



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Shad & River Herring Technical Committee

Meeting Summary

May 31, 2023

Technical Committee Members: Wes Eakin (Chair, NY), Matthew Jargowsky (Vice-Chair, MD), Ingrid Braun (PRFC), Michael Brown (ME), Kevin Job (CT), Ken Sprankle (USFWS), Patrick McGee (RI), Ruth Haas-Castro (NOAA), Patrick McGrath (VA), Jim Page (GA), Conor O'Donnell (NH), Joe Swann (DC)

ASMFC Staff: James Boyle and Katie Drew

The TC met via conference call on May 31, 2023 to receive an update from USGS about the Alosine Genetic Stock Identification and Tissue Repository to identify current collection efforts and provide guidelines for future sample collections. Additionally, the TC met to review an update to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) Sustainable Fishery Management Plan (SFMP) for American shad and to review planned management actions in South Carolina for the Edisto River in response to recent low fishery-dependent sustainability metrics.

The next SFMP to be reviewed is from Connecticut (Shad).

1. USGS Alosine Genetic Stock Identification and Tissue Repository

Dave Kazyak, Miluska Olivera-Hyde, and Ryan Franckowiak presented the status of the project, including the differing temporal and spatial ranges of samples for American shad, alewife, and blueback herring. The discussion revealed a few main points where the TC can assist:

1. Collect more mixed-stock samples.
2. For river herring, help inform temporal stability by providing samples from missing years.
3. For river herring, fill in spatial gaps as samples are largely concentrated in southern New England and around the Bay of Fundy in Maine.

Several TC members offered to provide samples after receiving kits from the USGS team, especially to fill the spatial gaps in the southern end of the range. The TC also discussed the potential for shad samples to be collected as bycatch in the VA spiny dogfish fishery and concluded to work on that possibility.

2. PRFC SFMP Update for American shad

Ingrid Braun presented the PRFC SFMP for American shad, which proposed continuing their limited commercial bycatch allowance under the same sustainability metrics, which is based on the geometric mean of pound net catch per unit effort (CPUE) and has been above its restoration target since 2011. The TC discussed the finding of the 2020 American Shad Benchmark Stock Assessment that found mortality in the Potomac River to be slightly above the sustainability threshold and showed interest in PRFC developing an additional metric based around the Juvenile Abundance Index for the next update to the SFMP. **The TC recommended the updated plan for approval by consensus.**

3. Edisto River Management Actions for American Shad

Kyle Hoffman updated the TC on actions taken in response to the fishery-dependent CPUE falling below the target from 2020-2022 with no evidence that conditions would improve in 2023. As a preemptive management measure, South Carolina is reducing the permit allowance from two nets to one per licensee. They also noted that due to high attrition in the fishery, there is concern that the metric is unreliable and will propose changing the index to a fishery-independent survey in the future.