




Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org
Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 10, 2017
To: RH/S Committee
From: Jason Didden 
Subject: River Herring/Shad (RH/S) Advisory Panel (AP) Meeting Summary

On April 7, 2017, the Council's River Herring/Shad Advisory Panel (RH/S AP - <http://www.mafmc.org/advisory-panels/>) met to provide input on the draft RH/S metrics being developed by the RH/S Committee. Attending RH/S AP members included Greg DiDomenico, John Punola, Peter Moore, Joseph Gordon, Paul Eidman, Eleanor Bochenek, Fred Akers, and J.P. Bilodeau. Other participants included Zack Greenberg, Peter deFur, Jeff Kaelin, Erica Fuller, Chris Batsavage, Deirdre Boelke, Sara Winslow, and Jason Didden. The input from the AP and the public is summarized below:

AP Member Input

Joseph Gordon – Managing RH/S under the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) would be a better way to manage these species, given MSA approaches have been proven to work. As long as Council is going with this approach, the Council should focus on results-oriented measures and look beyond stability toward improving RH/S status. The Council should focus on Mid-Atlantic runs in terms of progress so that New England run trends do not mask what's going on in the Mid-Atlantic.

Greg DiDomenico – Should this effort be delayed until the outcome of the stock in the fishery lawsuit is determined?

Fred Akers – Given the current approach by Council, feasible items should be at the top of list. Do them at least, then focus on other items. Integrate state data that encounters and/or focuses on RH/S.

Eleanor Bochenek – Stick with options that are currently feasible, then add in others as resources allow.

John Punola – For shad, I have kept records of my observations since the 1980s, in terms of my fishing, talking to fishermen, and looking at schools of juveniles in the river. Delaware River shad have been on an upswing. River levels are very high right now – shad are moving up river, but fishermen won't be catching any. High water may or may not affect spawning success of shad

this year. Shad are showing up in restaurants. Would like contact information about sampling efforts, especially farther up the DE river.

Public Input

Jeff Kaelin (Lunds) – A lot of the information on the spreadsheet is already available. The previously-discussed river run portal for run counts would be useful. RH/S abundance trends should be broken down by species, and a focus should be on setting caps based on biological information. The metrics should also integrate climate change impacts.