

FISHERIES SCIENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ecological Reference Points Work Group

Committee Name: Ecological Reference Points Work Group (ERP WG)

Purpose:

The ISFMP Policy Board approved the creation of the Multispecies Technical Committee (MSTC) in 2006 to assist the Commission with its multispecies modeling efforts, and to facilitate the use of modeling results in management decisions. The ERP WG was later formed from a combination of members from the MSTC and the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee in order to develop ecosystem modeling approaches for Atlantic menhaden. The workgroup serves as an advisory committee to the ISFMP Policy Board. While the Policy Board will charge the workgroup with its responsibilities and tasks, the Management and Science Committee, Assessment Science Committee, and various species-specific management boards will provide recommendations to the Policy Board that may be referred to the ERP WG.

In 2015, the Policy Board tasked the ERP WG with developing ecological reference points that take into account Atlantic menhaden's role as a forage fish.

Membership: The Work Group is comprised of state and federal biologists with expertise on the species and modeling approaches employed. Commissioners appoint ERP WG members.

Codifying Document: The ISFMP Policy Board appointed the Multispecies Technical Committee in October 2006. In 2015, the ERP WG was tasked with the development of ecological reference points for Atlantic menhaden.

Type & Frequency of Meetings: In-person meetings and conference calls scheduled as needed, dependent on the assessment timelines; typically, two in-person meetings per year.

Primary activities:

Development of models for Atlantic menhaden to generate ecosystem reference points for use in management of the menhaden fisheries.

History of Chairmanship:

Current Chair & Vice-Chair: Chair, Matt Cieri, ME; Vice-Chair, Mike Celestino, NJ

Staff Lead:

Coordination: Sarah Murray, Fisheries Science Coordinator, smurray@asmfc.org