

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Herring Committee

I. STATUS

A. Meetings:

- The Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) met jointly with the ASMFC Herring Technical Committee on August 22, 2012 to review the benchmark stock assessment for Atlantic herring (SAW/SARC 54) and discuss the development of the Atlantic herring fishery specifications for 2013-2015.
- The Herring Committee met jointly with the ASMFC Herring Section on September 20, 2012 to review/discuss the SAW 54 results and recommendations from the SSC regarding scientific uncertainty and the specification of acceptable biological catch (ABC) for 2013-2015; and to discuss/identify management uncertainty and develop related recommendations regarding the 2013-2015 herring fishery specifications.

B. Other:

- The Final EIS for Amendment 5 to the Herring FMP was submitted to NMFS in early September 2012. Council staff will continue working with staff from the Regional Office and Science Center on submission/implementation issues.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Consider action(s) to address recent Amendment 4 lawsuit/court order
- B. Initial action for 2013-2015 herring fishery specifications

III. INFORMATION

1. August 31, 2012 Correspondence from NMFS Regional Administrator re. Amendment 4 lawsuit/court decision
2. Draft Discussion Document: Atlantic Herring Fishery Specifications 2013-2015 (SSC Working Draft September 4, 2012)
3. August 14, 2012 Correspondence from NMFS Regional Administrator to NEFMC and MAFMC re. development of industry-funded monitoring program and consideration of river herring catch caps
4. SAW 54 Assessment Summary Report (July 2012)
5. August 14, 2012 Herring PDT/TC Report
6. Draft Herring Committee/Section Meeting Summary (to be distributed at Council meeting)
7. Presentation Slides: 2013-2015 Herring Fishery Specifications (to be distributed at Council meeting)