



New England Fishery Management Council

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John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2010
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)
FROM: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Terms of reference for Atlantic salmon for the June 21, 2010 SSC meeting**

Terms of Reference

1. Review the information provided by the NEFSC and develop recommendations for an ABC for Atlantic salmon and for other management reference points, MSY, MSST and OFL if possible.

Background

FMP and past amendments: At the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the NEFMC developed and submitted in 1987, the Atlantic Salmon FMP to provide management authority over its Atlantic salmon resource in the North Atlantic. Until then, the U.S. had not published management regulations for Atlantic salmon in the EEZ and this deficiency was believed to weaken the U.S. position on salmon management under the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).

The overall objective of the FMP was “To complement restoration and management programs of the various Alternative coastal states ... and to complement the management and conservation program of NASCO and U.S. participation in NASCO”. In terms of establishing management reference points, the FMP concluded that “At [then] current population levels there is no harvestable surplus production available. Therefore, MSY is zero.” As a result, the FMP recommended that there should be no commercial fishery for Atlantic salmon, directed or incidental, in the EEZ and that the possession of Atlantic salmon from Federal waters be prohibited. Since it was submitted, the FMP has been amended twice: once to define EFH for salmon and a second time as part of the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Omnibus Amendment

Current amendment: To meet the requirements of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSRA) of 2006, the FMP must specify acceptable biological catch (ABC) and if possible other management reference points such as stock size the produces maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}), maximum sustainable yield (MSY), minimum spawning stock threshold (MSST), and an

overfishing level (OFL). The Council anticipates completing and submitting Amendment 3 to bring the FMP in compliance with the MSRA requirements this fall (2010).

Information

1. U.S. Atlantic Salmon Stock Structure, Status, and Metrics Information Brief for New England Council to amend the Atlantic Salmon FMP in 2010 (J. Kocik, NEFSC)
2. Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Salmon, (NEFMC, 1987)