

DRAFT - STRAWMAN

#8

PROJECT #:

UPDATED: February 2, 2009

PROJECT MANAGER: Lori L. Steele

PROJECT TITLE: **Herring Amendment and 2010-2012 Specifications**

SUPPORTS COUNCIL PRIORITY #: High

GOAL: Develop Herring Amendments 4/5 to address catch monitoring, new M-S Act requirements, and other issues; develop specifications packages for the 2010-2012 fishing years using new stock assessment and ACL/AM provisions for 2011 and beyond.

Amendment 4 Progress to Date

MILESTONES		PLANNED
1.	Committee meets to draft objectives and identify issues for inclusion in scoping document	MAR 2008
2.	AMENDMENT 4 SCOPING	APR-JUNE 2008
3.	Advisors and Herring Committee meet to review scoping comments and develop a range of alternatives for analysis in Amendment 4 (work with PDT)	MAY 2008 – FEB 2009
4.	Council reviews progress on development of Amendment 4 alternatives, provides guidance/recommendations	FEB 2009

If Amendment 4 is split, the ACL/AM provisions would move forward in the amendment, developed in conjunction with the 2010-2012 fishery specifications, and submitted together with an Environmental Assessment (EA). This will work if Amendment 4 *only* contains measures that are deemed to result in no significant impacts, which would trigger the development of an EIS. The ACL/AM provisions are largely process-related and are unlikely to trigger an EIS, although consideration of this issue needs to be made throughout the development of the Amendment.

MILESTONES		PLANNED
1.	Committee, Advisory Panel, and PDT continue work on Amendment 4 alternatives – ACL/AM provisions are the priority issues	FEB-JUNE 2009
2.	TRAC Stock Assessment for Atlantic Herring	JUNE 2009
3.	Committee, Advisory Panel, and PDT review stock assessment results, draft options for ACL/AM provisions and develop recommendations for 2010-2012 fishery specifications	JULY-SEPT 2009
4.	SSC reviews draft Amendment 4 measures related to ACLs/AMs, reviews draft specifications and provides recommendations for ABC, etc. for 2010-2012 fishing years	AUGUST 2009
5.	Council reviews draft Amendment 4, SSC recommendations, draft fishery specifications, and develops recommendations for Amendment 4 and 2010-2012 specifications	SEPT 2009
6.	Council selects final measures for Amendment 4 and 2010-2012 fishery specifications, approves research recommendations for 2011-2012 RSAs	NOV 2009
7.	Staff submits Amendment 4 and specification package for 2010-2012 fishing years	DEC 2009

Atlantic herring fishery specifications for 2010-2012 fishing years would be submitted in December 2009, resulting in a delay in implementation for the 2010 fishing year. Catch during the beginning of 2010 would be counted retroactively against the TACs once the specifications are implemented (this has occurred in the past). The specifications package would include language to indicate this.

Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP would include all other elements that were originally in Amendment 4:

- Catch Monitoring Program for the Herring Fishery
- Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch
- Measures to Address Interactions with the Atlantic Mackerel Fishery and Bycatch Concerns
- Measures to Establish Criteria for Access to Groundfish Closed Areas by Midwater Trawl Vessels

MILESTONES	PLANNED
1. Herring Committee and Advisory Panel continue development of alternatives for Amendment 5	DEC 2009 – APRIL 2010
2. Council approves Amendment 5 alternatives for analysis in DSEIS	APRIL 2010
3. Council approves Draft Amendment 5/DSEIS and public hearing document and selects preferred alternatives	JUNE 2010
4. Herring Amendment 5 Public Hearings	JULY/AUGUST 2010
5. Council reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 5 measures	SEPT 2010 (or NOV 2010)
6. Amendment 5 Implementation	ASAP