



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2016

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante
(607) 592-4817, jplante@nefmc.org

Atlantic Herring Framework 5 and Amendment 8 Take Shape

The New England Fishery Management Council today discussed two actions related to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan.

- **Amendment 8:** The Council looked over the draft goals and agenda for its second Atlantic Herring Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop (see blue box). MSE incorporates more public input and technical analyses upfront before alternatives are selected. The approach is being used to establish an acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule for the Atlantic herring fishery under Amendment 8 that: (1) may explicitly account for herring's role in the ecosystem; and (2) deals with biological and ecological requirements of the herring resource itself. The amendment also contains a set of still-evolving alternatives to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts in the herring fishery.
- **Framework Adjustment 5:** The Council received an overview of the range of alternatives under consideration to modify the Georges Bank haddock accountability measures (AMs) that apply to the herring midwater trawl fishery. The Herring Plan Development Team will conduct additional

analyses on the alternatives, and the Council is scheduled to take final action during its January meeting.

The herring/haddock issue is being addressed through two channels – one groundfish action and one herring action.

The Council voted yesterday to increase the herring midwater trawl fishery's Georges Bank haddock sub-annual catch limit (sub-ACL) from 1% to 1.5% through Framework 56 to the groundfish plan.

Herring Framework 5, on the other hand, is the vehicle being used to potentially modify the AMs to help keep the midwater trawl herring fishery from exceeding the haddock sub-ACL. The range of alternatives includes two options for implementing a "proactive" AM closure in addition to maintaining the existing "reactive" AM closure.

REGISTER NOW!

Atlantic Herring Workshop December 7-8, Portsmouth, NH

Help the Council:

- Evaluate tradeoffs in achieving fishery goals and objectives and form Amendment 8 alternatives
- Obtain important input from all stakeholders



Atlantic Herring (*Clupea harengus*) – NOAA Fisheries graphic

Learn more at:

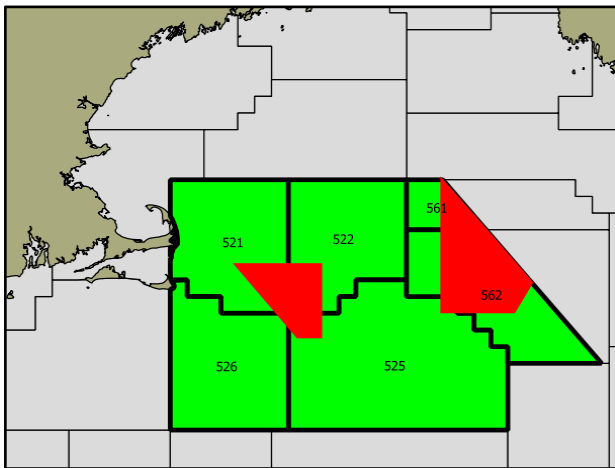
<http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/dec.-7-8-2016-herring-management-strategy-evaluation-mse-workshop>



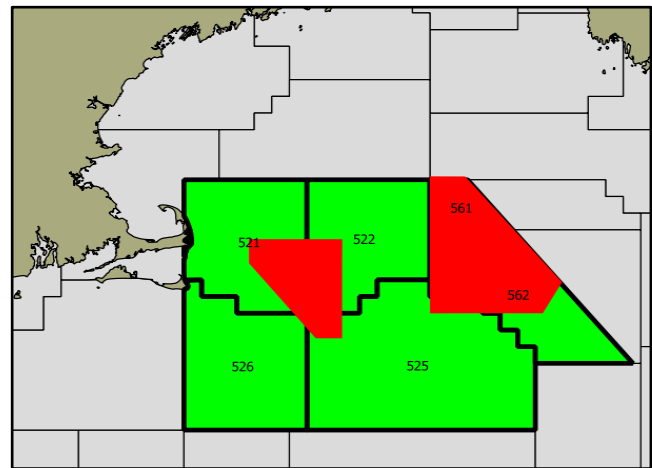
New England Fishery Management Council

The reactive AM requires a shutdown of all green and red areas in the charts below to directed herring midwater trawl fishing – for the remainder of the groundfish fishing year – once the haddock sub-ACL is caught. Framework 5 proposes a proactive approach that would prevent midwater trawl fishing in Closed Areas I and II – either with or without a 15-nautical-mile buffer around the red areas – under three possible seasons: (a) a year-round proactive closure; (b) a May-October proactive closure; or (c) a June-August proactive closure.

The premise is that a seasonal *proactive* closure of Closed Areas I and II would help keep the midwater trawl fishery within its Georges Bank haddock sub-ACL and prevent a closure of the entire green/red area, which defines the *reactive* Georges Bank Haddock AM Area. In 2015, the reactive AM was triggered, and the whole AM area was closed to herring midwater trawling from Oct. 22, 2015 through April 30, 2016.



Option 1, Proactive AM, Closed Areas I and II – Areas in red would be implemented in-season for a specified timeframe (year round, May-October, or June-August) to reduce haddock catch. Herring midwater trawl fishing would be prohibited in those areas during the closure season. – NEFMC graphic



Option 2, Proactive AM, Closed Areas I and II with 15-nautical-mile buffer north of Closed Area I and west of Closed Area II – Areas in red would be implemented in-season for a specified timeframe to reduce haddock catch. Herring midwater trawl fishing would be prohibited in those areas during the closure season. – NEFMC graphic

Framework 5 contains other alternatives, including one to seasonally split the Georges Bank haddock sub-ACL so that 80% of the quota is released on May 1 and then 20% is released on Nov. 1 to support a winter herring/mackerel fishery. Copies of the draft alternatives and other herring materials can be found at: <http://www.nefmc.org/library/atlantic-herring-committee-november-2016>.

Framework 5 is needed to:

- Reduce the potential negative economic impacts on herring midwater trawl vessels that result from Georges Bank haddock AM closures, which in turn reduce the opportunity to harvest the herring sub-ACLs in Herring Management Areas 3 and 1B;
- Avoid potential impacts to the supply of herring used as bait for the lobster fishery; and
- Reduce the potential negative economic impacts on the mackerel fishery from Georges Bank haddock AM closures, which in turn reduce the opportunity to harvest mackerel on Georges Bank.

For more information, call Atlantic Herring Plan Coordinator Deirdre Boelke at (978) 465-0492 ext. 105 or email her at dboelke@nefmc.org.