



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

April 16, 2019

To: Atlantic Herring Management Board
From: Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel
RE: AP Review of Draft Addendum II

List of Participants

Beth Casoni	Jeff Kaelin (AP Chair)
Shawn Joyce	Glenn Robbins
Joseph Jurek	Mary Beth Tooley

Staff

Kirby Rootes-Murdy (ASMFC)

The following memo contains the Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel's review of the Draft Addendum II Alternatives for Spawning Areas Management

The AP met via conference call on April 16th, 2019 to review Draft Addendum II. After a presentation of the Addendum options, AP members asked questions and provided comments on the options. Comments and recommendations are summarized below, broken out by individual decision point as presented in the document.

Management Program:

Issue 1: GSI₃₀ Trigger Value

Three AP members were in favor of maintaining the status quo value (Option A, value of 25), one member indicated their support for Option B (Value of 25 with updated data and different default closure dates) and one indicated their support for Option C (Value 23). Reasons cited in support on status quo were numerous, most notably concern that the current spawning program has been in place for 3 years (2016-2018), and while spawning samples have been collected from 2005- 2017, and the current version of the program has not been in place long enough to justify adjusting the program further. Additional reasons in support of the status quo included the need to collect more spawning samples over time and potential negative impacts to the fishery on top of the already reduced quotas in 2019. Reasons cited in support of Option C was the need to provide greater protection to herring population when spawning is occurring.

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Issue 2: Spawning Closure Length

Three AP members were in favor of maintaining the status quo value (Option A, 4 week closure), one member indicated their support for Option B (5 week closure), and one indicated their support for Option C (6 week closure). Reasons cited in favor of the status quo again included the need for additional years of data from the current spawning protection program, but also the negative impacts the closure would have on fisheries targeting herring, particularly later in the fishing year. Reasons cited in support of Option B and C was that the current closure period length has not been enough in recent years to cover the spawning season and extending the closure length may address this better.

Issue 3: Re-closure Protocol

Three AP members indicated their support for Option A, Sub-Option 1 (status quo; 25% or more mature herring) and two members indicated their support for Option A, Sub-Option 2 (20% or more mature herring). Similar to those reasons cited for Issue 1 and 2, those in support of the status quo focused on the need for more samples and a longer duration of the current spawning program before making changes. Reasons cited in support of Sub-Option 2 again focused on the need for greater protection of the herring resource when spawning is occurring.

Additional Comments:

- One AP member took issue with the extent of information in Draft Addendum II on the 2018 stock assessment, specifically on the lack of a stock-recruitment relationship and – fishing mortality’s effects on the overall population. Another AP member pointed out that the assessment notes environmental changes could also be affecting herring recruitment. Additionally, this AP member noted that the Draft Addendum was lacking in analysis on the impacts to the fishery by the proposed management alternatives and this information is necessary for evaluating the costs of potential changes. This AP member also noted that the New England Fishery Management Council will likely be implementing catch limits for 2020 and 2021 that will be based on a new Control Rule for specifying harvest (as part of the Amendment 8) that afford greater protection of herring- this should be taken into account when considering changes to the current spawning program.
- Several AP members indicated that they disagree with some recent survey information that shows reduced recruitment in Area 1A; rather the AP members think recruitment in this area is up in recent years, but lower in Areas 2 and 3. One AP member noted that 2018 stock assessment doesn’t account for data from 2018, which may be showing an increasing trend in recruitment.
- Following the call, an Additional AP member unable to participate indicated their support by email for Option B (Value of 25 with updated data and different default closure dates) for Issue #1; Option C (6 week closure) for Issue #2; and Option A, Sub-

Option 2 (20% or more mature herring) for Issue #3. For Issue #2 they indicated another option not listed, that would include weekly monitoring of Spawning so that the fishery could be closed with a week buffer on either side of spawning aggregation would be preferred.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Atlantic Herring Management Board
DATE: April 19, 2019
SUBJECT: Overview of 1A Management Tools

In May 2017 the Atlantic Herring Management Board (Board) approved Addendum I to Amendment 3. The Addendum added management tools that would allow the Board to keep the bait fishery open for the majority of Trimester 2 (June-September). Since the adoption of the addendum the herring stock has declined and the 2019 quota has been reduced significantly from recent years (31,115 and 31,962 metric tons (mt) in 2017 and 2018 respectively; to 3,850 mt in 2019). Future year quotas are likely to be lower than those in 2019. Due to the significant decline in quota the Board moved to bi-monthly quota periods. Even with the additional management tools, due to the low quota levels the bi-monthly quotas could be harvested as quickly as 3 weeks depending on a number of variables. During the first few quota periods staff and the states will monitor the effectiveness of the current management tools and provide an update to the Board at their next meeting.

1A Management Tools

1. Days Out:

Prohibit landing days or the possession of herring for only Category A permit holder. For Category C Limited Access Permit or Category D Open Access permits, only those designated as Small Mesh Bottom Trawl can be subject to a day out measure. All other permit holders are not subject to days out measure unless stipulated by state regulations.

Bycatch

During a 'day out', vessels participating in other fisheries may land an incidental catch of herring that does not exceed 2,000 pounds per trip. Vessels may not land more than 2,000 pounds of herring per day caught in an area closed to the directed herring fishing. The bycatch limit is specified in the federal FMP and pertains to the Atlantic Mackerel Fishery as well.

2. Weekly Landings Limit:

Limits the amount of herring a vessel may land on a weekly basis for Category A permit holders.

3. Restrictions on Transfers At-Sea and Carrier Vessels:

Restricts who (harvester/carrier) can transfer at sea and the number of transfer that can occur. The restrictions can be specific to federal permit category or gear type.

The States can elect to allow transfers at sea, prohibit transfers at sea or only allow limited transfers. When prohibiting transfers the states can choose to prohibit transfers at-sea by restricting harvester-to-harvester transfers, harvester-to-carrier vessel transfers, or both. When limiting transfers, harvesters are limited to making at-sea transfers to only one carrier vessel per week; carrier vessels are limited to receiving at-sea transfers from one harvester vessel per week, and carrier vessels are limited to making one landing per 24 hour period.