



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2018
TO: Herring Advisory Panel (AP) and Committee
FROM: Peter Kendall, Herring Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: **Charge to AP and Committee for September 18 and 19, 2018 meetings**

There will be a Herring AP and Committee meeting at the Four Points in Wakefield, MA, on **Tuesday, September 18, 2018 and Wednesday, September 19, 2018.**

Purpose The primary purpose of these meetings is to select final preferred alternative recommendations for Amendment 8 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan. Staff has developed a decision document with worksheets to help you identify a preferred alternative and develop supporting rationale (*Document #4*). ***I request you review and complete that document before the meeting and come prepared to identify and explain your final recommendations.*** The Council is scheduled to select final preferred alternatives for Amendment 8 at the next Council meeting (September 24-27).

Your next herring meeting will also include a report on the 2018 herring benchmark assessment (SARC 65), discussion of possible measures to include for consideration in the 2019-2021 fishery specifications including discussion of a potential independent action for fishing year 2019 that NOAA Fisheries may develop, and an initial discussion of potential herring work priorities for 2019.

2018 Benchmark Assessment

Dr. Jonathon Deroba will present a summary of the assessment results, including an update of stock status and stock projections for 2019-2021. There will be an opportunity to ask questions following the presentation (*Documents #3 and #3a*). No action is required for this agenda item.

Amendment 8

Staff will begin by reviewing the input from public comments, both oral and written (*Document #5*). Next staff will review a decision document (*Document #4*) that has been prepared to help identify final recommendations for preferred alternatives and rationale. The decision document includes worksheets that have been developed to help members organize and articulate their input on potential preferred alternatives. Please try to complete the worksheets before the meeting so you are more prepared to share your specific recommendations. The PDT has drafted a memo, *Document #6*, which includes updated analyses for Amendment 8. This document includes analyses that will be incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Amendment 8. The updates are focused on the sections that will be updated to reflect the results of the 2018 herring benchmark assessment. For example, new short-term projections have been prepared for all the ABC control rule alternatives. The AP and Committee are expected to make motions with recommendations for final preferred alternatives.

2019-2021 Specifications

There are some timing issues to discuss related to Amendment 8 and the 2019-2021 specifications package. The PDT has developed a memo that summarizes these issues, *Document #7*. The PDT has also developed a planning document for 2019-2021 herring specifications that includes an outline of the possible measures that could be considered in the next package. There will be future meetings to discuss specific alternatives, but if the group wants to have an initial discussion of the likely range of alternatives that would be useful. The AP and Committee can make motions with initial input for measures to consider in the next herring specification package, as well as motions related to recommendations for FY2019 if the Council requests NOAA Fisheries to implement an independent action for that year.

2019 Priorities

Document #9 summarizes the potential work priorities for 2019. The PDT discussed their recommendations at their meeting on August 1, 2018. Those items have been added to the bottom of that document. The AP and Committee should develop a list of possible work priorities for 2019 for the Council to consider in September. The Council generally identifies a longer list of potential items in September, then prioritizes them and makes a final decision with a realistic list of items in December after incorporating more input about available resources, regulatory requirements, and additional discussion by the full Council.

Meeting Materials. As they become available, the documents listed below will be posted to www.nefmc.org, and paper copies will be provided at the meeting, as well as any additional meeting materials. Please note that we will *not* be providing paper copies of Amendment 8 or the original written comments and public hearing summaries unless you contact the office and request copies. All relevant Amendment 8 documents are accessible online from the links listed below. We *will* be providing a paper copy of the decision document and the summary of public comments. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Deirdre Boelke (dboelke@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 x105).

1. **Tasking memo from Committee Chair, Peter Kendall**
2. **Staff presentation for meeting (*to be handed out*)**
3. **Executive summary of SAW 65 for herring assessment**
 - 3a. Presentation on herring assessment
4. **Amendment 8 decision document**
 - 4a. Amendment 8 DEIS
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Herring-A8-DEIS.Submission.April-12.pdf>
 - 4b. Amendment 8 DEIS Appendices
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Herring-A8-Volume-II-Appendices.pdf>
 - 4c. Summary of Amendment 8 public hearings (7 meetings)
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/All-sumaries-and-attendance-combined.pdf>
 - 4d. Amendment 8 written comments (364 different letters)
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Herring-A8-DEIS-written-comments.pdf>
5. **Summary of Amendment 8 public comments (oral and written combined)**
6. **PDT Memo #1, Updated analyses for Amendment 8**
7. **PDT Memo #2, Upcoming herring actions and timelines**
8. **Planning document for 2019-2021 specifications document**
9. **Draft herring work priorities for 2019**
10. **Correspondence**