



Management Strategy Evaluation Mock Workshop

Background Information on Workshop and Lake Erie Walleye Fishery Example

September 2020

The goal of the kick-off webinar and mock workshop is to quickly introduce advisory panel members to goals, process, and expectations associated with conducting a management strategy evaluation (MSE). During the mock MSE workshop, advisory panel members will provide feedback and input on management objectives, performance metrics, and uncertainties (e.g., unknowns and data gaps) from an example fishery. This is intended to “simulate”, in a compressed timeframe, what the stakeholder workshops for the upcoming MSE may include and what the process entails. We are utilizing this approach to provide everyone with some familiarity on the role participants play and the tasks to complete in an MSE. This should help provide for more productive stakeholder workshops in the future (see other background documents for additional information).

Lake Erie Walleye Example

The mock MSE workshop will utilize Lake Erie walleye as a fishery example for the focus of advisory panel discussion and feedback. This is a real fishery in which an MSE was used to successfully address significant management challenges. Don't worry – you don't need to be an expert in walleye biology, fisheries, or management in order to participate and provide feedback during the workshop. The point is to expose participants to the MSE process generally and not to focus, for this exercise, on summer flounder recreational discard management issues.

The Walleye Fishery

Lake Erie walleye is one of the most important and valuable freshwater fisheries in the world. Commercial and recreational walleye fisheries have existed for decades, as have sector conflicts and competing management objectives¹. Interestingly, there are a number of similarities to the summer flounder fishery (one of the reasons we selected it), such as:

- Significant commercial and recreational components with a nearly 50/50 split in harvest
- Recreational fishery comprised of private anglers and for-hire fleet
 - High retention fishery (i.e., not a catch and release fishery)
- Commercial fishery dominated by one gear type with limited access rights

¹ Information from M. Jones 2018. [Experience from a Stakeholder-Engaged MSE Process for Walleye Fishery Management in Lake Erie](#). Abstract from the Sixth National Meeting of the Scientific Coordination Subcommittee.

- Complex fisheries management with multiple management authorities

What to expect

The discussion will focus on the walleye example and even though we will not be explicitly talking about summer flounder, please bring your background, experiences, and perspectives of summer flounder and other mid-Atlantic fisheries as you participate in the workshop and provide feedback.

After an introduction and overview of the walleye fishery and management issues, we will separate into smaller breakout groups for some focused discussion and feedback. Participants will be asked to provide input on topics such as possible management objectives, performance metrics, and uncertainties/impediments. We will then reconvene as a larger group and report out and discuss the ideas generated by each breakout group.

As mentioned previously, this mock workshop is intended to simulate aspects of future stakeholder workshops prior to our first summer flounder MSE process workshop. The initial workshops are intended to allow stakeholders to bring ideas into the process early on and before any analysis begins or any management decisions are made. There are no wrong ideas or perspectives and the goal is to identify and highlight as many objectives, goals, issues, data needs etc. associated with achieving the desired outcomes for the fishery, as necessary.