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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Shad & River Herring Technical Committee Call Summary

March 12, 2019

Technical Committee Members in Attendance: Ken Sprankle (Chair, USFWS), Mike Brown (ME), Mike Dionne (NH), Brad Chase (MA), Patrick McGee (RI), Jacque Benway Roberts (CT), Robert Adams (Vice Chair, NY), Brian Neilan (NJ), Johnny Moore (DE), Rob Bourdon (MD), Ellen Cosby (PRFC), Eric Hilton (VA), Holly White (NC), Jeremy McCargo (NC), Bill Post (SC), Jim Page (GA), Ruth Haas-Castro (NOAA)

ASMFC Staff: Caitlin Starks, Jeff Kipp

The Shad and River Herring Technical Committee (TC) met via conference call to review progress and discuss next steps on the October 2017 Board task regarding improvements to Amendments 2 and 3.

The TC reviewed work completed by the smaller task group that was formed following the last TC meeting in November. The task group completed the database of river herring and shad harvest, management and monitoring information for all river systems, and developed a draft report including case descriptions for each of the inconsistencies with the requirements of Amendments 2 and 3 that were identified in the database. The TC reviewed the case descriptions, and identified errors and missing information in the document. TC members agreed to submit written edits to the case descriptions following the call to ensure the document is complete and accurate.

The task group identified inconsistencies with Amendment 2 in four states, and inconsistencies with Amendment 3 in eight states. Generally, inconsistencies fell into several broad categories:

1. Tributaries of river systems that do have SFMPs and monitoring, but where the tributaries are not explicitly addressed in the SFMP;
2. Rivers legally open to harvest without a SFMP and/or monitoring, but where minimal/no harvest of shad or river herring is suspected;
3. Rivers with harvest addressed by a SFMP, but with insufficient monitoring to support sustainability

Due to time limitations, the TC focused their discussion on resolving conflicts in the first category above. The group agreed that for tributaries of larger systems with SFMPs and sufficient monitoring, the states should modify their SFMP to explicitly include tributaries of the main stem or water body. For some tributaries, there was some remaining uncertainty about the representativeness of current monitoring programs. The TC agreed to further discuss these cases during a future meeting. For the remaining inconsistencies, the TC agreed the task group should continue to discuss and develop potential solutions, then bring their proposed solutions back to the full TC for discussion.