

Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP: Update on Development

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NEFMC Meeting, September 28-30, 2010

Amendment 5 - Issues

1. Catch Monitoring Program
2. Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch
3. Criteria for Midwater Trawl Access to Groundfish Closed Areas
4. Measures to Address Interactions with Mackerel Fishery
5. Measures to Protect Spawning Fish

Restructured Catch Monitoring Alts

- Measures to Improve Quota Monitoring/Reporting
- Measures to Confirm the Accuracy of Self-Reporting
- Measures to Address Maximized Retention
- Measures to Maximize Sampling and Address Net Slippage
- Measures to Address Observer Coverage and Portside Sampling
- Measures to Require Electronic Monitoring
- Measures to Require Catch Monitoring and Control Plans (CMCPs)
- Funding Options

Measures to Improve Quota Monitoring/Reporting

Section 2.4, p. 7

- Modifications to IVR Reporting
- Modifications to VTR Reporting
- Consideration of VMS Reporting
- Measures to Address Carrier Vessels/LOAs
- Measures to Address Transfers at Sea
- Trip Declarations/Notifications
- Outreach Programs

IVR Reporting vs. VMS Reporting can form the basis of two separate catch monitoring alternatives

Measures to Confirm the Accuracy of Self-Reporting

Section 2.5, p. 24

- Require Sealing/Certification of Fish Holds or Storage Containers
- Require Weighing or Certification of Dealer Trucks/Transport Vehicles
- Require Flow Scales on Herring Vessels

Some concepts are well-developed, but others are not; details of some measures need more discussion/development with NMFS (certification procedures for sealers and scales, calibration/maintenance procedures, measures for certifying trucks/transport vehicles)

Measures to Address Maximized Retention

- Section 2.6, p. 29
- Big challenge has been how to address non-permitted landings
- MR provisions could form the basis of up to three separate alternatives – MR across the fishery, MR through experimental fishery, and no MR program
- Many elements of the alternative for MR across the fishery are not fully developed – unclear how non-permitted landings can be addressed; feasibility of VBEM also unclear at this time

Measures to Maximize Sampling and Address Net Slippage

- Section 2.7, p. 37
- Measures to maximize sampling of catch by at-sea observers are ready for Draft EIS—can apply across all catch monitoring alternatives
- Measures to address net slippage include requirements for a Released Catch Affidavit for slippage events

Observer Coverage/Portside Sampling

- Section 2.8, p. 40
 - Requirements for Service Providers
 - Portside Sampling Protocols
 - Coverage Levels (Observer and Portside)
 - Options to Improve At-Sea Monitoring
- Committee added option for at-sea coverage based on seasonal stratification (river herring) to improve accuracy of bycatch estimates
- Work re. options for coverage levels TBD in Amendment 5 Draft EIS
- Alternative for portside sampling coordination with ASMFC needs more discussion

Alternatives for a Portside Sampling Program

Herring Committee Motion

September 1-2, 2010

That we request that States continue and expand their portside sampling programs provided funds are found for the program, in support of the Council's priority for portside sampling coverage and that the Herring PDT and Technical Committee jointly meet to review the States shoreside monitoring programs in order to address the goals and objectives of Amendment 5

Measures to Require Electronic Monitoring

- Section 2.9, p. 56
- Two options are research-based – study fleet to explore net sensors, pilot program to explore video monitoring; mechanism to implement requirements in the future through a framework adjustment
- One option to require height/bottom contact sensors in Am 5 – not completely developed; process for collecting and analyzing data needs to be described; technical and logistical issues associated with sensor requirements need to be explored further

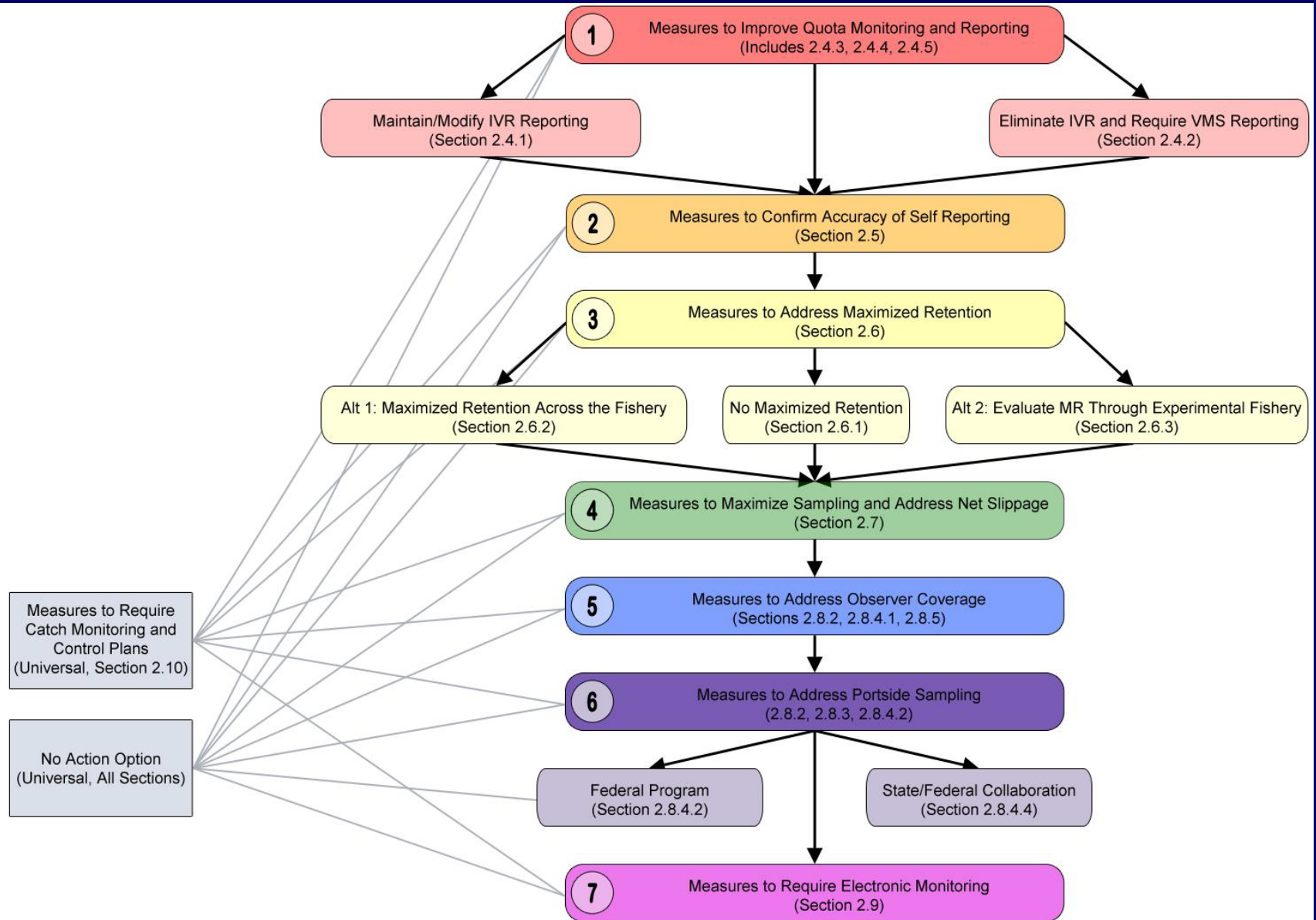
Measures to Require CMCPs

- Section 2.10, p. 60
- CMCPs could include many elements (catch monitoring provisions, river herring bycatch avoidance, etc.)
- Description of standards for CMPs in west coast crab, rockfish, and pollock fisheries (processors) included in document
- Remains unclear whether CMCP options are feasible from an administrative/enforcement standpoint; also unclear how specific the standards/guidelines would need to be in Amendment 5

Funding Options

- Section 2.11, p. 67
 - Catch Monitoring Set-Asides
 - Federal Funds
 - Federally-permitted Dealers
- Information added to document about how much \$ a set-aside could potentially generate
- NMFS NERO has expressed concerns about set-aside process
- Option for funding from dealers not clear, undeveloped

Catch Monitoring Alternatives



Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch

May 17, 2010 Herring Committee Meeting:

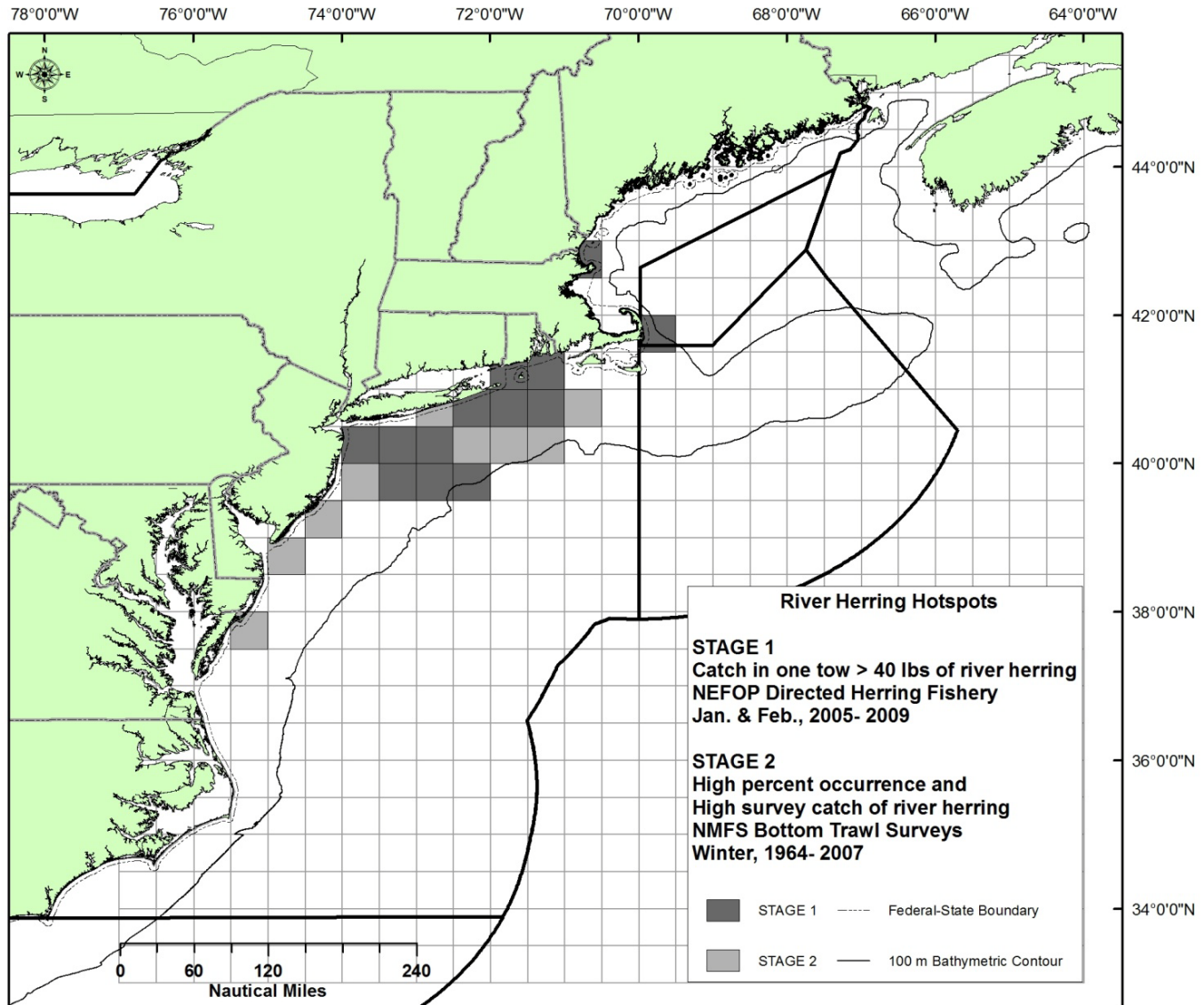
- To task the PDT with further review of river herring and shad observer data to identify gear-specific times and areas where Closed Area I bycatch regulations may be applied. Emphasis should be on identification of bycatch seasonal hotspots.
- That the PDT further develop the move along concept to reduce river herring and shad bycatch similar to the approach to be undertaken by the Sustainable Fisheries Coalition bycatch avoidance proposal as one alternative to consider in Amendment 5

Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch

- Section 3.0, p. 70
 - Three alternatives for identifying river herring hotspots (Section 3.2, p. 77)
 - Eight alternatives for management measures that would apply to the river herring hotspots
- Hotspots are seasonal (bimonthly) based on 2005-2009 observer data (Stage 1) and based on seasonal NMFS bottom trawl survey data (Stage 2)
- Stage 2 hotspots become effective when a specified trigger is reached in the Stage 1 hotspots

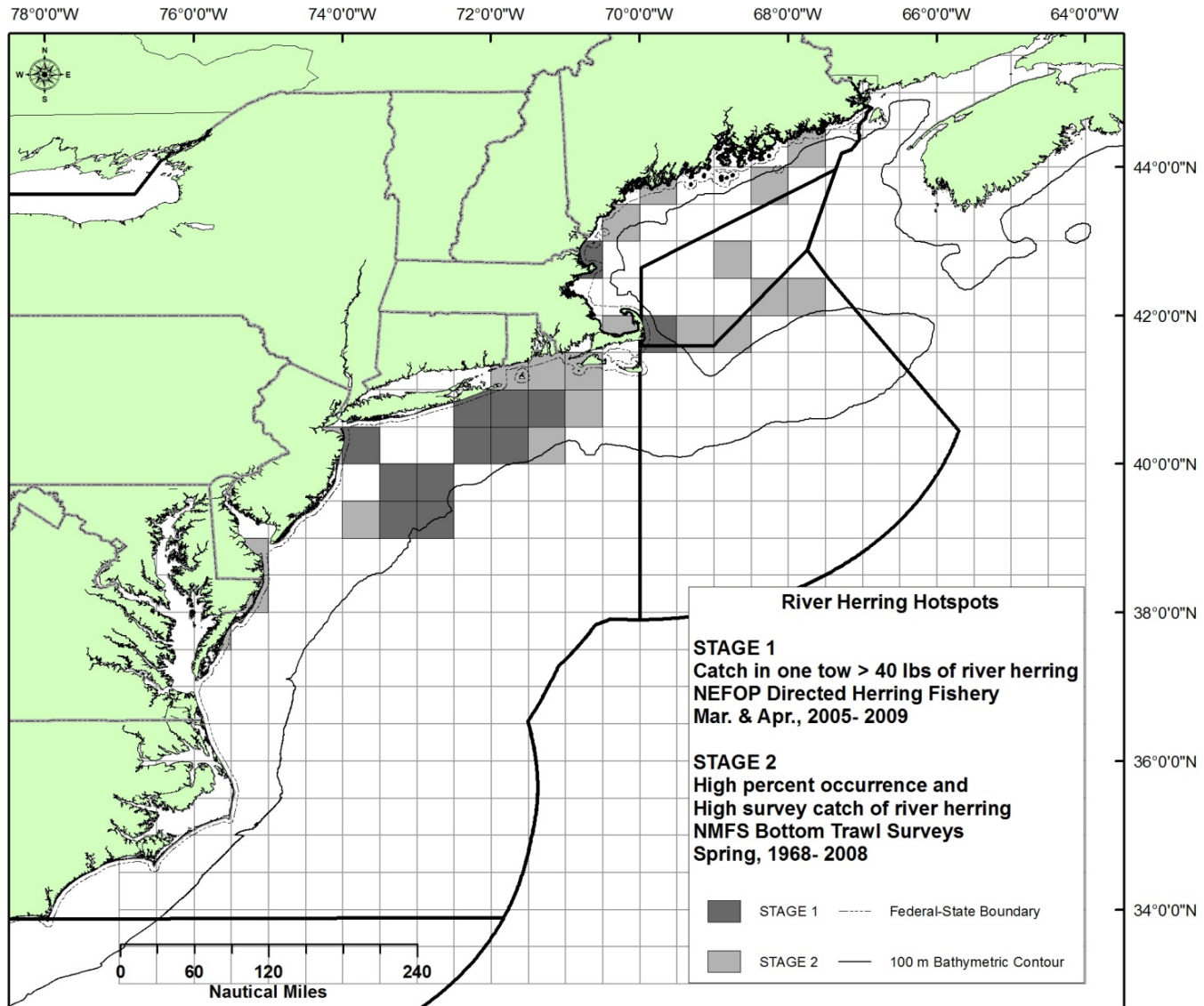
Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch

Hotspot Alternative 1 (40 pounds) Jan/Feb



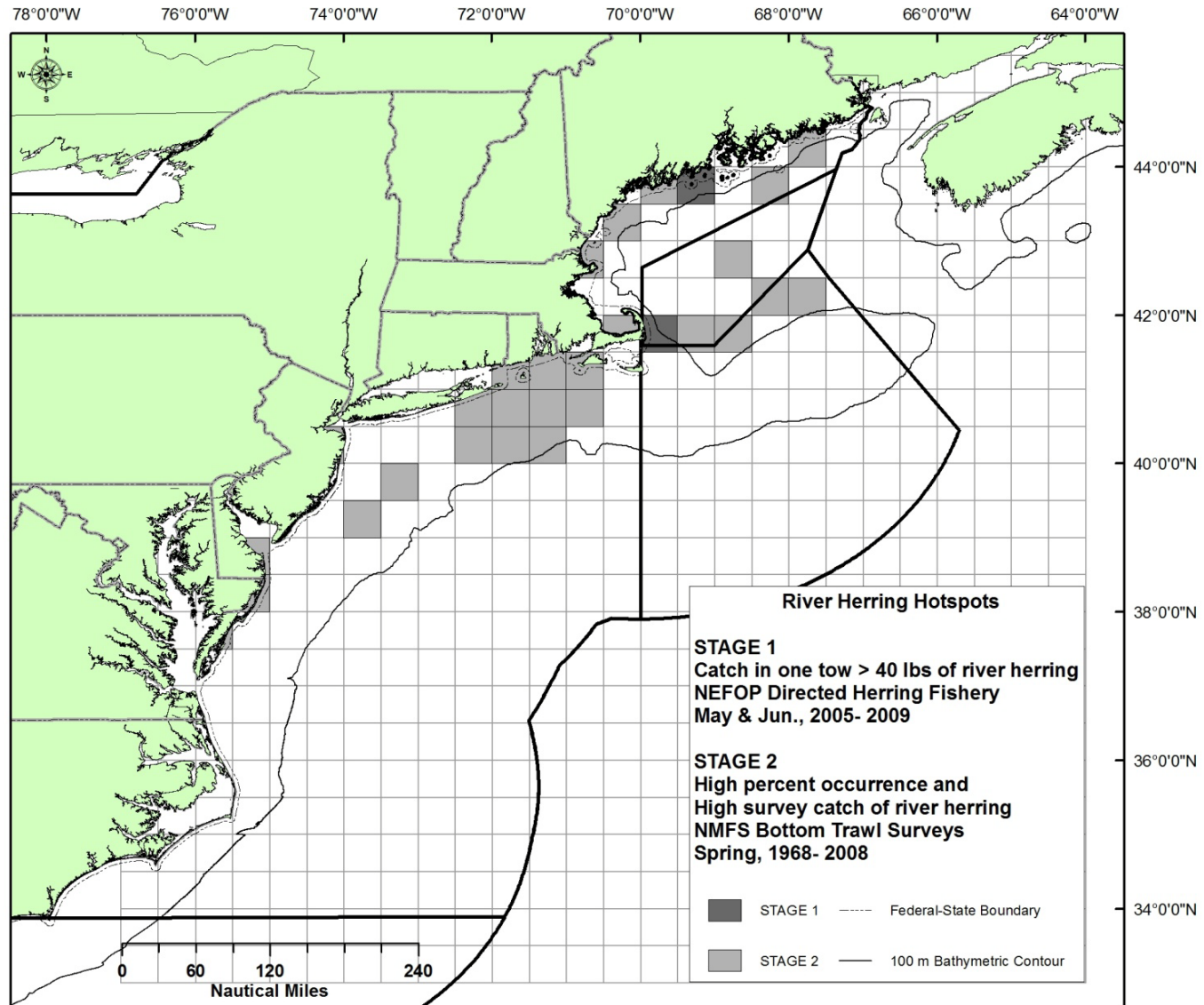
Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch

Hotspot Alternative 1 (40 pounds) March/April



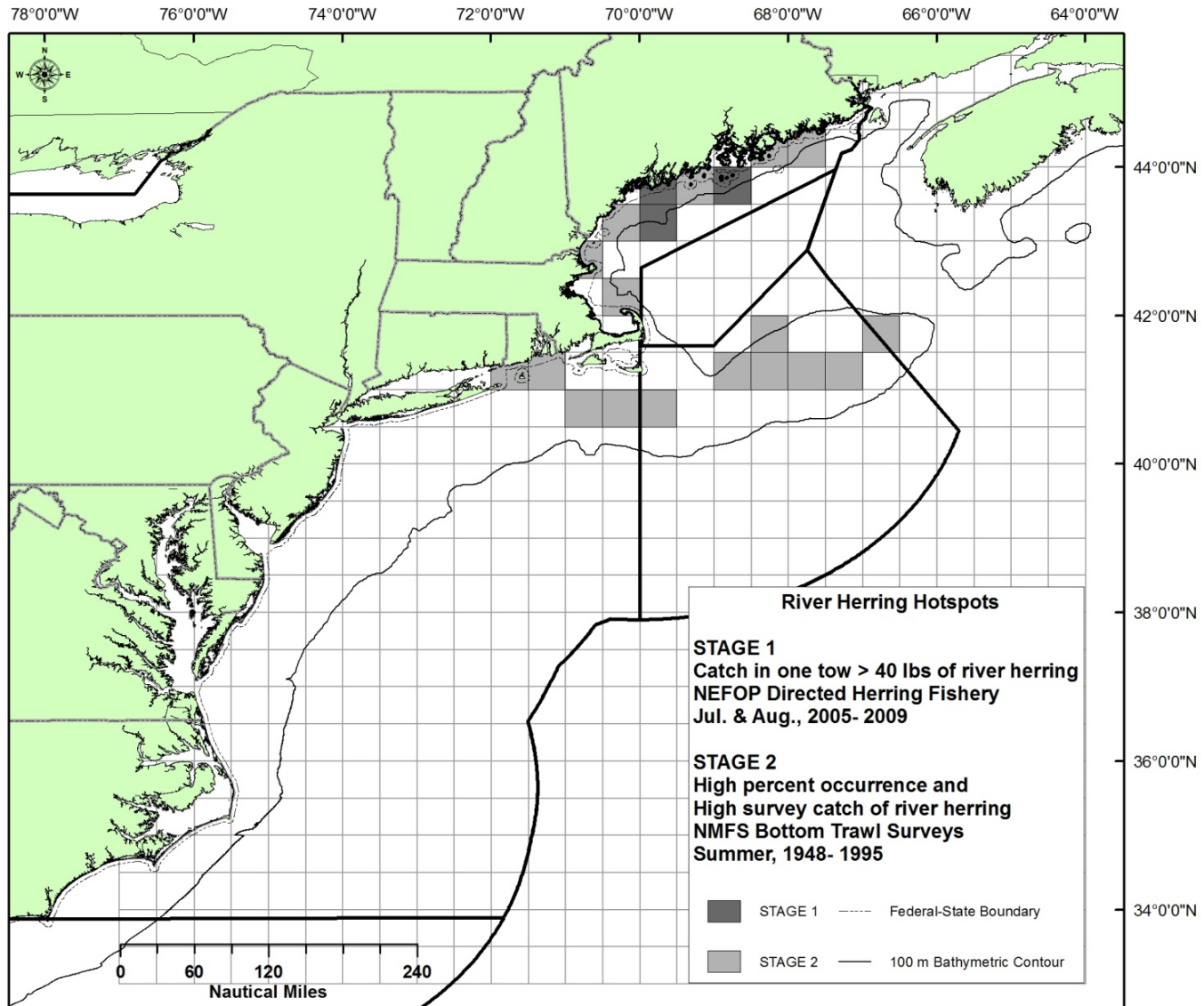
Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch

Hotspot Alternative 1 (40 pounds) May/June



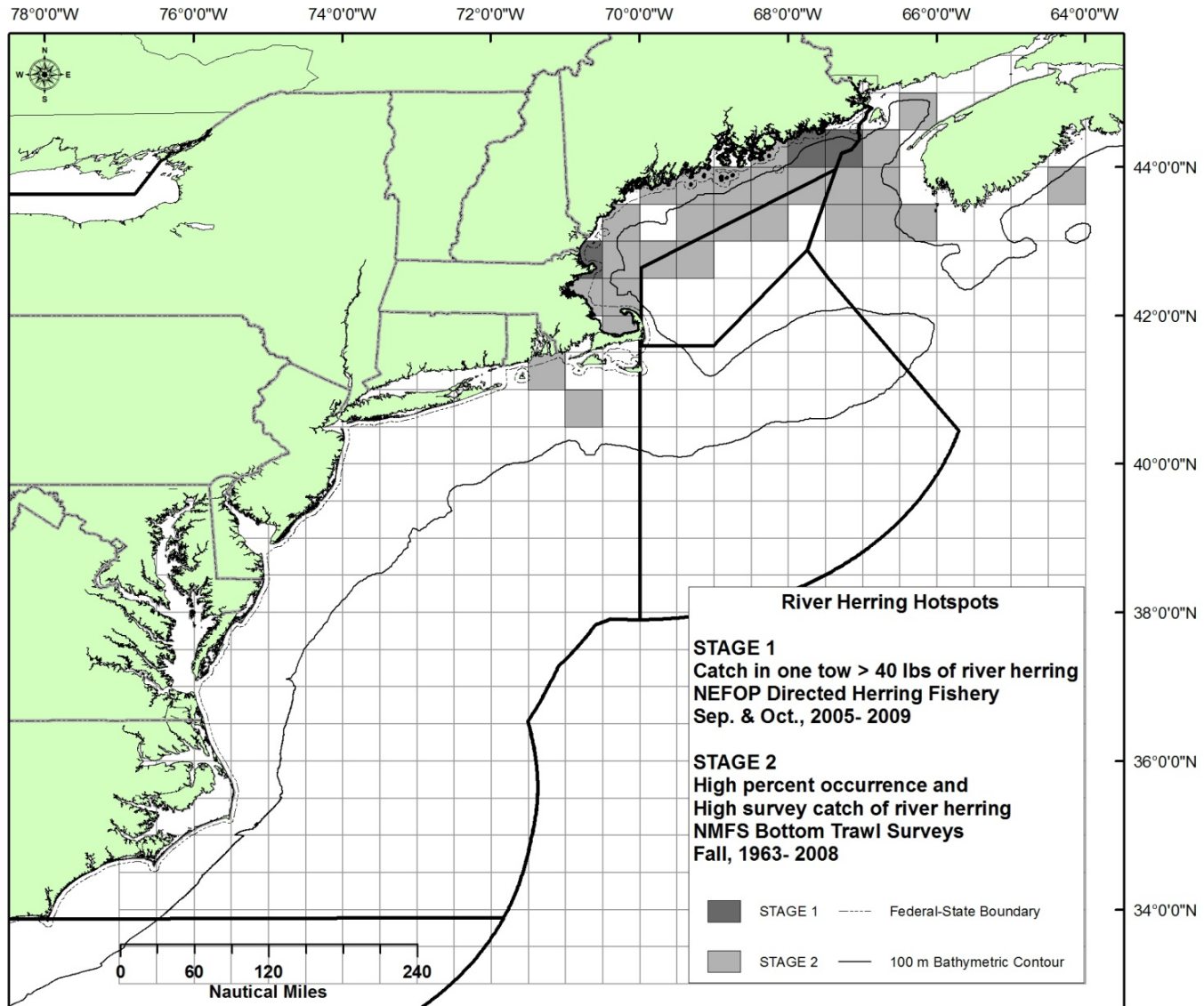
Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch

Hotspot Alternative 1 (40 pounds) July/August



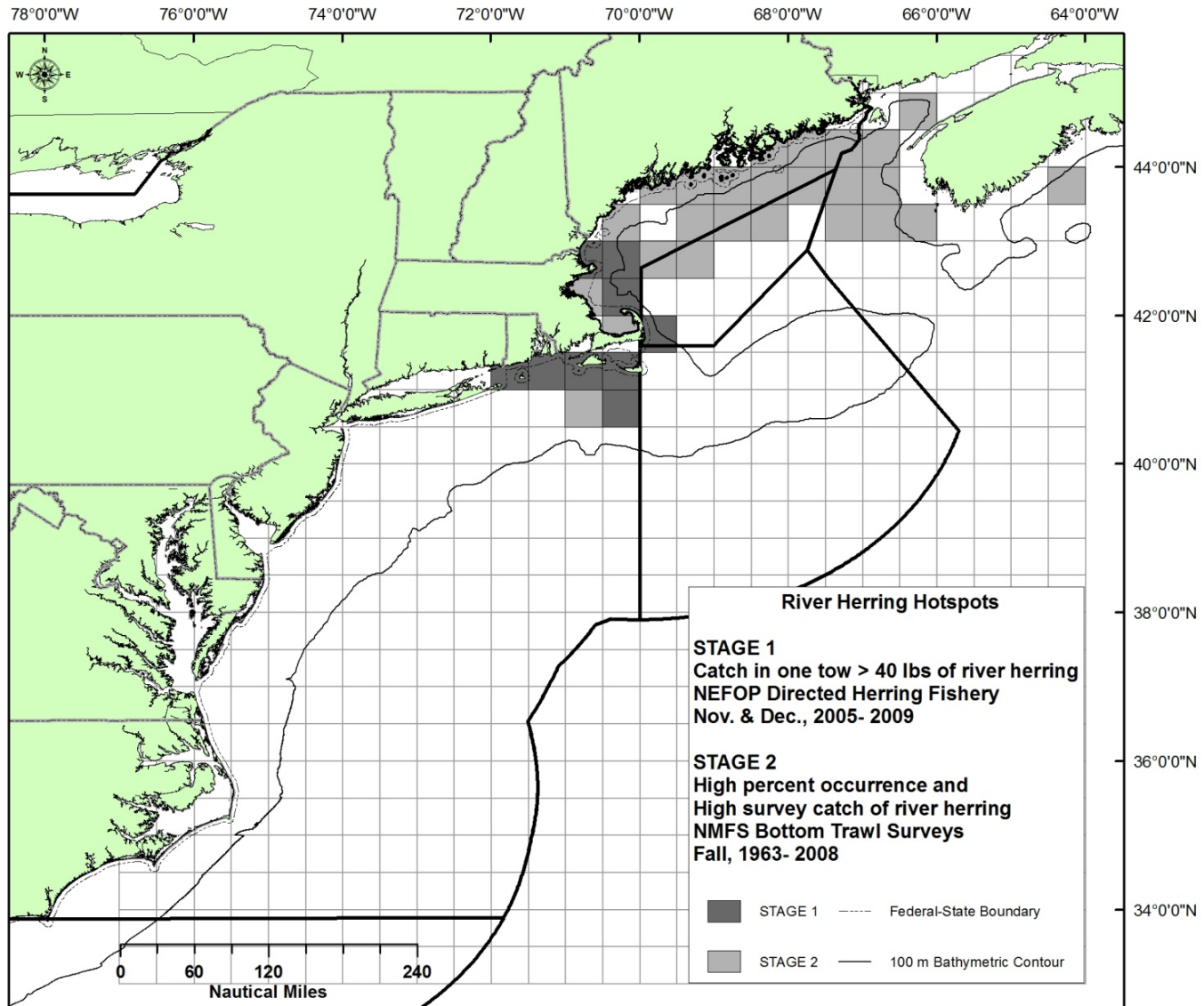
Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch

Hotspot Alternative 1 (40 pounds) Sept/Oct



Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch

Hotspot Alternative 1 (40 pounds) Nov/Dec



Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch

Management Alternatives to Apply to Hotspots

- No Action (catch monitoring program)
- Closed Area I Provisions
- Move-Along Rules (with options for thresholds and move-along times)
- SFC-based Program – implement through a framework adjustment
- River Herring Bycatch Avoidance through CMCP
- River Herring Closed Areas (Permit Categories A, B, C, D)

Measures to Establish Criteria for Midwater Trawl Access to Groundfish Closed Areas

- Section 4.0, p. 104
- Seven alternatives to be developed
 - Status Quo
 - Pre-Closed Area I Provisions
 - 100% Observer Coverage
 - Closed Area I Provisions
 - Thresholds and Penalties
 - Closed Except for EFPs
- Consideration should be given to whether establishing criteria for access to groundfish closed areas requires a groundfish action

Measures to Establish Criteria for Midwater Trawl Access to Groundfish Closed Areas

Herring Committee Motion

September 1-2, 2010

That the Council prioritize a joint Groundfish/Herring Action (as part of Herring Amendment 5) to establish criteria for midwater trawl vessel access to the groundfish closed areas

Measures to Address Interactions with the Atlantic Mackerel Fishery

- Section 5.0, p. 107
- Four alternatives under consideration to increase the open access possession limit (currently 3 mt) in Areas 2/3 only
 - No Action
 - 25 mt
 - 20,000 pounds for vessels with a limited access mackerel permit
 - 10,000 pounds
- Any of these alternatives will create two open access permits – one for Areas 2/3 only

Measures to Protect Spawning Fish

- Added to the Amendment 5 document as part of 2010 priorities
- Committee generally discussed this issue at the September 1-2 meeting (catch monitoring and river herring measures were top priority)
- No goals/objectives identified yet; no specific management alternatives have been developed
- Council should consider if/how to move forward with developing alternatives to address this issue in Amendment 5

A5 Timeline – What's Next?

- Committee – pare down measures under consideration, address outstanding issues, identify RH alternatives July – September
- Herring AP – provide additional input August 25
- Council – approve “range of alternatives” for development into Draft EIS Sept. 28-30
 - See Amendment 5 flow chart/tables
 - Address outstanding issues
- Draft EIS prepared for April 2011 Council meeting
- Amendment 5 Public Hearings Summer 2011
- Final selection of measures September 2011
- Completion/submission late 2011