2\textsuperscript{ND} WORKSHOP ON ATLANTIC HERRING ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCH CONTROL RULE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

December 7-8, 2016
Sheraton Harborside Hotel
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Workshop Website
http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/dec.-7-8-2016-herring-management-strategy-evaluaton-mse-workshop

Introduction
The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is currently developing Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. Through Amendment 8, the Council expects to establish a long-term control rule for specifying acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the Atlantic herring fishery. A control rule is a formulaic approach for establishing an annual catch limit or target fishing level that is based on the best available scientific information. An objective of Amendment 8 is to develop and implement an ABC control rule that manages Atlantic herring within an ecosystem context.

In January 2016, the Council approved conducting a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) to support the development of alternatives regarding the ABC control rule. MSE is a collaborative decision-making process, involving more upfront public input and technical analysis than the normal amendment development process. The MSE is being used to help determine how a range of control rules may perform relative to potential objectives. An initial public workshop was held in May 2016 to develop recommendations to the Council for a range of potential objectives of the Atlantic herring ABC control rule, how progress towards these objectives may be measured (i.e., associated performance metrics), and the range of control rules that would undergo testing. In June 2016, upon review of the workshop recommendations and additional input from the Atlantic herring Plan Development Team, Advisory Panel, and Committee, the Council approved moving forward with the MSE. Technical work has been underway ever since.

Workshop #2 Purpose
The purpose of this workshop is to provide continued opportunities for public input on the ongoing Management Strategy Evaluation of Atlantic herring ABC control rules.

Workshop #2 Goals
The Council is hosting this workshop to:

1. Develop a common understanding of the outcomes of the MSE technical simulations, which tested the performance of a range of ABC control rules relative to potential objectives, as identified at the May 2016 public workshop and approved by the Council in June.
2. Solicit information from stakeholders on:
   a. Identifying acceptable ranges of performance for various metrics, so that tradeoffs in achieving objectives may be identified.
b. Narrowing the range of Atlantic herring ABC control rule alternatives to consider in more detail.

c. What, if any, additional (minor) MSE simulation work would be informative for establishing a long-term ABC control rule.

3. Provide an opportunity for stakeholders of the Atlantic herring fishery to have greater input than typically possible at Council meetings, in an environment that supports constructive and open dialogue between users of the resource, scientific experts, fishery managers, and other interested members of the public.

Next Steps after Workshop
Workshop outcomes will be vetted through the Herring Advisory Panel and Herring Committee prior to approval by the Council, likely at its January 2017 meeting. After the MSE is complete, the outcomes will help the Council evaluate tradeoffs between ABC control rule objectives and which control rules would most likely meet the goals of Amendment 8 and form the range of alternatives.

Target Attendees
The workshop will be open to all interested parties. Target attendees include: herring fishermen and fishery organizations, commercial and recreational groundfish and tuna fishermen, whale watch industry members, the lobster industry, interested members of the public, and members of the Herring Plan Development Team, Herring Advisory Panel and Herring Committee. All participating Council members will be asked to be primarily in “listen-only” mode, to allow ample opportunity for public input at this phase.

Agenda, Registration and Logistics
The workshop agenda and other details are posted on the Council’s website as they become available (link on reverse page). Registration is open and advance registration is strongly encouraged. Participants will be responsible for their own travel, with the exception of Council members and advisors (i.e., Advisory Panel or Plan Development Team members) per normal travel policies.

Workshop Facilitator
Dr. Brian Irwin will be the primary workshop facilitator. He is an Assistant Unit Leader at the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and an adjunct faculty member of the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. He has participated in MSEs that use participatory scenario forecasting to support decision making, and he has taught courses and workshops in fisheries management, quantitative modeling, and structured decision making and adaptive management. Dr. Irwin is not conducting the technical work (simulations), but may be contacted to help ensure that the work aligns with workshop outcomes. More information about Dr. Irwin is available at: http://www.coopunits.org/Georgia/People/Brian_Irwin/

Contact
For additional information, contact the workshop coordinator: Dr. Rachel Feeney (rfeeney@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492x110).