



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Herring Advisory Panel

Holiday Inn - Taunton, MA

November 20, 2017

The Herring AP met on November 20, 2017 in Taunton, MA primarily to review draft analyses of measures developed to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts in the herring fishery being considered in Amendment 8 and potentially select preferred alternatives before the document is scheduled for public hearings. The AP was asked about a dozen specific questions about potential effort shifts from Amendment 8 alternatives to support the analyses in the DEIS. The secondary purpose of the meeting is to discuss recommendations for the Council to consider for Herring RSA research priorities and discuss any challenges the program has had in recent years.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: Mr. John-Paul Bilodeau, Mr. Doug Feeney, Mr. Bert Jongerden (Chairman), Mr. Jeff Kaelin, Mr. Zack Klyver, Mr. Ray Kane, Ms. Meghan Lapp, Mr. Peter Moore, Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Mr. James Ruhle, and Mr. Don Swanson. The Committee was supported by Council staff members Deirdre Boelke and Dr. Rachel Feeney; and Ms. Carrie Nordeen (NMFS/GARFO). In addition, about a dozen members of the public attended.

Amendment 8

1. Kaelin/Ruhle

Recommend to the Committee that the final preferred alternative for an ABC CR in Amendment 8 be Alternative 1 (Strawman A) in Section 2.1.1, and the ABC be set for three years with annual application of the control rule (Alternative 2 in Section 2.1.2).

Vote: 7:3:1, carries

2. Kaelin/Bilodeau

Recommend to the Committee that the final preferred alternative for Section 2.2, measures to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts, be No Action.

Motion withdrawn

3. Ruhle/O'Neill

Recommend to the Committee that the final preferred alternative for Section 2.2, measures to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts, be Alternative 9.

Vote: 7:4:0, motion carries

Herring Specifications

4. O'Neill/Lapp

Recommend the Committee and Council request NMFS take in-season action for FY2019. Whatever the total catch limit is the area sub-ACLs should be based on the same proportions as they have been in recent specification packages (Area 1A=28.9%, Area 1B = 4.3%, Area 2 = 27.8% and Area 3 = 39%).

Vote: 8:2:1, carries

5. Kaelin/Ruhle

Ask the Committee and Council to consider including, in the potential future work priorities for the 2019-2021 herring fishery specs process, the analysis of an increase in the herring incidental possession limit for vessels targeting mackerel, from 2,000 pounds to as much as 40,000 pounds, in herring management area 2 and 3, from January 1-May 31 and the month of December of each fishing year.

Vote: 6:4:0, carries

2019 Work Priorities

AP support the PDT recommendation #4, analysis of previous actions implemented in the Herring FMP.

AP would not support #2 in 2019, MSE meeting/workshop to discuss process, pros/cons, etc., maybe later.

Other Business

6. Casoni/Kaelin

Ask the Committee to recommend to the Council to declare a resource disaster in the herring fishery given the low recruitment projections and significant negative economic impacts on the directed herring fishery and the lobster fishery that depends on herring for bait.

Vote: 7:1:2, motion carries