



Habitat Committee Update

Presented to
ASMFC ISFMP Policy Board
October 30, 2014

Habitat Committee Meeting



October 28 Meeting

- **Presenter Series**
- **Ocean Acidification Task Force**
- **2014 and 2015 Work Plans**
- **Committee Membership**

Presenter Series



Fisheries & Land-use Studies

- **Troy Hartley, VIMS and VA Sea Grant**
- **Two-part study**
 - 1) **Network Analysis**
 - 2) **Discourse analysis of FMP (Shad & River Herring) and land-use management Plans**
- **Results**
 - 1) **Fisheries and land-use managers are not communicating often enough (trust)**
 - 2) **Not using similar words, complicated jargon (understanding)**

Presenter Series



Fisheries & Land-use Studies

- **Take Home Messages**

- 1) **Recognize individuals serve critical roles in making networks function**
- 2) **Regular communication between regional fisheries science/management and local land use planning community**
- 3) **Understand layers of professional networks at the local level**

Frequency → Mutual understanding, trust, interests, and concerns

Presenter Series



Blue Carbon: What is it and Why You Should Care

- Phil Colarusso, EPA
- Blue carbon = carbon associated with salt marsh, sea grass, and mangroves
- More effective than tropical forests at absorbing CO₂



Presenter Series



Blue Carbon

- **Commission for Environmental Cooperation formed a working group**
 - **Estimate blue carbon in North America**
- **Policy Implications**
 - **Carbon trading**
 - **Incentive and \$\$ for large scale restoration**
 - **Economic valuation for sea grass, salt marsh, and mangrove habitats**
 - **Potential bridge between Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act**

Presenter Series



Habitats, Populations, and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

- **Peter Auster, University of Connecticut**
- Local scale studies have linked patterns of habitat selection and survivorship of fishes to attributes of habitat.
- Most features sensitive and vulnerable to disturbance but recovery and resilience of habitats vary widely – and we tend to focus only on the least resilient or longest recovery times.
- Regional scale studies (population scale) link variation in growth and condition to meso-scale habitat “features.”
- Limited knowledge linking habitat variability and recovery rates of disturbed habitats to demographic consequences of managed species.
- **Need to (and we can) connect the dots in order to more realistically parameterize spatially explicit single species, multi-species and ecosystem models inclusive of habitat mediated processes – and use this information to provide advice to managers.**

Ocean Acidification Task Force



- **Maine and Maryland have created task forces to study effects and potential risks of OA in state waters.**
- **MD HC rep shared experiences with and results by OA Task Force.**

2014 Work Plan



- ***Habitat Hotline Atlantic 2014***
 - Climate Change Impacts to Fish Habitats**

- ***Habitat Management Series***
 - Nearshore and Estuarine Aquaculture and Fish Habitats**
 - Sciaenid Habitats Source Document**
 - Living Shorelines: Erosion Control Strategies 2nd Edition**

2015 Work Plan



- ***Habitat Hotline Atlantic 2015***
- ***Habitat Management Series***
 - Sciaenid Habitats Source Document**
 - Living Shorelines: Erosion Control Strategies 2nd Edition**
- **Habitat Bottlenecks Whitepaper**
- **Land-Use Managers Toolbox**
- **Species Habitats Fact Sheets**

Committee Membership



Vacant and Inactive Committee Seats

- **Maine representative**
- **Army Corps of Engineers**
- **NOAA Fisheries**

Questions?





Report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
Commission
ISFMP Policy Board

October 30th, 2014

Science & Data Updates

- Decision Support Tool to Assess Aquatic Habitats & Threats in North Atlantic Watersheds & Estuaries
 - Winter flounder
 - River herring
- Species Habitat Matrix Manuscript
- NFWF-funded River Herring Habitat Restoration Strategies

Implementation Plan Evaluation

- Evaluated the status of every action item in our implementation plan & identified areas that need attention before the spring meeting

Fish Habitat Partnership Update

- National
 - Multistate Conservation Grant Program
 - 501(c) status update
 - Rebranding/marketing
- Coastal
 - Presenting at Restore America's Estuaries
- Regional
 - Whitewater to Bluewater Initiative

Application for ACFHP Membership

- International Federation of Fly Fishers was welcomed into the Partnership after applying earlier in the fall & making a presentation to the committee

FY2015 Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Application Cycle

Requested project applications to restore & conserve habitat necessary to support coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fish species.

Only for on-the-ground habitat conservation & improvement projects & related design & monitoring activities.

Maximum amount = \$50,000.

Deadline was October 3rd, 2014

Received 3 proposals.

Ranked by an ACFHP subcommittee

Discussed with the SC on Monday

FY2015 Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Application Cycle

The SC has decided to recommend two projects for funding (a dam removal project in MA and a fishway installation project in ME to USFWS





Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Guidance Document

ISFMP Policy Board

October 2014



Committee Tasking

- Policy Board gave more specific guidance on Committee Tasking
- Board Chair will communicate all committee tasks



New Document Language (pg7)

- Species Specific technical tasks should be directed to the appropriate ISFMP technical support group in writing by the board/section chair (this can be communicated via ISFMP staff)
- Boards/sections will develop specific and clear guidance in writing whenever tasking committees for advice. The board/section chair will develop the written charge.
- Any charge developed by a board/section to a technical subcommittee will be initially forwarded by the board/section chair or ISFMP staff to the TC for review and input



Committee Deliberation

- Policy Board changed the TC deliberation procedures
 - Previous: consensus based decisions
 - New: consensus first; BUT when consensus can not be reached vote



New Document Language (pg 11/19)

- The committee chair is also responsible for clarifying the majority and/or minority opinions, where possible. **The overall goal of all technical support groups is to develop recommendations through consensus.** The chair is responsible for facilitating committee discussion toward reaching a consensus recommendation for board/section consideration. If consensus cannot be reached, the committee shall vote on the issue.



- The majority opinion shall be presented to the board/section as the recommendation, defined as a simple majority, including be presented to the board/section as the recommendation, defined as a simple majority, including a record number of votes in favor and against. The committee will also present the minority opinion, prepared by a committee member(s) that voted in the minority, to the board/section. **Voting should be used only as a last resort when full consensus cannot be reached.**



Questions?



MSC Recommendation

- If consensus cannot be reached, the committee shall present both the majority and minority recommendations to the board/section. Minority recommendations will be prepared by committee members that support the minority position. Minority opinions should only be used as a last resort when full consensus cannot be reached.
- ~~• If consensus cannot be reached, the committee shall vote on the issue. The majority opinion shall be presented to the board/section as the recommendation, defined as a simple majority, including a record of number of votes in favor and against. The committee will also present the minority opinion, prepared by a committee member(s) that voted in the minority, to the board/section.~~



Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Progress Report October 30, 2014





Stock Assessment Progress Report

- Peer review will be held December 9-11, 2014 (SEDAR 40). See <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar>.
- 17 meetings so far (11 webinars; 6 in-person)
 - SAS held Assessment Workshop II in August
 - Two follow-up calls were held in October to finalize report components



Stock Assessment Progress Report

- Finalized all parameter and model configuration options
- Reviewed all base and sensitivity model run results
- Reviewed uncertainty estimates, retrospective analyses, and projection methodology
- Finalized recommendation to TC regarding single-species biological reference points



Stock Assessment Progress Report: BERP WG

- BERP met during September TCMW to finalize work on AM benchmark TOR #7:
 - Identify potential ecological reference points that account for Atlantic menhaden's role as a forage fish.
 - Provide proposed methodology, a model development plan, and example results using preliminary model configurations, if time allows.



Stock Assessment Progress Report: BERP WG

- ERP plan components were finalized at September TCMW and included in the AM assessment report
- Multiple ERP options are under consideration in the ERP plan
- The AM TC will review the ERP Plan in November before peer review
- Peer review panel will provide feedback on ERP options and models used to calculate ERPs and/or stock status relative to ERPs



Stock Assessment Progress Report

- Next steps:
 - 2014
 - Report will be vetted and approved at TC meeting held November 5-6 in Raleigh, NC
 - December 9-11 – peer review workshop (SEDAR 40) in Atlantic Beach, NC
 - 2015
 - January – assessment and peer review reports will be released via Winter Meeting materials
 - February (Winter Meeting) – assessment and review results will be presented to Board