



Draft Addendum I

Presented to the Atlantic Herring Section
January 31, 2017

Statement of the Problem



- In recent years, the Area 1A Trimester 2 fishery has harvested herring at a rate that if left unrestricted would exceed the seasonal quota in weeks, not months.
- The increase in fishing effort and vessel capacity is in reaction to a decrease of readily available herring in Area 3
- Attempts to spread the Trimester 2 quota have proved to be ineffective.
- Maine implemented more restrictive measures in 2016

Purpose

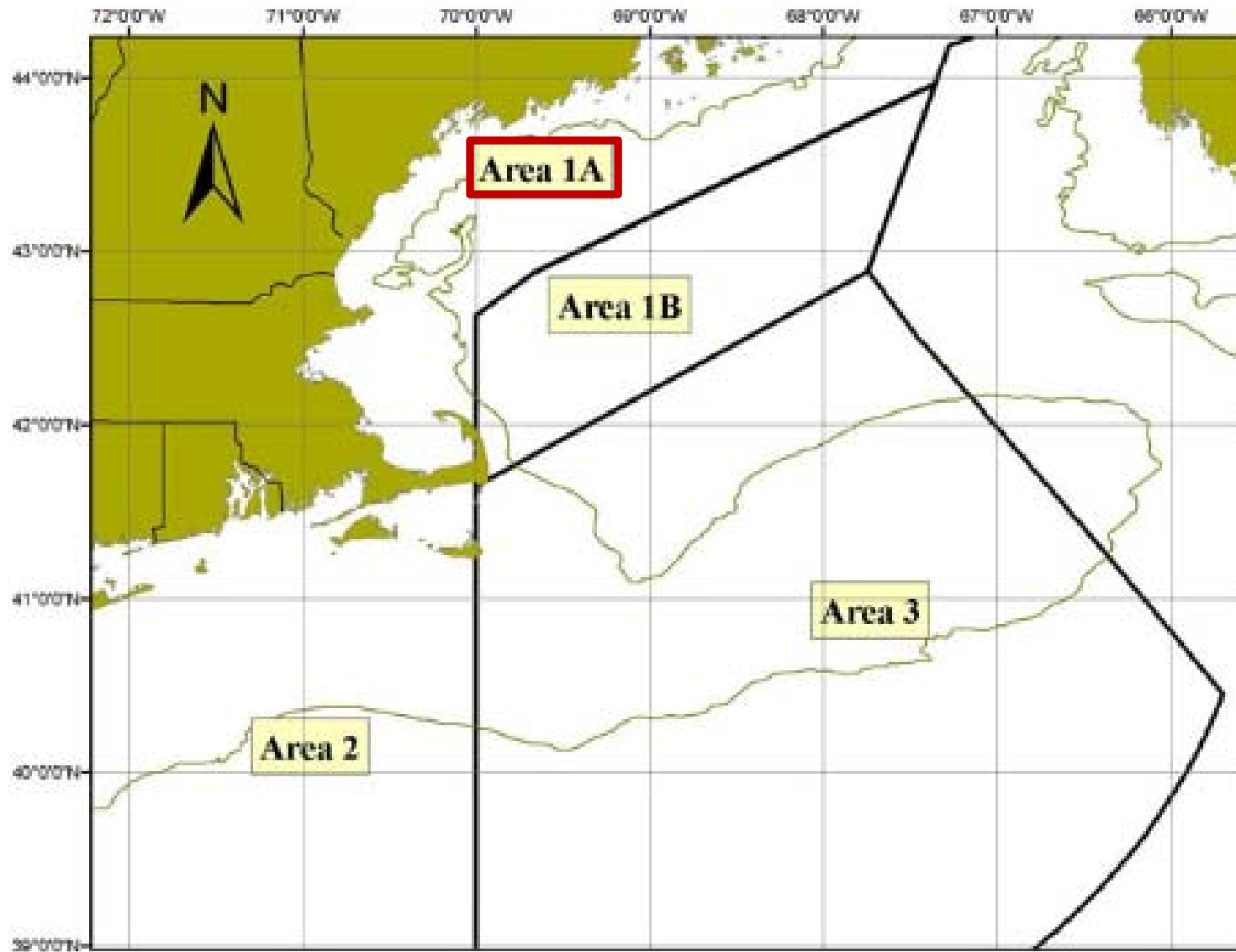


The intent of this addendum is to develop additional management measures to ensure the seasonal quota is spread throughout the entirety of each trimester, are consistent between the states, and address excessive capacity.

The Section proposed 9 alternatives for Draft Addendum I at the October Meeting

Management Alternatives	Options Developed Green: yes Red: no	NMFS	ACCSP
1. Implement State Vessel Landing Reports	Green	Green	Green
2. Prohibit Landings of Herring Caught in Area 1A During a Day Out of the Fishery	Green	White	White
3. Weekly Landing Limit Per Vessel	Green	White	White
4. Landing Restrictions on Transfers At-Sea	Green	White	White
5. Small Mesh Bottom Trawl Fleet Days Out	Green	White	Green
6. Clarify Days Out Procedure	Green	White	White
<i>7. Tiered Weekly Landing Limit</i>	Red	Green	White
<i>8. Restrict Vessels from Midseason Gear Changes</i>	Red	Green	White
<i>9. Small Mesh Bottom Trawl Set-Aside</i>	Red	Green	White

Management Areas

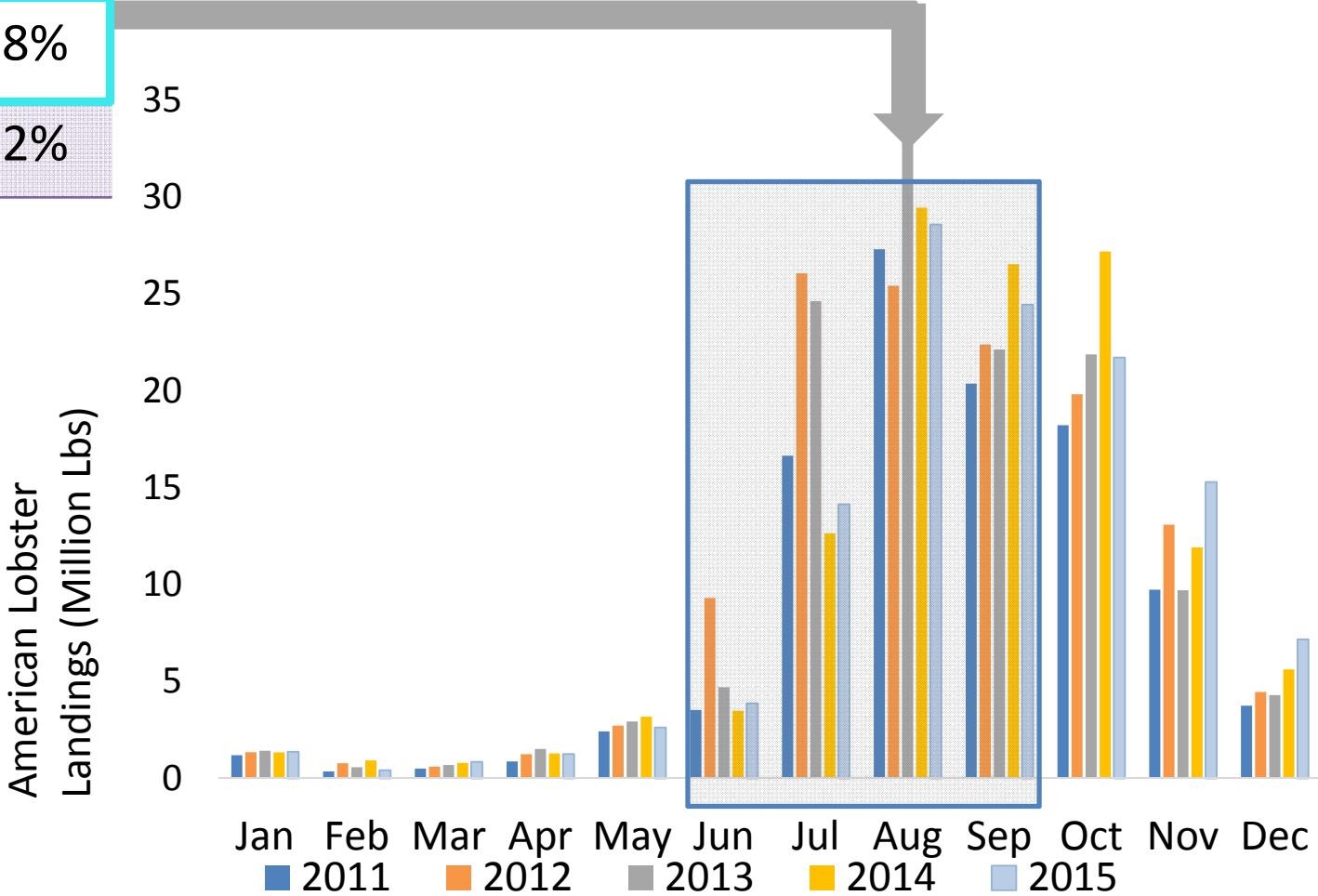


Seasonal Quotas

Seasonal Quotas (2016)

Trimester 1	0%
Trimester 2	72.8%
Trimester 3	27.2%

Monthly landings of American lobsters in Maine (2011-2015)



Days Out of the Fishery – Landing Days per Week

Year	Trimester 2	Landing Days	Comments
2011	June 1 – June 26	2	3 in-season planned changes; 1 reactionary
2011	June 27 – July 17	3	
2011	July 18 – Aug 7	4	
2011	Aug 8 – Sept 30 (<i>reactionary</i>)	7	
2012	June 1 - 30	2	3 in-season planned changes
2012	July 1 – 14	4	
2012	July 15 – Sept 30	7	
2013	June 1 – Sept 30	7	1 reactionary in-season change
2013	Sept 9 – 30 (<i>reactionary</i>)	0	
2014	June 1 – July 6	5	1 reactionary in-season change
2014	July 7 – Sept 30 (<i>reactionary</i>)	7	
2015	June 1- July 5	5	2 in-season planned changes; 1 reactionary
2015	July 6 – Aug 27	7	
2015	Aug 28 – Sept 30 (<i>reactionary</i>)	0	
2016	June 1 – 30	3	3 in-season planned changes; 2 reactionary
2016	July 1-14	4	
2016	July 15-23	5	
2016	July 24 – Sept 17 (<i>reactionary</i>)	2	
2016	Sept 18 – Sept 30 (<i>reactionary</i>)	0	

Fishing Effort - Landings



Overall Atlantic herring landings (mt) by fishing gear type and year in Area 1A.

Gear Type	2012	2013	2014	2015	% of overall total landings
Bottom Otter Trawl	356	106	100	117	1%
Single Midwater Trawl	270	998	1,164	2,224	4%
Midwater Pair Trawl	3,716	5,504	4,534	4,155	15%
Purse Seine	19,191	23,125	27,151	23,007	80%
Other	4	8	10	28	0%
Total	23 546	29 741	32 957	29 531	

Fishing Effort - # of Vessels



Total number of active herring vessels by gear type in Area 1A

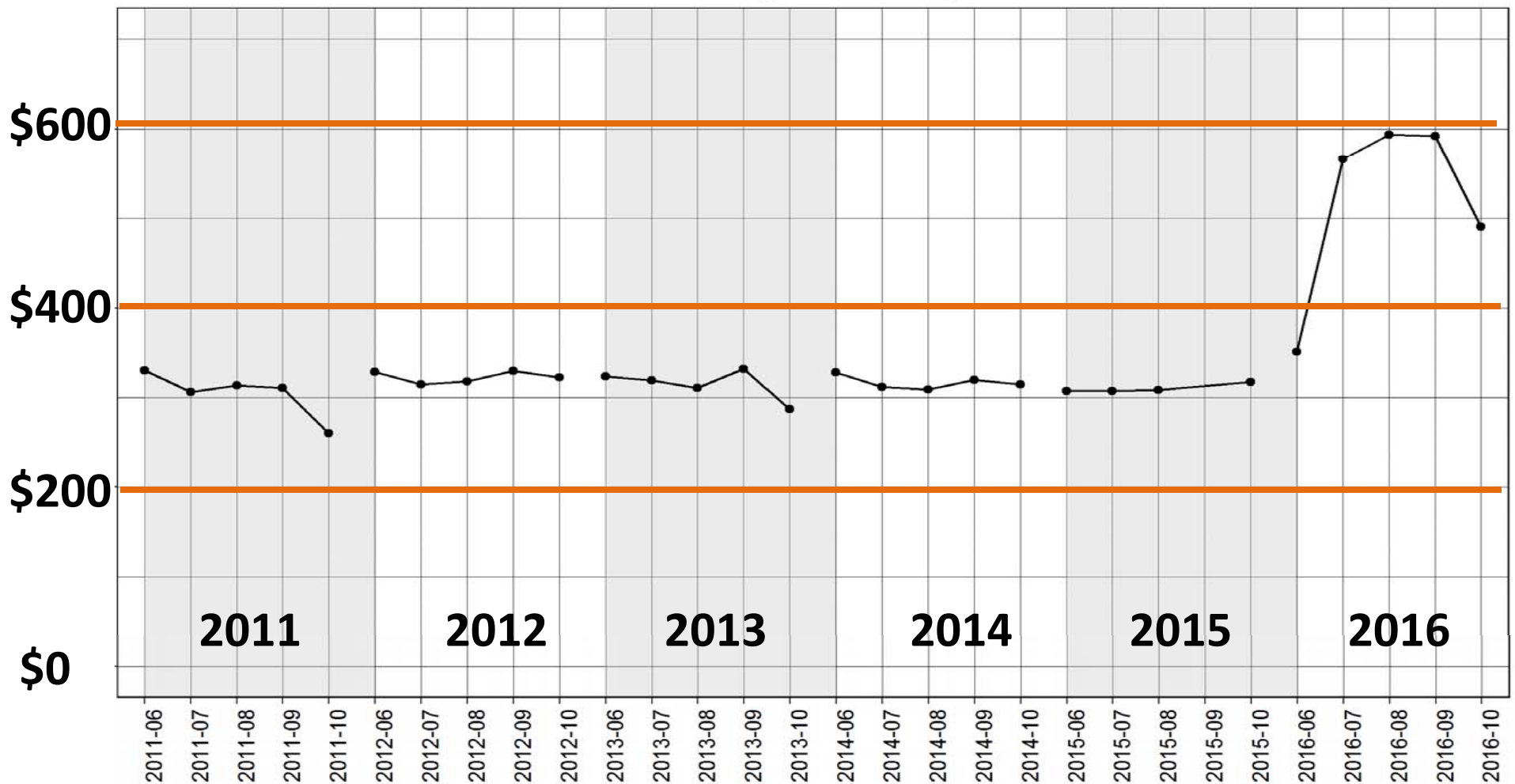
Gear Type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 ¹	Trends
Bottom Otter Trawl	30	19	18	15	13	Decreasing
Midwater Trawl	9	10	9	11	7	Fluctuating, recent decrease
Purse Seine	8	8	6	5	7	Fluctuating, recent increase
Other	48	31	42	39	20	Decreasing

¹ 2016 data are preliminary

Market



Atlantic Herring Area 1A Monthly Average Price per MT, June-October



Carrier Vessels & Transfers At Sea



	2012	2013	2014 ⁴	2015 ⁴	2016 ⁴
Vessels Acting as a Carrier in Area 1A	4	8	7	3	3
Area 1A Herring Carrier Trips	84	110	59	41	37

⁴ The implementation of Amendment 5 in March, 2014 eliminated VTR reporting requirements on carrier trips.

	2012	2013	2014 ¹	2015 ¹	2016 ¹
At-Sea Atlantic Herring Dealer Permit	NA	NA	0	1	5

¹ Atlantic herring at-sea dealer permits were implemented in Amendment 5 effective March, 2014

Federal Permits



Area 1A catch (metric tons) by federally-permitted vessels

Permit Category		2012	2013	2014	2015
Limited Access	A	22,703	29,430	32,848	29,386
	C	668	263	39	77
Open Access	D	173	42	63	54

Fishing vessels with federal Atlantic herring permits, 2012-2016 (May-April)

Permit Category		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 ¹
Limited Access	A	42 (57.1%)	39 (66.7%)	40 (62.5%)	42 (50%)	39 (56.4%)
	C	47 (31.9%)	44 (29.5%)	42 (23.8%)	41 (26.8%)	40 (22.5%)
Open Access	D	2,065 (3.5%)	1,957 (3.3%)	1,838 (3.6%)	1,762 (3.4%)	1,684 (2.5%)



Draft Management Alternatives

- Draft Addendum I includes 6 management alternatives
- To improve the stability of the fishery and stabilize the rate of harvest during the fishing season the adoption of all six may not be necessary.

1. State Vessel Landing Reports



- **Option A: Status Quo**
- **Option B: Implement State Landing Report**

If a harvester lands herring caught from Area 1A AND lands at a Maine, New Hampshire or Massachusetts port then the harvester is required to submit a landing report to the state, likely through eTrips. The reports must be submitted in 24-hr intervals for each day and must be submitted by 9:00 a.m. of the following day.



2. Prohibit Landings of Herring Caught in Area 1A During a Day Out of the Fishery

- **Option A: Status Quo**

A vessel may only land once per calendar day on any day that is open to landing (i.e., not a day out).

- **Option B: Harvesters** are prohibited from landing or possessing herring caught from Area 1A during a day out of the fishery.

- **Option C:** Vessels with a Category A Limited Access Permit are prohibited from landing or possessing herring caught from Area 1A during a day out of the fishery.

3. Weekly Landing Limit Per Vessel



- **Option A: Status Quo**
No weekly landing limit
- **Option B: Weekly Harvester Landing Limit for Vessels with a Category A Limited Access Permit**
- **Option C: Weekly Harvester Landing Limit for Vessels with a Category A or C Limited Access Permit**
- Option B and C require vessels to notify states of their intent to fish in Area 1A and the gear type they will be using 45 days prior to the start of the fishing season.

4. Landing Restriction on Transfers At-Sea



- **Option A: Status Quo**

A vessel with the proper permits can transfer or receive Atlantic herring at-sea.

- **Option B: Herring Caught In Area 1A Can Only Be Landed by the Respective Harvester Vessel**

Harvester vessels are the only vessels that can land herring caught within Area 1A to a Maine, New Hampshire or Massachusetts port.

- **Option C: Herring Carrier Vessels are Limited to Receiving At-Sea Transfers from One Harvester Vessel Per Week**

Maine implemented in 2016

5. Small Mesh Bottom Trawl Days Out



- **Option A: Status Quo**

Days Out program applies to all Atlantic herring harvesters.

- **Option B: SMBT Days Out Program for Category C and D Permits**

If a vessel meets the following criteria it is eligible for a different allocation of landing days and times that are separate from the existing Days Out restrictions.

- *Have a Category C Limited Access Permit or Category D Open Access Permit*
- *Use small mesh bottom trawl gear*
 - Harvesters must notify states of their intent to fish in Area 1A and the gear type they will be using 45 days prior to the start of the Trimester 2 fishing season.



Example: PS/MWT + SMBT Days Out Program

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 2017						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	PS Landing Days				SMBT Landing Days	

6. Clarification of the Days Out Procedure



- Option A: Status Quo
- Option B1: Type of Agreement (Voting)
- Option B2: Type of Agreement (Consensus)
- Option C1: Default Landing Day Scenario (previously agreed upon number of landing days or 7 landing days)
- Option C2: Default Landing Day Scenario (0)



Overview of alternatives that were considered but not developed by the Plan Development Team

Section 3.2: Alternatives that were reviewed by the PDT but not developed

Section 4: Scoping questions for tiered weekly landing limit

A regional WG composed of the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts convened on January 5th to discuss PDT concerns. The PDT and WG recommend removing Section 3.2 from the document.

Section 3.2



Restrict a vessel from using a different gear type mid-season within Area 1A

PDT concerns:

- Has the potential to increase participation.
- For example, a midwater trawl vessel that may have formerly fished in Area 3 may declare into the Area 1A fishery as a purse seiner at the start of the fishing season instead of even attempting to fish in Area 3.

Section 3.2



Develop an Area 1A Set-Aside for the SMBT Fleet

PDT concerns:

- States lack the ability to monitor SMBT landings, reporting does not currently include mesh size
- PDT recommends ASMFC submit a letter to encourage the Council to consider this action in the next specifications package (2019-2021).

Section 4



Tiered Weekly Landing Limits

- PDT Concerns:
 - The current addendum timeline does not provide an adequate amount of time to analyze harvester history
 - Vessels with a Category A permit have met certain historical and landings criteria
- After the WG meeting
 - Scoping questions were developed
 - Maine Legislature proposes to establish a control date for Atlantic herring and to allow for the Commissioner to establish different landing limits for individuals who hold Maine pelagic and anadromous fishing licenses.

Tiered Weekly Landing Limit



- Are you favorable to a tiered weekly landing limit in Area 1A?
- What should form the basis of a tiered system?
 - Permit category
 - Vessel size
 - Harvester's landing history
 - Other, please describe.
- How many tiers should be created?
 - Two
 - Three
 - Other
- If the tiers are based on permit category, which permit category should be included in each tier?
- If the tiers are based on harvester history, what date(s) should differentiate the tiers? Please provide one or more dates.
- If the tiers are based on vessel size, what size vessel should be included in each tier?
- Should each tier be designated a portion of the seasonal quota? If so, what percentage. For example: Tier 1: 60%, Tier 2: 40%
- Should one or more tiers have a maximum allowable harvest per vessel?
- Other ideas to consider?

Addendum Timeline



October 2016	Atlantic Herring Section initiates Draft Addendum I
January 5	Working group meeting in NH
January 31	Section reviews Draft Addendum I and considers its approval for public comment. <i>Section considers the working group recommendations to remove Section 3.2 and release scoping questions.</i>
March-April 2017	Section solicits public comment on Draft Addendum I (<i>and scoping questions</i>). States conduct public hearings.
May 2017	Section reviews public comment, selects management options and considers final approval of Addendum I. <i>Section considers the initiation of a management document for a tiered weekly landing limit.</i>
June 2017?	Provisions of Addendum I are implemented by states

Questions

