 2017: Preliminary landings data
- Spring/Summer: Analysis, writing
- Late-August 2017: TC reviews the report, finalize landings data
- October 2017: Present the Update to the Board

Stock Assessment Update



- Consists of adding the most recent years of data to existing, peer reviewed, and board-accepted stock assessment model without changing the model type or structure
 - **Will** update trend analyses: Mann-Kendall, Manly, ARIMA, Power, Growth analysis
 - **Will not** update DB-SRA since it was not recommended for management use by the peer review panel without making improvements to the model, additional testing
 - **Will not** update the TLA, also needs improvements to model as per peer review comments

Included in the Update



- Updated landings, regional & coast-wide trends in abundance
- Trend analyses:
 - Coast-wide, regional abundances declining/staying the same/increasing for YOY and yellow eels
 - **No** overfishing or overfished determination made
 - ARIMA produces reference points, but review panel did not recommend use for management
- Growth analysis:
 - Length-weight, age-length relationships
- Updated life history

Needed for Benchmark



- Recommendations the TC & SASC presented as improvements needed for the next benchmark assessment:
 - Improve accuracy of commercial catch and effort data (Addenda III and IV)
 - Characterize the L, W, age, S of commercially harvested eel along coast over time Improve understanding of the distribution & frequency of occurrence of eel along coast over time
 - Improve understanding of the impact of *A. crassus*
 - Improve understanding of spawning & maturation
 - Improve upstream & downstream passage for all life stages
 - Improve understanding of habitat needs & availability
 - Conduct intensive age & growth studies regionally



Questions?



Technical Committee Meeting Summary



2017 ASMFC Winter Meeting
January 31, 2017

Presentation Outline



- YOY surveys
- ~~Discuss upcoming stock assessment~~
- Receive updates on nematode research, Maine life cycle study, and otolith exchange
- Landings vs. Harvester Reports
- ~~Discuss research items needed to be completed before benchmark stock assessment~~

YOY surveys



- TC reviewed each state's YOY- methods, results, and challenges
 - Exception: Georgia
 - Survey locations selected opportunistically due to logistics
- TC Recommendation: If a YOY survey is discontinued, another survey should replace it (YOY, yellow, or silver)
- Challenges: not all YOY surveys provide equal information to the stock assessment
- Next Steps: conduct a power analysis

TC Summary



- Nematode Research
 - Methods for presence/absence differ along the coast
 - Zoemma Warshafsky (VIMS) will present results to TC later this year, possibly to the Board
- Maine Life Cycle Study
 - Staffing, gear, construction at survey sites created challenges.
 - Dedicated staff member hired for work, improvements expected for year #2.
- Otolith Exchange
 - Otolith samples with last group
 - Discuss results this spring
 - Publish report ahead of assessment update
 - Potential in-person workshop



Landings vs. Harvester Reports

- Terms often used interchangeably, but are different
- Efforts underway to get information updated for both items for stock assessment update
- TC Recommendations
 - States should be using harvester reports, but that they should also
 - Examine landings data to evaluate discrepancies and improve their data
 - Continue standard approach of taking the higher of the two numbers until stock assessment update is completed



Questions?