



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • www.asmfc.org

Shad & River Herring Technical Committee Meeting Summary

September 29, 2023

Technical Committee Members: Wes Eakin (Chair, NY), Matthew Jargowsky (Vice-Chair, MD), Conor O'Donnell (NH), Patrick McGee (RI), Kevin Job (CT), Patrick McGrath (VA), Jeremy McCargo (NC), Bill Post (SC), Jim Page (GA) Reid Hyle (FL), Ruth Haas-Castro (NOAA)

SAS Members: Ben Gahagan (MA), Trey Mace (MD), Margaret Conroy (DE), Kyle Hoffman (SC)

ASMFC Staff: James Boyle and Katie Drew

Other Attendees: Dan Stich (SUNY Oneonta), Shawn Snyder (University of Maine)

The TC met via conference call on September 29, 2023 to receive an update on the 2024 River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment and provide feedback for the habitat model to be used in the assessment. Additionally, the TC met to review planned changes to Maryland's fishery dependent and independent surveys.

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

1. Update on Benchmark Assessment Timeline & Report

Katie Drew presented the latest updates of the River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment following the Assessment Workshop in August. The Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) recommended extending the timeline for the assessment to present to the Management Board at the 2024 Spring Meeting and provided an updated timeline of tasks for the TC to begin reviewing the draft report. Additionally, the TC reviewed the new method for defining stock structure by region, rather than by state, that will be in addition to coastwide metapopulation and mixed stock structures.

2. Review River Herring Assessment Habitat Model & Data Needs

Shawn Snyder presented the river herring habitat model that is to be used in the River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment for the TC to provide guidance on the current geographic ranges of each species, the impacts of dams, including any new alewife spawning habitat created, and the carrying capacities for population models.

3. Review Changes to Maryland Nanticoke River Surveys

Matthew Jargowsky informed the TC that Maryland is ending its long-term Nanticoke River pound and fyke net survey due to logistical issues with the cooperating commercial fishermen.

Data previously obtained from this survey included CPUE, lengths, ages, and mortality for alewife, blueback herring, and American shad. Without this survey, Maryland only has one other river herring spawning stock survey in the state (compared to two for American shad). Therefore, Maryland plans to replace the old survey with a river herring spawning stock survey similar to their survey in the North East River. Experimental sampling is expected to begin in 2024, with a plan to start the new survey in 2025.