



## 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 Committee

Sheraton Four Points, Wakefield, MA

September 19, 2018

The Herring Committee met on September 19, 2018 in Wakefield, MA primarily to select final preferred alternative recommendations for Amendment 8 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan.

**MEETING ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Peter Kendall (Chairman), Mr. Rick Bellavance, Mr. Peter deFur, Mr. Peter Christopher (NMFS/GARFO), Mr. Doug Grout, Mr. Peter Hughes, Dr. Cate O'Keefe, Mr. John Pappalardo, Ms. Melissa Smith, Mr. Matt Mckenzie, Mr. Scott Oslzewski, and Mr. Terry Stockwell. The Committee was supported by Council staff members Deirdre Boelke and Dr. Rachel Feeney; Ms. Carrie Nordeen (NMFS/GARFO); and Mr. Mitch MacDonald (NOAA General Counsel). In addition, about 25 members of the public attended.

### **KEY OUTCOMES:**

- The group reviewed results from the 2018 Atlantic herring benchmark assessment. Dr. Jonathon Deroba presented the summary and answered questions.
- The group reviewed public comments on Amendment 8 and discussed final preferred alternatives.
- The group discussed specifications for 2019-2021, including potential in-season action by NOAA Fisheries to set catch limits for fishing year 2019.
- The group had an initial discussion of herring work priorities for 2019.

### **Amendment 8 Motions**

#### **1. Stockwell/Pappalardo**

Recommend Alternative 4b as the preferred alternative for the ABC control rule in Amendment 8 (Section 2.1.1), and recommend Alternative 2 for Section 2.1.2 as preferred, which would set ABC for three years with annual application of the control rule.

**1a. Motion to amend: Grout/Smith**

Recommend Alternative 4b as the preferred alternative for the ABC control rule in Amendment 8 (Section 2.1.1), but modify the maximum fishing mortality (maxF) parameter to be 0.8 from 0.7, and recommend Alternative 2 for Section 2.1.2 as preferred, which would set ABC for three years with annual application of the control rule.

Vote: 9:0:1, carries

**Main motion as amended: 9:0:1, carries**

**2. Stockwell/Grout**

Recommend Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative for Section 2.2 of Amendment 8 to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts, but modified to extend the 12-mile buffer to include Area 1A so it is a coastwide prohibition of mid-water trawl gear inside of 12-nautical miles, including seasonal sub-option A so it is year-round, and including spatial sub-option A to include Areas 2, 3, and 1B.

**Vote: 6:3:1, carries**

**2019-2021 Specifications Motions**

**3. Grout/O'Keefe**

Recommend the Council request NOAA fisheries develop an in-season action that would set 2019 catch limits with the following guidance:

- Using the most recent assessment and projections;
- Using the ABC control rule approved the by Council;
- Proportionally reduce the fixed gear set-aside;
- Set the border transfer to 0mt; and
- Maintain the sub-ACLs for herring management areas based on the same proportions as the last specifications package (Area 1A=28.9%, Area 1B=4.3%, Area 2=27.8%, Area 3=39%).

**4. Stockwell/Pappalardo**

Motion to postpone until the Herring report at the September Council meeting, after decisions on Amendment 8.

**Vote: 5:4:1, carries**

## **2019 Work Priorities**

*Committee supports PDT recommendation #3 – Recommend NRCC or other appropriate group discuss the specifics and timing of a review of the Herring MSE (5-10 years?). When can that be integrated into the overall schedule of work items? Analysts will want to know in advance to plan model updates.*

*Committee supports PDT/NEFSC research into identifying the possible causes of recent declines in herring recruitment, what information is available about the most likely drivers of below average recruitment in recent years.*