



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 28, 2017
To: Council
From: Jason Didden
Subject: River Herring/Shad (RH/S) Progress Metrics

At the last Council Meeting, the Council passed the following motion:




"I move that the Council task the RH/S Committee, working with Council and NMFS staff to develop measurable criteria by which the Council will be better able to decide on management action."

Council staff began with a list of potential metrics provided by RH/S Committee Member Peter deFur, and then modified that list based on preliminary input from NMFS and ASMFC staff with expertise in RH/S. The modified list, still in draft form, is provided below for Committee discussion at the April 2017 Council meeting (<http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/april-2017>).

After receiving input from the Committee/Council, staff will further revise the list and develop recommendations for a set of metrics that could be monitored given current workload constraints.

There is a RH/S Advisory Panel (AP) webinar meeting on April 7, 2017 (<http://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2017/river-herring-and-shad-advisory-panel-meeting>) to provide input on the potential metrics. A summary of the AP input will be posted to the April 2017 Council meeting website as soon as possible. The 2016 Annual RH/S Progress Review (http://www.mafmc.org/s/Tab03_RHS-Review.pdf) created by staff last year will also be posted to the meeting website as additional background.

Assessing RH/S efforts to increase/recover stocks						
**Measures could/should be prioritized.						
**Frequency of updating influences workload						
Measure	↑	↓	↔	no data	confidence (Low-to-high)	Notes
Mackerel incidental catch cap trend (standardized to effort?)						seems feasible to report on (GARFO INFO)
Mackerel catch cap C.V. trend						seems feasible to report on (GARFO INFO)
Atl. herring incidental catch cap trend (standardized to effort?)						seems feasible to report on (GARFO INFO)
Atl. herring catch cap C.V. trend						seems feasible to report on (GARFO INFO)
Slippage Trends in relevant fisheries						seems feasible to report on (NEFOP). This should identify cause if at all possible. Based on discussions with NEFOP, proposed edits to report should make this more explicit in the future.
Voluntary avoidance participation rate trend						seems feasible to report on (SMAST)
Information on voluntary avoidance effectiveness						seems feasible to report on (SMAST)
Overall RH/S incidental catch trends						seems feasible to report on (NEFSC performs regularly)
CV of overall incidental catch trends						seems feasible to report on (NEFSC)
Percentage of Herring/Mackerel/other relevant fisheries observed						This may be difficult to do because SBRM observer coverage is not determined by fishery but instead by fishing fleet
Number of Runs Monitored						seems possible, high workload
Number of Runs Monitored and data available to public						seems possible, high workload
Percent of Monitored RH/S Runs Over Their 10-year median						seems possible, high workload
Number of runs with sustainable harvest plans approved						seems feasible to report on (on file with ASMFC)
Trends in commercial access to fishery (quotas, numbers of rivers with approved fishing)						seems feasible to report on (ASMFC)
Trends in recreational access to fishery (quotas, numbers of rivers with approved fishing)						seems feasible to report on (ASMFC)
Legal catch in rivers by river/stock						there are no quotas; only in some cases have sustainable FMPs set a max catch. It is not by stock, rather species

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NEFSC Trawl Abundance Trends						seems feasible to report on (NEFSC)
NEAMAP Trawl Abundance Trends						seems feasible (VIMS)
State Trawl Abundance Trawls						seems possible, potentially high workload, this is included in state compliance reports for select water bodies
Research on stock identification						seems possible to report on
Research on RH/S bycatch run origin identification						seems possible to report on
Progress on informative stock assessment(s)						This metric will likely only be applicable approximately every 10 years (the approximate frequency of benchmark assessments)
If available, stock size trends						seems possible to report on
Establishment of targets for recovery						seems possible to report on
SSC involvement in setting caps and/or limits						seems possible to report on
Progress toward setting a biologically-based cap						seems possible to report on
Trends in predator species (EAFM)						With the generalist nature of most predators, it is unlikely that changes would directly correlate with RH abundances; other influences would need to be considered (fishing, other prey, environment, etc.). Major work would be required.
Trends in use of EAFM for RH/S protection						?
Trends in habitat (river miles, quality, consultations)						seems possible, potentially high workload
Mean Length Trend (only available for subset of runs/stocks)						High workload if done outside assessment
Maximum Age Trend (only available for subset of runs/stocks)						High workload if done outside assessment
Total Mortality Trend (only available for subset of runs/stocks)						High workload if done outside assessment
Canadian Trends (?)						