

# Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP

## DRAFT Action Plan

**Council:** New England Fishery Management Council (Council)

**Fishery:** Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

**Title of Action:** Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP

**Scope:** Consider revising the control rule for specifying acceptable biological catch (ABC CR) for Atlantic herring; address potential localized depletion and user conflicts inshore.

**Objective of Action:**

At its November 2014 meeting, the Council passed the following motion with respect to the 2015 Atlantic herring management priorities:

*That for herring priorities, the Council prioritize an amendment to consider control rules for the Atlantic herring fishery that account for herring's role as forage in the ecosystem. The Council should also task the EBFM PDT and committee with developing ecological guidance for the herring PDT on managing forage fish within an ecosystem context by the June 2015 NEFMC Council meeting, and participating in the development of an appropriate control rule and reference points within an EBFM context for the herring fishery during this amendment.*

At its June 2015 meeting, the Council approved the following goals and objective for Amendment 8:

*Goals:*

1. To account for the role of Atlantic herring within the ecosystem, including its role as forage;
2. To stabilize the fishery at a level designed to achieve OY;
3. To address localized depletion in inshore waters.

*Objective:*

1. Develop and implement an ABC control rule that manages Atlantic herring within an ecosystem context and addresses the goals of Amendment 8.

**Likely Range of Alternatives:**

- Atlantic herring ABC Control Rules, including those that account for herring's role as forage in the ecosystem.
- Measures to address localized depletion.

**Applicable Laws/Issues:**

**NEPA Analysis (EIS/EA/CE/SIR):** This amendment is expected to require an EA or EIS. A formal determination will be made once the range of alternatives is identified and analyzed. However, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS was published on February 26, 2015 in anticipation of the need to develop an EIS for this action. A supplemental NOI was published on August 21, 2015 to expand the scope of the amendment to include localized depletion issues.

**Endangered Species Act/Marine Mammal Protection Act:** This action is expected to have an informal ESA consultation.

**Other Applicable Laws and Regulatory Requirements:** Typical issues and analyses expected at this time.

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## Herring Plan Development Team Membership and Other Individuals:

	Organization	Name	Responsibility
Herring Plan Development Team	NEFMC	Deirdre Boelke	Chair of Herring PDT, Herring FMP Coordinator, and Amendment 8 project manager. Coordinate drafting of all relevant documents and Amendment 8 DEIS including description of alternatives and analyses.
	NEFMC	Rachel Feeney	Project manager for initial phase of MSE portion of Amendment 8. Summarize scoping comments, collaborate on updating Affected Environment and writing Fishery Impacts/Social Impact Assessment.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Carrie Nordeen	Primary point of contact in NMFS for Herring FMP. GARFO Implementation Team Chairman. Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs and development of document.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Dan Luers	Support GARFO staff on the PDT and help identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs and development of document.
	NMFS GARFO Analysis & Program Support Division	Brant McAfee	Support Herring PDT data requests. Provide catch data to develop alternatives, Affected Environment, and impact analyses. Identify potential monitoring issues during development and review. Potentially support with GIS analysis.
	NMFS GARFO NEPA	Marianne Ferguson	Review document for completeness in terms of NEPA requirements during development and review.
	NMFS GARFO Protected Spec. Div.	Danielle Palmer	Draft sections relative to protected resources. Consultation on background information and analysis of impacts on protected resources.
	NEFSC Population Dynamics Branch	Jon Deroba	Technical analyses related to development of ABC CR alternatives. Coordinate Herring PDT work for MSE, if applicable. Technical work on localized depletion and analyze related management measures. Technical work associated with biological impact analyses. Assist in writing other elements of document.
	NEFSC Social Sciences Branch	Min-Yang Lee	Technical analyses related to development of ABC CR alternatives. Complete fishery/economic data requests for the PDT. Develop/write Economic Impact Analyses and impacts on fishery participants. Economic analyses related to ABC CR alternatives and other measures. Technical input on MSE, if applicable. Provide RIR/RFA analyses including summary of economic impacts.
	Maine DMR	Matt Cieri	Provide State fishery and biological data as needed. Technical work on localized depletion and analyze related management measures. Technical input on MSE, if applicable. Consultation on development of measures and biological impact analyses.
Mass. DMF	Micah Dean	Portside sampling data assimilation/analysis if necessary. Technical work on localized depletion and analyze related management measures. Technical input on MSE, if	

			applicable. Consultation on development of measures and impact analyses.
	NHFG	Renee Zobel	Provide State fishery and biological data as needed. Technical work on localized depletion and analyze related management measures. Technical input on MSE, if applicable. Consultation on development of measures and biological impact analyses.
	MIT Sea Grant	Madeleine Hall-Arber	Summarize scoping comments. Consultation on socio-economic elements of document and fishery/social impact assessment.
	NEFSC Fisheries Sampling Branch	Sara Weeks	Complete observer program data requests. Identify potential monitoring/observer program issues during development and review. Consultation on development of measures and impact analyses.
Other Individuals	NEFMC	Michelle Bachman	Development of background information and analyses of impacts on the physical environment and EFH.
	NMFS GCNE	Mitch MacDonald	Consultation on potential legal issues and questions.
	NEFSC Population Dynamics Branch	Sarah Gaichas	Technical analyses related to development of ABC CR alternatives. Support Herring PDT work for MSE.
	MAFMC	Jason Didden	Consultation/coordination with Mid-Atlantic Council to address overlapping issues with mackerel fishery.
	ASMFC	Ashton Harp	Consultation/coordination with ASMFC for state-federal overlapping issues.
	NMFS GARFO SFD	Doug Cristel	Primary GARFO contact for MAFMC MSB FMP. Consultation/coordination for overlapping issues with mackerel fishery.

### Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Plan Development Team Membership:

	Organization	Name	Responsibility
EBFM PDT	NEFMC	Andy Applegate	Chair of EBFM PDT. Primary responsibility for coordinating work with EBFM PDT and Committee to provide ecological guidance on development of herring ABC CR alternatives in Amendment 8.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries	Tobey Curtis	Provide ecological guidance on development of herring ABC CR alternatives in Amendment 8. Assist in the development of EBFM PDT Report: <i>Scientific advice on herring control rules that account for forage requirements and the role of Atlantic herring in the ecosystem</i> . Report completed June 2015.
	NEFSC Population Dynamics	Kiersten Curti	
	NEFSC Social Sciences	Geret DePiper	
	NEFSC Ecosystem Assessment Program	Michael Fogarty, Sarah Gaichas	
	SMAST	Saang Yoon-Hyun	
	Rutgers University	Kevin St. Martin	
	UConn	Peter Auster	
	RI DEM	Chris Powell	
	MAFMC	Rich Seagraves	

### NMFS Amendment 8 Implementation Team Membership:

Organization	Name	Responsibility
NMFS GARFO SFD	Carrie Nordeen	Implementation Team Chair; primary GARFO contact for Amendment 8.
NMFS GARFO SFD	Dan Luers	SFD contact for implementation of Amendment 8.
NMFS GARFO APDS	Brant McAfee	Consult on development of measures with monitoring considerations
NMFS GARFO PRD	Danielle Palmer	Consult on development of measures with protected resources considerations
NOAA GC	Mitch MacDonald Joe Heckwolf	Consult on development of measures with legal and enforcement considerations
NMFS GARFO IRM	Dean Szumylo	Consult on development of measures with GIS considerations.
NMFS OLE	Don Frei	Consult on development of measures with enforcement considerations

**Implementation Team Issues:** TBD – to be developed by IT Chair

## Worksheet 2: Timeline for Development of Amendment 8

2015	
JAN	NEFMC - Review action plan and approve scoping document
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
JUN	NEFMC - Review EBFM Report and A8 scoping comments; revise goals and objectives; recommends peer review of Management Strategy Evaluation
AUG-SEP	Supplemental scoping period regarding expanded scope of A8 (localized depletion)
DEC	Herring PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A8
2016	
JAN	NEFMC - Review scoping comments, approve MSE approach to developing ABC control rule alternatives
FEB - APR	Herring PDT, AP, Committee work to develop background information and alternatives regarding localized depletion. Planning for MSE workshop.
MAY	Public workshop on MSE.
JUN	NEFMC – approve range of ABC control rule objectives, performance metrics and control rules to be evaluated. Continued development of localized depletion alternatives.
JUL - DEC	MSE and localized depletion-related work continues
2017	
JAN	NEFMC – Discuss range of alternatives for MSE CR alternatives only
MAR	Independent peer review of MSE analysis
APR	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for Draft EIS
MAY-SEP	PDT Impacts analysis
SEP	NEFMC – Select preferred alternatives for ABC control rule
DEC	NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for localized depletion measures
2018	
May/Jun	NEFMC – Public hearings
SEP	NEFMC - Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives
TBD	Preliminary submission of EIS
TBD	Final submission EIS
TBD	Implementation of action

## Worksheet 2: Detailed Implementation Timeline

TBD – to be developed by IT Chair

PROJECT PHASE	STARTING	ENDING
1. Council Meeting to select final measures		
2.		
3.		
4.		

### Action Plan Versions:

Version	Date	Author	Change Description
1	January 5, 2015	Steele	Prepared for Joint Herring PDT/EBFM PDT Planning Meeting on January 5, 2015.
2	December 15, 2015	Feeney	Revised to reflect expanded scope of Amendment 8, update timeline, and facilitate the transition of herring responsibilities among Council staff.
3	March 24, 2016	Feeney	Update timeline.
4	July 1, 2016	Boelke	Updated staff responsibilities and timelines and included FMAT members
5	January 23, 2017	Boelke	Updated timeline with MSE peer review and other milestones
6	May 3, 2017	Boelke	Update PDT membership and timeline after Council approved final range of alternatives in April 2017.
7	August 14, 2017	Boelke	Updated timeline to split out selection of preferred alternatives over 2 Council meetings and push final action to April 2018.
8	December 14, 2017	Boelke	Updated timeline to include public hearings in April 2018 and final action for June 2018.
9	May 1, 2018	Boelke	Updated timeline to move final action from June to September. Revising the DEIS before public hearings took longer than anticipated and the 45 day comment period extends beyond the June Council meeting.