

Framework Adjustment 3 to the Atlantic Herring FMP

Lori Steele, NEFMC Staff, Herring PDT Chair

September 2013 NEFMC Meeting

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 2014 Fishing Year ASAP

Framework 3 Goals/Objectives

Fw 3 Goal: 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 practicable
- 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

Background – MAFMC (Mackerel)

- Am14 established RH/S catch cap provisions
- 2014 specifications recommends RH/S catch cap for mackerel fishery (236 mt)
- 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

Elements of Framework 3

1. Fw 3 establishes the process for setting and modifying RH/S catch caps in the herring fishery
 - Procedural elements implemented in Fw 3 (species, trips, areas, reporting requirements, triggers, etc.) would remain effective until modified by the Council
2. Fw 3 includes options for specifying 2014-2015 RH/S catch caps
 - Future caps would be set during herring fishery specifications process (or other herring Council action, if appropriate)

Fw 3 – RH/S Catch Cap Provisions

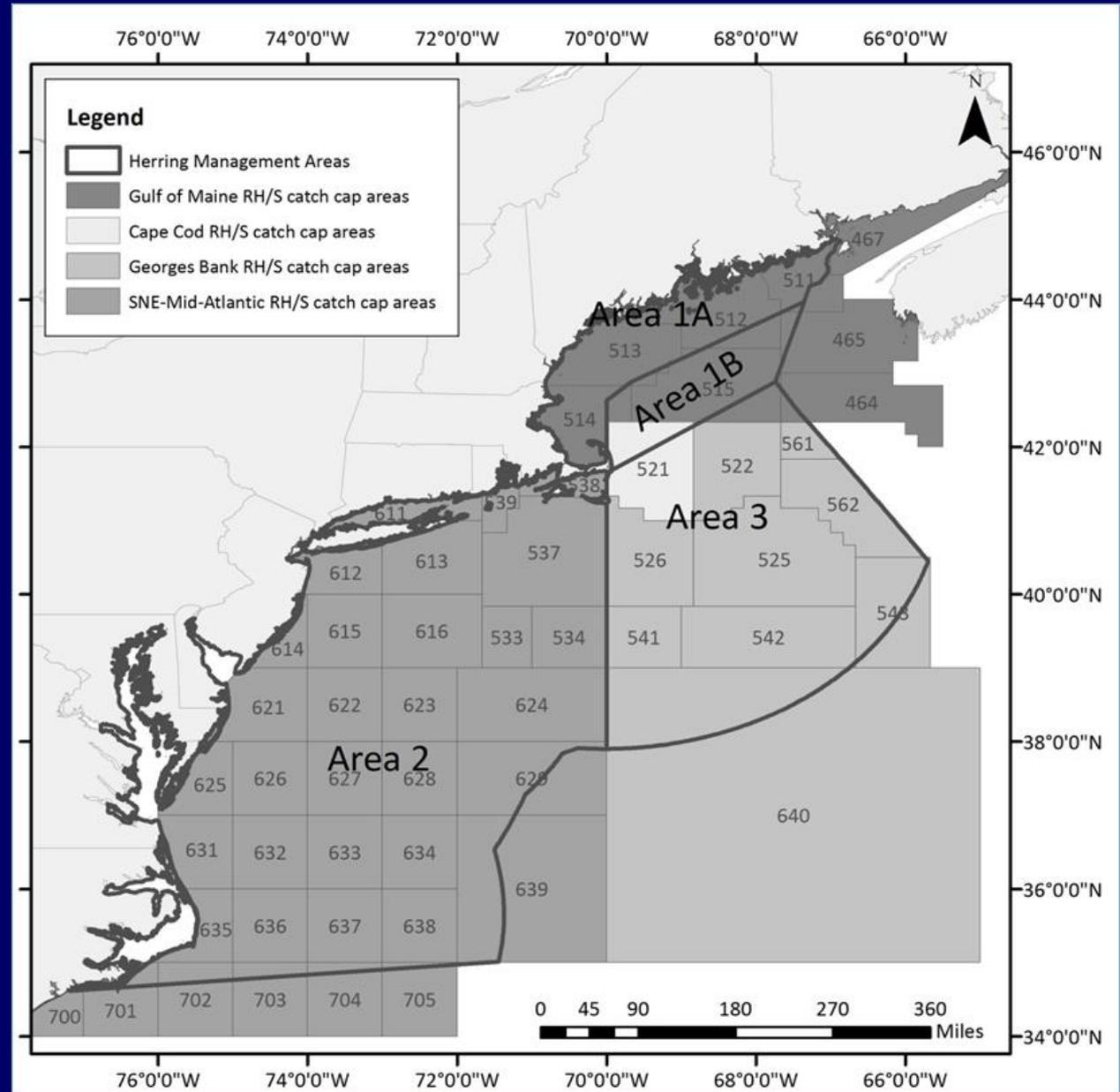
Species, Vessels/Trips, Areas

Based on guidance from June Council meeting

- Caps apply collectively to four species of river herring and shad (RH/S)
- Caps apply on trips landing more than 6,600 pounds (3 mt) Atlantic herring
- Caps distributed by area – statistical area clusters based on the Amendment 5 river herring “hotspot” analysis
- When a cap is reached in an area, directed herring fishery closes in cap area (2,000 lb limit)

Proposed RH/S Catch Cap Areas

RH/S catch from all trips landing more than 6,600 pounds of Atlantic herring would count against catch caps in the shaded areas.



Fw 3 – RH/S Catch Cap Provisions

Trip Notification, Catch Reporting, and Catch Cap Monitoring

- Trip notification requirements remain unchanged as per Amendment 5 (all limited access vessels)
- Changes to VMS Reporting are proposed to streamline reporting/monitoring of all catch caps (see p. 16)
- Method for monitoring cap(s) TBD by NMFS NERO upon implementation of Framework 3

Fw 3 – RH/S Catch Cap Provisions

Options for Triggering Closure of a RH/S Catch Cap Area (p. 17)

1. Option 1: 100% trigger - haddock catch cap
2. Option 2: 95% projection – MAFMC RH/S catch cap for mackerel fishery

When the trigger is reached in a catch cap area, the directed herring fishery would close.

Herring Committee recommends Option 2.

Framework 3 – Future Modification

Framework 3 objectives – to provide flexibility and enhance coordination with MAFMC

- Provisions would allow future joint cap in SNE/MA to be implemented through herring specifications process.

Management measures considered/established in this framework adjustment can be modified in the future through herring specifications process or FWA; new provisions would require new FWA.

2014-2015 RH/S Catch Cap Options

Appendix II

- Developed by Herring PDT based on best available fishery information from 2008-2012 and NERO catch estimation methods similar to butterfish and haddock cap monitoring
- Includes all sampled trips landing >6,600 lbs Atlantic herring – NEFOP sea sampling and MADMF/MEDMR portside sampling
- $\text{RH/S catch ratio} = (\text{kept} + \text{discarded}) / \text{total kept}$
- Expanded to total landings and scaled to 2013-2015 Herring ACL

Sampling Levels/Coverage 2008-2012

Appendix II

	Catch Cap Trips Taken 2008-2012				
	GOM	CC	GB	SNE/MA	Total
Bottom Trawl	80	0	11	513	604
Midwater Trawl	402	176	581	687	1,846
Purse Seine	1,213	1	4	0	1,218
Total	1,695	177	596	1,200	3,668
	Catch Cap Trips Sampled 2008-2012				
	GOM	CC	GB	SNE/MA	Total
Bottom Trawl	8	N/A	0	118	126
Midwater Trawl	160	102	337	174	773
Purse Seine	176	0	0	N/A	176
Total	344 (20%)	102 (58%)	337 (57%)	292 (24%)	1,075 (29%)

Gulf of Maine RH/S Cap Area

2014-2015 Options: (1) No Cap; (2) One Cap All Gears; (3) Cap for BT, PS, and/or MWT

Gear	Metric/Option	2014/2015 RH/S Catch Cap Options (MT) Gulf of Maine Area
ALL GEARS COMBINED	LOW	6.8
ALL GEARS COMBINED	HIGH	182.7
ALL GEARS COMBINED	MEDIAN	87.7
ALL GEARS COMBINED	WEIGHTED MEAN	77.4
BOTTOM TRAWL	LOW	0.0
BOTTOM TRAWL	HIGH	0.1
BOTTOM TRAWL	MEDIAN	0.0
BOTTOM TRAWL	WEIGHTED MEAN	0.0
MIDWATER TRAWL	LOW	5.6
MIDWATER TRAWL	HIGH	180.2
MIDWATER TRAWL	MEDIAN	85.5
MIDWATER TRAWL	WEIGHTED MEAN	96.3
PURSE SEINE	LOW	0.5
PURSE SEINE	HIGH	2.5
PURSE SEINE	MEDIAN	1.9
PURSE SEINE	WEIGHTED MEAN	1.7

*Herring Committee Rec: 75th Percentile
Midwater Trawl RH/S Cap 91 mt*

Cape Cod RH/S Cap Area

2014-2015 Options: (1) No Cap; (2) One Cap All Gears; (3) Cap for MWT Only

Gear	Metric/Option	2014/2015 RH/S Catch Cap Options (MT) Cape Cod Area
ALL GEARS COMBINED	LOW	0.0
ALL GEARS COMBINED	HIGH	59.9
ALL GEARS COMBINED	MEDIAN	13.3
ALL GEARS COMBINED	WEIGHTED MEAN	32.5
MIDWATER TRAWL	LOW	0.0
MIDWATER TRAWL	HIGH	59.9
MIDWATER TRAWL	MEDIAN	13.3
MIDWATER TRAWL	WEIGHTED MEAN	32.5

*Herring Committee Rec: 75th Percentile
Midwater Trawl RH/S Cap 39.6 mt*

SNE/MA RH/S Cap Area

2014-2015 Options: (1) No Cap; (2) One Cap All Gears; (3) Cap for BT and/or MWT

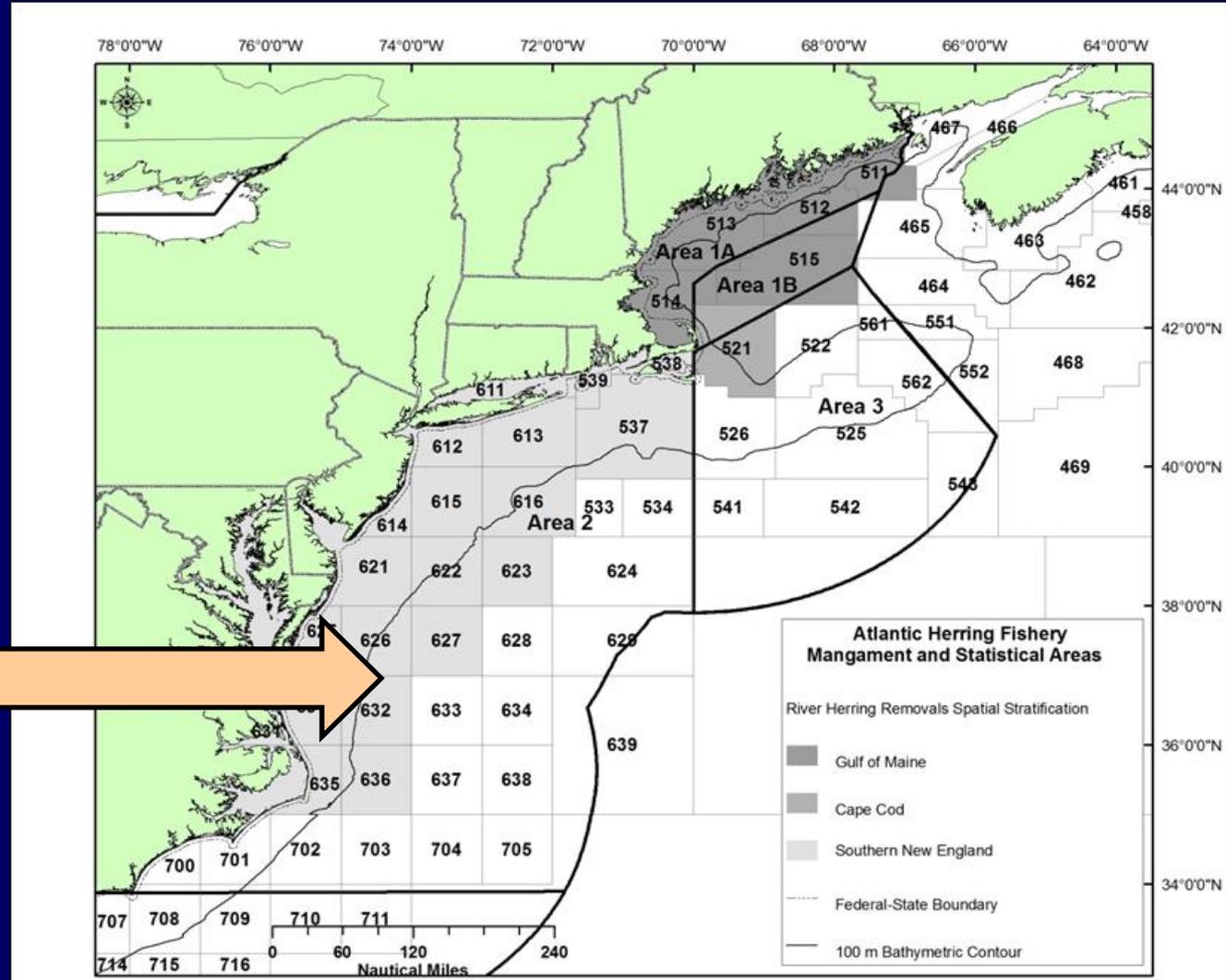
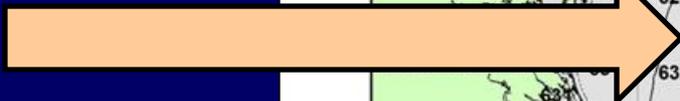
Gear	Metric/Option	2014/2015 RH/S Catch Cap Options (MT) SNE/MA Area
ALL GEARS COMBINED	LOW	160.1
ALL GEARS COMBINED	HIGH	811.3
ALL GEARS COMBINED	MEDIAN	228.1
ALL GEARS COMBINED	WEIGHTED MEAN	295.2
BOTTOM TRAWL	LOW	0.0
BOTTOM TRAWL	HIGH	104.4
BOTTOM TRAWL	MEDIAN	88.9
BOTTOM TRAWL	WEIGHTED MEAN	61.5
MIDWATER TRAWL	LOW	71.2
MIDWATER TRAWL	HIGH	811.3
MIDWATER TRAWL	MEDIAN	123.7
MIDWATER TRAWL	WEIGHTED MEAN	235.3

*Herring Committee Rec: 75th Percentile
MWT Cap 277.2 mt and BT Cap 102.1 mt*

SNE/MA RH/S Cap Closure Area

Herring Committee Recommendation: Closure Area
(when 95% of the RH/S catch cap is reached)

Offshore
statistical areas
in SNE/MA
would not be
closed to
directed herring
fishery.



Georges Bank RH/S Cap Area

2014-2015 Options: (1) No Cap; (2) One Cap All Gears; (3) Cap for MWT Only

Gear	Metric/Option	2014/2015 RH/S Catch Cap Options (MT) Georges Bank Area
ALL GEARS COMBINED	LOW	0.0
ALL GEARS COMBINED	HIGH	2.2
ALL GEARS COMBINED	MEDIAN	0.6
ALL GEARS COMBINED	WEIGHTED MEAN	1.1
MIDWATER TRAWL	LOW	0.0
MIDWATER TRAWL	HIGH	2.2
MIDWATER TRAWL	MEDIAN	0.6
MIDWATER TRAWL	WEIGHTED MEAN	1.1

Herring Committee does not recommend establishing a RH/S catch cap in the GB Cap Area in 2014 and 2015 (consistent with Herring PDT Recommendation).

2014/2015 Options – NERO Comments

- Recommend setting one cap for all gears in Gulf of Maine, Cape Cod, and southern New England/Mid-Atlantic during 2014-2015 – concerns about staff resources/monitoring burden
- Recommend no cap in Georges Bank area for 2014-2015 – low RH/S catch rates, high monitoring burden with low impact on RH/S
- Burdens of monitoring multiple caps on a weekly basis are currently not supportable, especially with pulse fishing

Framework 3 Impacts

- Section 4.1 (p. 112) and Draft Appendix III – simulation of herring sub-ACL removals under 2014-2015 options – similar to Am 5 analysis
 - GOM – low option may trigger closure
 - CC – low/median options may trigger closure
 - SNE/MA – low/median options may trigger closure

Gulf of Maine: RH/S catch in the GOM could be reduced by the low option, but this option is also likely to reduce Atlantic herring catch. The other options are unlikely to affect herring catch in Area 1A during 2014/2015.

Framework 3 Impacts

Cape Cod: There is a large amount of variability for RH/S catch rates in the Cape Cod area, which means that there is large variability in the catch of RH/S under no RH/S catch cap. Under the “median” and “low” options, there is less variability, because the directed herring fishery is likely to reach the RH/S catch cap. This could lead to lower catch in Areas 1A, 1B, and 3 for 2014 and 2015.

Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic: There is a moderate amount of variability for RH/S catch rates in the SNE/MA region. The RH/S catch cap may be reached early in the season (January – April) under the median and low options, which could preclude a directed herring fishery during the late winter season. This could lead to lower catch in Area 2.

Herring Committee Recs (9/17/13)

- Adopt Alternative 2 (RH/S catch cap process and related provisions)
- Trigger Option 2 (95% projection)
- Modify VMS Reporting Requirements (p. 15-16)
- Modify SNE/MA Closure Area (previous slide)

Cap Area	2014-2015 RH/S Catch Caps	
GOM	MWT	91 mt
CC	MWT	39.6 mt
SNE/MA	MWT	277.2 mt
	BT	102.1 mt
GB	N/A	