



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 16, 2019
TO: Herring Advisory Panel (AP) and Committee
FROM: Peter Kendall, Herring Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: Charge to AP and Committee for May 29 and 30, 2019 meetings

There will be a Herring AP and Committee meeting at the Four Points by Sheraton in Wakefield, MA, on **Wednesday, May 29, 2019 and Thursday, May 30, 2019. Both meetings will start at 10AM.**

Purpose The primary purpose of these meetings is to review and identify final preferred alternatives for the 2019-2021 herring specifications action (Framework 6) (*Document #4*). As documents are available they will be posted on the Council website for this meeting (<https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/may-30-2019-herring-committee-meeting>). *Please take time to familiarize yourself with the documents before the meeting; staff will have paper copies of all materials for you at the meeting.*

Status of 2019 Herring Work Priorities

Document #3 summarizes the work priorities the Council approved for 2019 with potential milestones for completion.

2019-2021 Specifications (Framework 6)

Document #4 is the Draft Framework 6 document with alternatives and draft analyses. Within Draft Framework 6 staff has identified just over a handful of specific issues that require input at this meeting; they are identified as comments in the right hand margin of the document. *Please be prepared to provide specific input related to these items. Furthermore, you will be asked to identify final preferred alternatives for all the measures under consideration in Framework 6.*

Review of MSE Process

The Council is interested in getting input from stakeholders and all participants in the fisheries management process on the Management Strategy Evaluation process used in Herring Amendment 8. The PDT has developed a potential work plan for this review (*Document #5*). *Please review and be prepared to provide input on how the Council should approach this review.*

RSA Program Review – input on Findings and Recommendations

In April the Council received the final report of RSA Program Review. The Council has requested that each Committee with an RSA program review the recommendations and findings of the report and identify which items, if any should be pursued. The Council is considering potential next steps for this review at the June Council meeting. The final report has been provided as background (*Document #6*), as well as a matrix of all the findings and recommendations in a separate excel file (*Document #7*). Please review the findings and recommendations and identify whether you agree or disagree with the individual recommendations, whether any should be addressed in the short-term, medium-term, or later in the future. Specifically, the Council is interested in knowing if there are any items that you identify as “very important” to address, as well as issues you do not agree with, or items that the Council should not address. *Please take time to familiarize yourself with the final report, especially sections relevant to the Herring RSA program, and fill out the matrix.* It has been developed as an exercise to help identify if there are any issues you would recommend be addressed.

Atlantic herring spawning on Georges Bank

The Council has recently awarded a contract to help develop a discussion document with relevant information on offshore spawning of Atlantic herring. *This will be an initial meeting to provide input on issues that should be considered in the discussion document.* There are no meeting materials for this agenda item; staff will provide an oral overview.

If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Deirdre Boelke (dboelke@nefmc.org; (978) 465-0492 x105).