



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmfmc.org

MEMORANDUM

Shad & River Herring Stock Assessment Subcommittee Call Summary

January 27, 2017

Subcommittee Members: Mike Bailey, Kiersten Curti, Kevin Sullivan

ASMFC Staff: Jeff Kipp, Ashton Harp

The Stock Assessment Subcommittee met to discuss initial work on the trend analyses, Z reference points, incidental catch estimates and discuss the inclusion of data sets that were considered in the benchmark stock assessment, but not included due to time series constraints. The next progress call with the SAS was tentatively planned for late February to start reviewing preliminary results of the trend analyses.

Trend Analyses

Kevin Sullivan has begun work on trend analyses. He tried to mimic the results that were published in the benchmark using data up to 2010, but could not get an exact match because there are some data discrepancies with the data that was recently submitted by states in 2016. Given only some of the data has changed, but not all of it (which would indicate a change in methodology), the SAS believes the new data may have been updated due to a QA/QC process. The SAS reviewed the specific data discrepancies and noted that none were large enough to change the statistical significance of the results. The SAS will use the recently submitted data because it is likely different due to QA/QC. The assessment update report will describe any changes in state data.

Some states submitted fork length and others total length, while all length-based trend analyses in the benchmark were done using total lengths. There is no clear description of how conversions were done and Kevin checked with the previous analyst, Gary Nelson, but no documentation or conversion factors could be found. Jeff also checked internally with Katie Drew for documentation on conversions and did not find any. The SAS discussed conversion methods and the preference for a consistent length metric (i.e., total length). The SAS will convert all length data to total length using state-specific conversion methods. On a future SAS call the group will compare these results with the results from the benchmark assessment. If the results (i.e., direction of trend, significance of test) do not change, the data differences will

just be mentioned in the assessment report. If the results do change, the SAS will need to consider how to proceed.

Z Reference Points

The SAS considered updating the Z reference points from the benchmark assessment, but could not find adequate descriptions of the data used to calculate reference points. The SAS also cited the ASMFC reference point document and the concern noted within that regular updating of reference points could lead to variability and a moving target. Therefore, the SAS will use the same Z reference points from the benchmark stock assessment.

Incidental Catch Estimates

The SAS discussed methodology changes in the incidental catch estimates. Kiersten will apply the new method through 2010 (i.e. benchmark data) and report back to the SAS if there are differences in the estimates.

New Data Sets

The SAS reviewed data sets that were previously considered in the benchmark assessment, but not included because the time series was too short (as explicitly stated in the report). These data sets were re-submitted by the states and now meet minimum time series guidelines (i.e. includes at least 10 years of data). The SAS reviewed the data sets that meet the time series criteria, and agreed to include them in the stock assessment update. Their treatment as reliable data was confirmed following the call with the state TC member.