

# **Framework Adjustment 3 to the Atlantic Herring FMP**

**Lori Steele, NEFMC Staff, Herring PDT Chair**

**NEFMC Meeting, June 18, 2013**

# Framework 3 Background

- Measures to establish river herring catch caps through framework adjustment developed in Amendment 5
  - Two-phase bycatch monitoring/avoidance approach (SMAST/SFC/MA DMF program)
- Fw 3 identified as 2013 management priority, initiated at January 2013 Council meeting
- Fw 3 will set caps for 2014/2015; future caps to be set during specifications

# Framework 3 Timeline

- May 23, 2013 Herring PDT/MSB MC
- June 4, 2013 Herring Committee
- June 11-13, 2013 MAFMC  
(RH/S cap for 2014 mackerel fishery)
- June 18-20, 2013 NEFMC  
(Initial Fw3 Meeting)
- Herring PDT/AP/Committee  
(July – September 2013)
- September 2013 NEFMC (Final Fw3 Meeting)
- Fw3 Implementation mid-2014 Fishing Year

# Mid-Atlantic Council Actions

- Am14 established RH/S catch cap provisions
- 2014 specifications will set RH/S catch cap for mackerel fishing year (236 mt recommended)
- RH/S cap will apply to all trips landing more than 20,000 pounds of mackerel in all areas
- Vessels limited to 20,000 pounds mackerel when 95% of cap is projected to be reached
- 2015 mackerel fishery catch cap will be considered during 2014; both Councils can work to align caps for 2016 and beyond

# Framework 3 Goals/Objectives

## *Herring Committee Motion:*

The goal of Fw 3 is to establish a process for setting RH/S catch caps in the Atlantic herring fishery to achieve the following objectives:

- Provide strong incentive for the industry to continue to avoid RH/S and reduce RH/S catch to the extent possible
- Enhance coordination with the Mid-Atlantic Council to address overlapping fisheries
- Promote flexibility to adjust the cap in the future as more information becomes available

# Herring Committee Motion

- Recommend that the Council clarify its intent that the provision in Amendment 5 to establish catch caps for river herring through a framework adjustment applies to both river herring and shad

*Fw3 analysis can address overlap between river herring and shad and species-specific impacts, to the extent possible.*

# Herring Committee Motion

- Recommend to add the river herring/shad catch cap species to the list of items that could be modified in the future through a framework adjustment or the fishery specifications process

*Fw3 provisions should include flexibility to divide catch caps by species and/or implement a joint cap to address the herring/mackerel fishery overlap through a framework adjustment in the future.*

# Elements of Fw3 Alternatives

- Species to Which Catch Cap Applies
  - Lack of clarity re. Am 5 language
  - Mid-Atlantic Council recommends one joint RH/S catch cap at this time
- Vessels Subject to the Catch Cap
  - Trips landing more than 3 mt (6,600 pounds) of herring (limited access boats)
  - Mid-Atlantic Council – trips landing more than 20,000 pounds of mackerel



# Herring Committee Motion

- That the river herring/shad catch cap apply to all trips landing more than the open access possession limit of 6,600 pounds of Atlantic herring

# Options for Catch Cap Areas?

## Amendment 5: Detailed “Hotspot” Analysis

- Stat Area and 10-Min Square
- Herring PDT Catch Cap Paper (Dec 2010)
- Two-Phase Avoidance Approach adopted

### ***Herring Committee Motion:***

That the catch cap areas for the Atlantic herring fishery be analyzed by statistical area, season, and gear type

# Management Area-based Option?

## *Herring Committee Motion:*

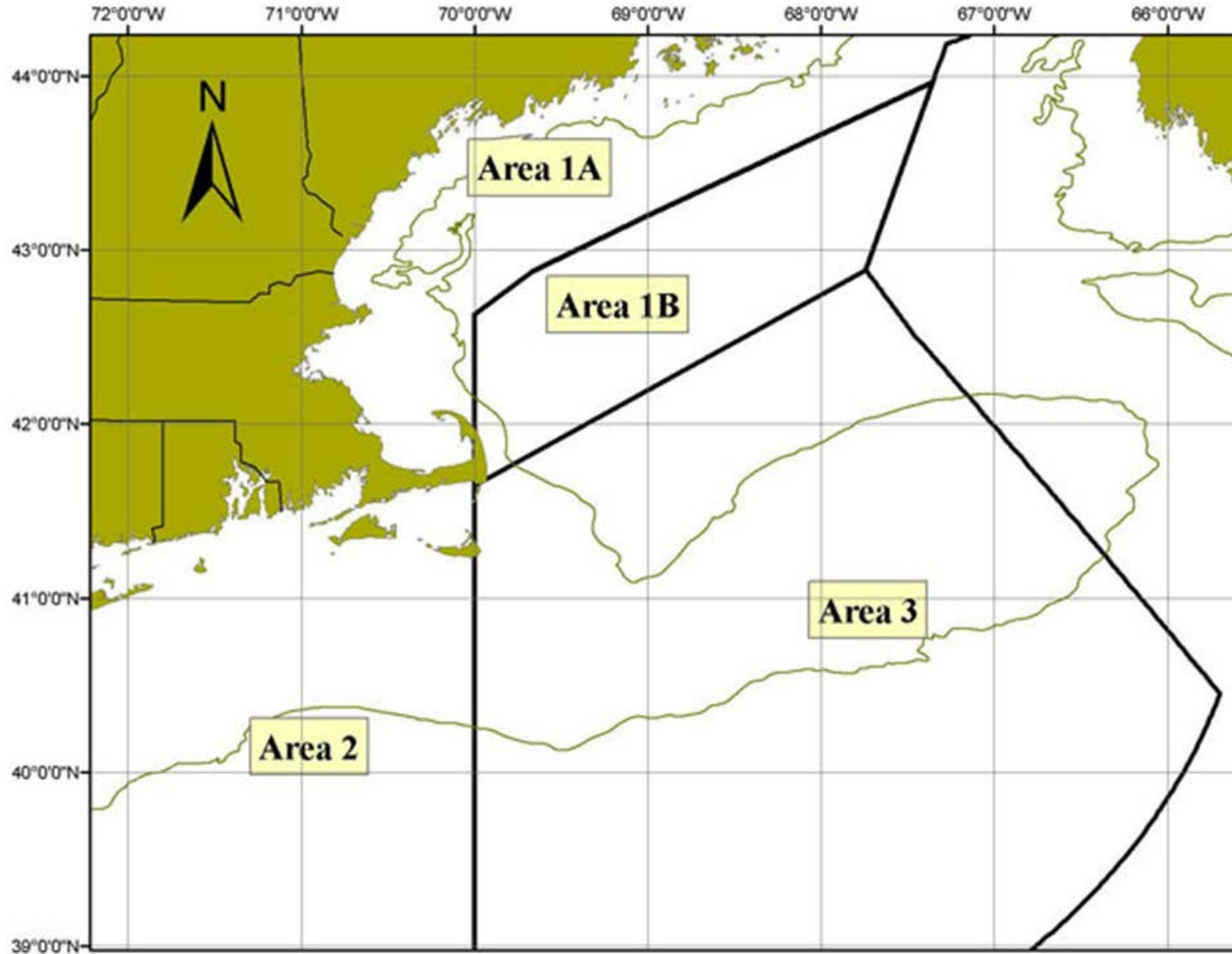
To recommend to the Council that the PDT analyze options for catch caps based on the herring management areas

**Area 1** = Gulf of Maine, divided into inshore (Area 1A) and offshore (Area 1B);

**Area 2** = southern New England/Mid-Atlantic;

**Area 3** = offshore (Georges Bank)

# Atlantic Herring Management Areas



# Amendment 5 Stat Area Option?

Considered in Am5 for developing catch caps and as trigger areas for river herring bycatch measures; developed by PDT based on ability to disaggregate data into smaller areas

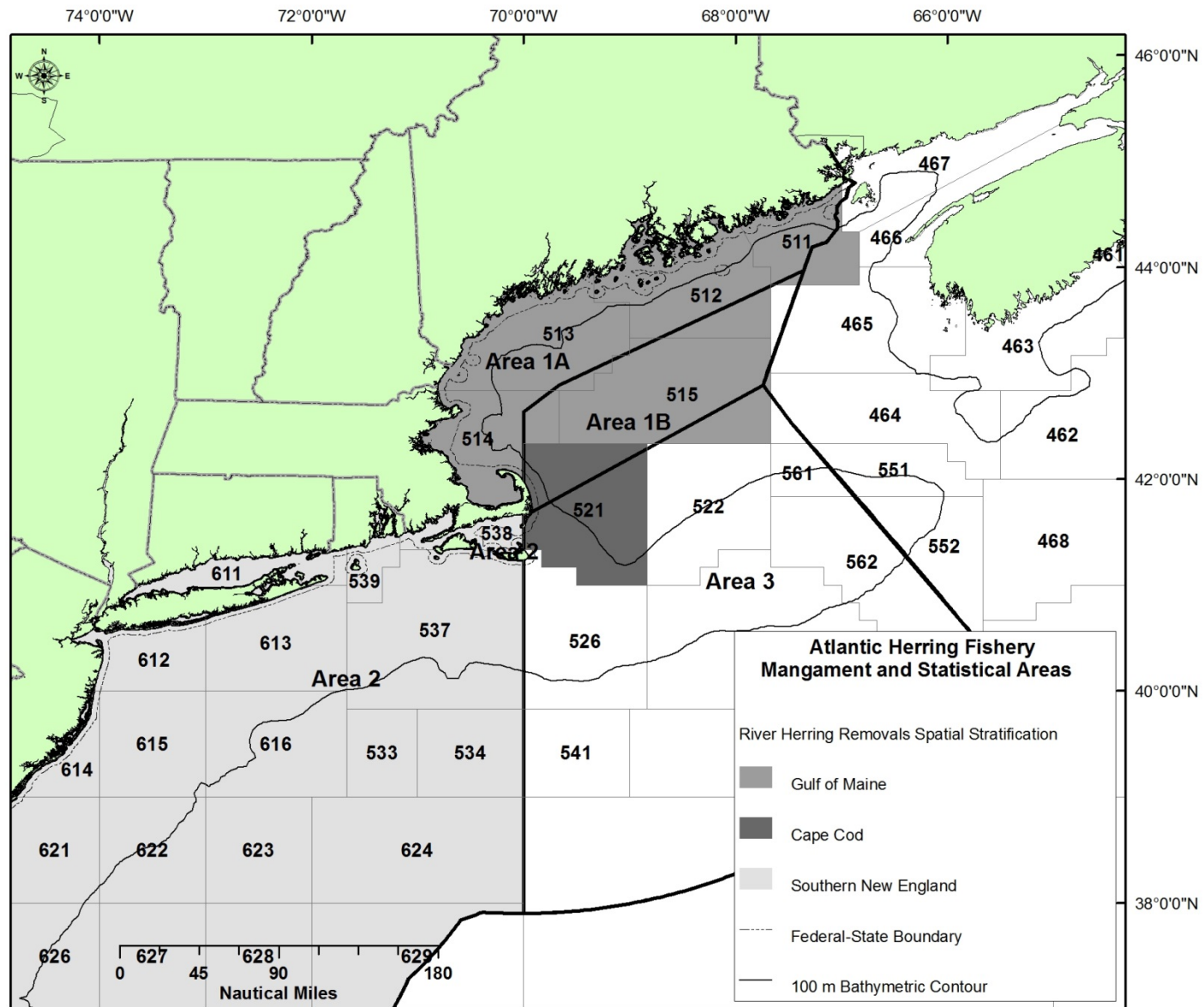
**GOM:** Stat Areas in the Gulf of Maine;

**Cape Cod:** Stat Area 521;

**SNE:** Stat Areas in southern New England and Mid-Atlantic

(No cap in offshore Stat Areas on GB)

# Possible Area-Based Option?



# Other Elements of Fw3 Alts

- Catch Cap Amounts for 2014 and 2015
  - TBD based on option(s) for areas
  - Developed from 2008-2012 observer data
- Estimation/Monitoring Methods
  - Developed by NMFS based on butterfish and haddock catch cap methods
  - Methods to be reviewed summer 2013
- Trip Notification Requirements – same as Am5 and Am14; no need to change if a landings threshold is identified

# Other Elements of Fw3 Alts

- Reporting Requirements
  - Same as Am5 and Am14; may need to require RH/S reporting by stat area (similar to haddock)
- Sampling (At-Sea and Portside)
  - Same as Am5 and Am14
  - PDT to investigate portside sampling and provide more linkage to Am5 bycatch avoidance



# Other Elements of Fw3 Alts

Measures that Become Effective When Catch Cap is Reached

- Option – close directed fishery, all vessels limited to 2,000 pounds of herring
- Option – all vessels limited to 6,600 pounds of herring until sub-ACL or ACL trigger closes directed fishery

***Herring Committee Consensus – Provisions for overages and underages should be added to the list of items to consider in a framework adjustment in the future.***

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