

# **WORKSHOP ON ATLANTIC HERRING ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCH CONTROL RULE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**

**May 16-17, 2016**

**Holiday Inn by the Bay**

**Portland, Maine**

**REGISTRATION – <http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/may-16-17-2016-herring-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 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 upfront public input and technical analysis than the normal amendment development process. The MSE will be used to help determine how a range of control rules may perform relative to potential objectives. An early step of this MSE will be a public workshop to develop recommendations to the Council for a range of potential objectives of the Atlantic herring ABC control rule, how these objectives may be tested (i.e., associated performance metrics), and the range of control rules that would undergo testing.

## **Workshop Goals**

The Council is hosting this workshop to:

1. Develop a common understanding of Management Strategy Evaluation.
2. Develop recommendations to the Council for:
  - a. A range of potential objectives of the Atlantic herring ABC control rule,
  - b. Quantitative metrics to evaluate the performance of control rules relative to the objectives, and
  - c. A range of control rules to be evaluated and/or the general characteristics of a control rule.
3. Develop a common understanding of the potentials and limitations of models that may affect simulation testing, and given those, identify which uncertainties are most important to resolve.
4. Provide an opportunity for stakeholders of the Atlantic herring fishery to provide 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**

The workshop will produce potential objectives, performance metrics, and control rules to recommend to the Council. Workshop outcomes will be vetted through the Herring Advisory Panel and Herring Committee prior to approval by the Council, likely at its June 2016 meeting. After Council approval, simulation testing of control rules will be conducted by a team of scientists at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center with the support of contractors. After the simulations, a subsequent public workshop is possible, likely in early fall 2016, to review preliminary results and make any further recommendations to the Council. 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. 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:

<http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/may-16-17-2016-herring-workshop>. 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).

## **Workshop Facilitators**

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. He currently serves on the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Dr. Irwin will not be 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/](http://www.coopunits.org/Georgia/People/Brian_Irwin/)

## **Contact**

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