



River Herring/Shad Catch Caps, Atlantic Mackerel AMs, and Impacts on the Herring Fishery



Atlantic Herring Section
May 2018

Overview



- **Atlantic Mackerel Fishery**

- River herring/shad catch caps
- Accountability measures (AMs) when 100% of quota is harvested
- Action taken at MAFMC and NEFMC

- **Atlantic Herring Fishery**

- River herring/shad catch caps in the SNE/MA mid-water trawl fishery
- Status of other Area Catch Caps

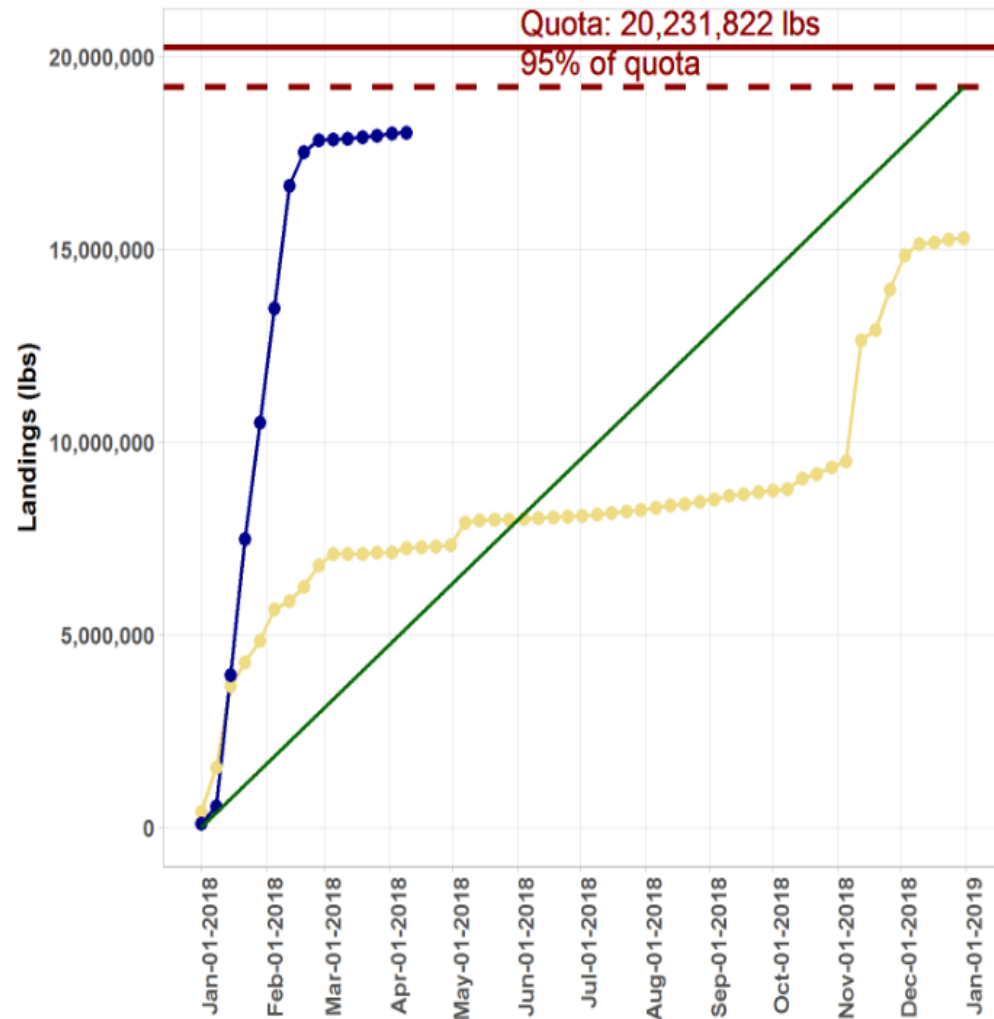


Atlantic Mackerel Fishery



- On Feb. 23rd, the RH/S catch cap for the mackerel fishery was harvested and a 20,000 lb per trip/day limit was implemented
- Concurrently, it was reported that ~89% of the mackerel quota had been caught
- Roughly 2.2 million pounds of quota remain
- Estimated that 100% of quota will be caught in Nov.

Atlantic Mackerel Quota



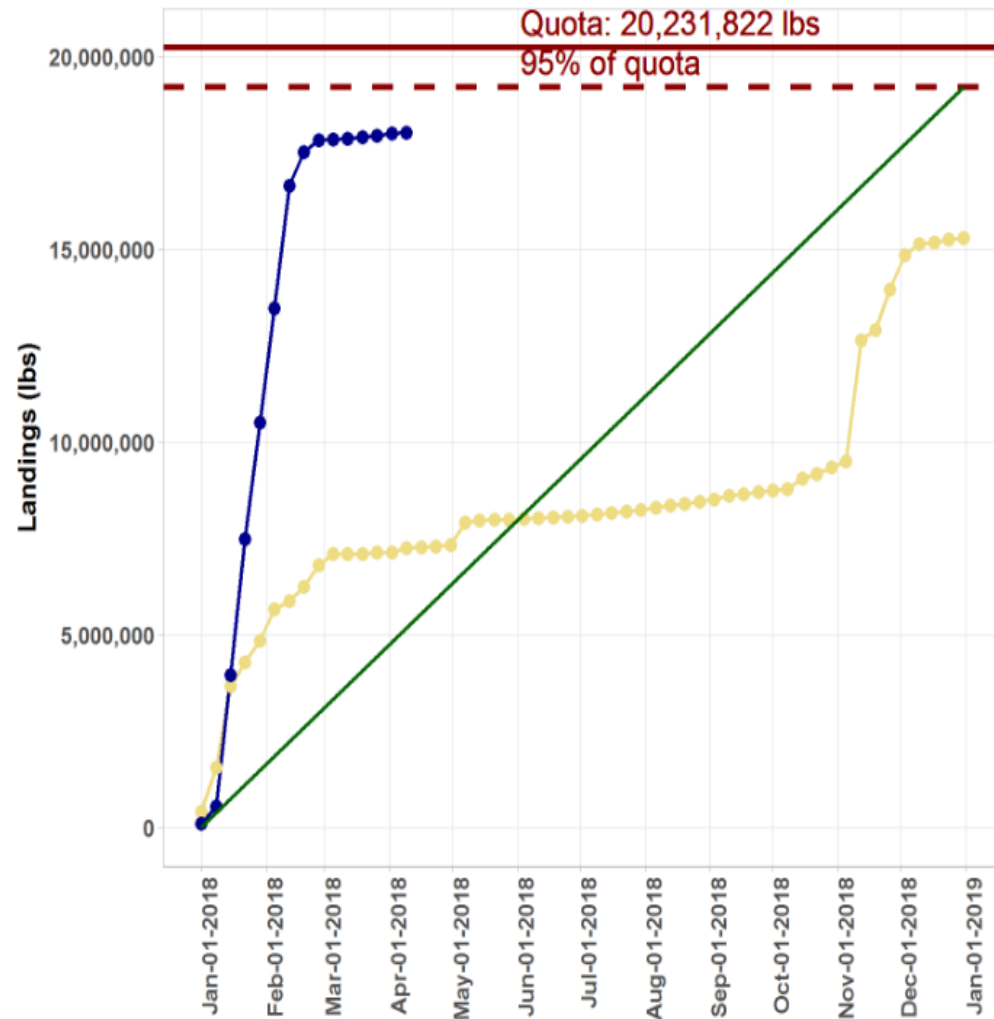
Atlantic Mackerel Fishery



Why is this a concern?

- There is a zero possession limit for mackerel when 100% of the quota is caught
- Regulations state a fisherman cannot take, retain, possess, or land mackerel under a zero possession limit
- As a result, mixing of herring and mackerel, even at minimal levels, could hinder operation of the herring fishery

Atlantic Mackerel Quota



Action To-Date



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Short Term (2018)

- Initiated framework action to consider possession limits in mackerel fishery once 100% of quota is caught
- Final action expected June 2018
- Subsequent rule-making could be used to correct prohibition on take in current regs

Longer Term (2019-2021)

- Through 2019-2021 specification process, consider incremental trip limits in fishery
- Address need for limited amount of mackerel to be harvested following closure of directed fishery
- Final action expected August 2018

Action To-Date



New England Fishery Management Council

- Passed motion supporting development of action by MAFMC to modify possession limit and definition of 'take'

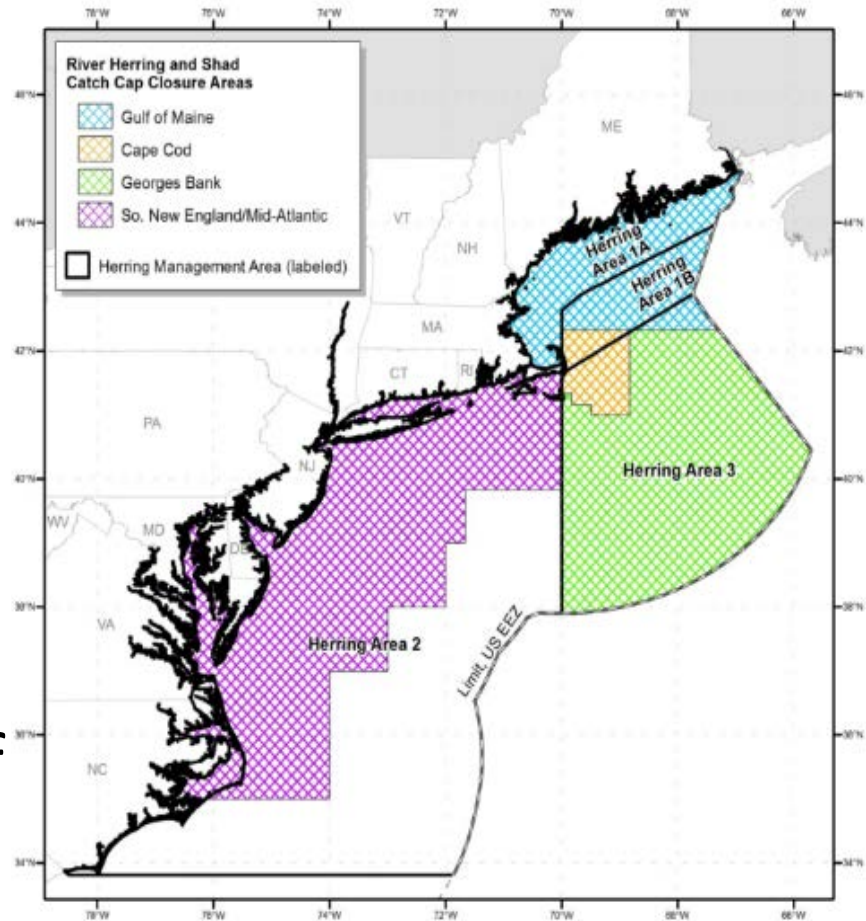
Conclusions

- On-going actions should address concerns regarding the zero possession limit ahead of November (projected date when 100% of mackerel quota will be caught)
- Primary actions occurring at MAFMC
- Actions consider both immediate and longer-term solutions

Atlantic Herring RH/S Caps



- On March 12th, the RH/S catch cap for midwater trawl vessels in the SNE/MA area was caught
- Effective March 14th, vessels issued a federal herring permit which fish with midwater trawl gear may not catch, possess, or land more than 2,000 lb of herring in, or from, the SNE/MA Closure Area



Atlantic Herring RH/S Caps



| Area | Quota (mt) | Percent Caught |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Cape Cod Mid-Water Trawl | 32.4 | 15% |
| GOM Mid-Water Trawl | 76.7 | 0% |
| SNE Bottom Trawl | 122.3 | 25% |
| SNE/MA Mid-Water Trawl | 129.6 | 106% |

Questions?





Atlantic Herring TC Report: 100 Fish Samples



Atlantic Herring Section
May 2018

Overview



- At the February Meeting, the Section tasked the TC with investigating a method of scaling-up samples of herring that are less than the required 100 fish minimum
- Prompted by concern that samples of herring greater than 90 fish but less than 100 fish are not considered when determining spawning re-closure



Spawning Re-Closure Protocol



- Amendment 3 allows for 2 week extension of spawning closure if a sample indicates significant numbers of spawn herring
- To initiate a re-closure, sample must comprise 25% or more mature herring, by number in a sample, that have yet to spawn
- Sample is a minimum of 100 randomly selected adult sized fish from a fishery dependent or independent source



TC Recommendations



- TC concluded that the requirement to have certain percentage (25%) of mature herring in a sample in order to trigger a re-closure is the priority
- TC recommends the Section maintain a target of 100 fish per sample to ensure robust protocol
- TC expressed comfort with a minimum baseline of 80 fish per sample; however, the sample must meet 25% mature criteria in order to trigger a re-closure
- Since TC recommends priority be given to the composition of the sample, no analysis is needed to scale-up a sample of herring less than 100 fish



TC Comments



- TC notes that whether there is a 80 or 100 fish minimum requirement, a line must be drawn to define a sample
- As a result, there will always be some samples which fall slightly short
- Stipulations for a sample in the forecast system are slightly different in that each sample must contain at least 25 female herring in gonadal stages III-V
- As present, samples which contain less than 100 fish are included in the forecast system as long as they meet the 25 female fish requirement



Next Steps



- Board action (via a motion) required to change minimum sample baseline from 100 fish to 80 fish
- Change would also be incorporated into a subsequent management document (i.e. next initiated addendum)





Atlantic Herring FMP Review for the 2017 Fishing Year



Atlantic Herring Section
May 2018

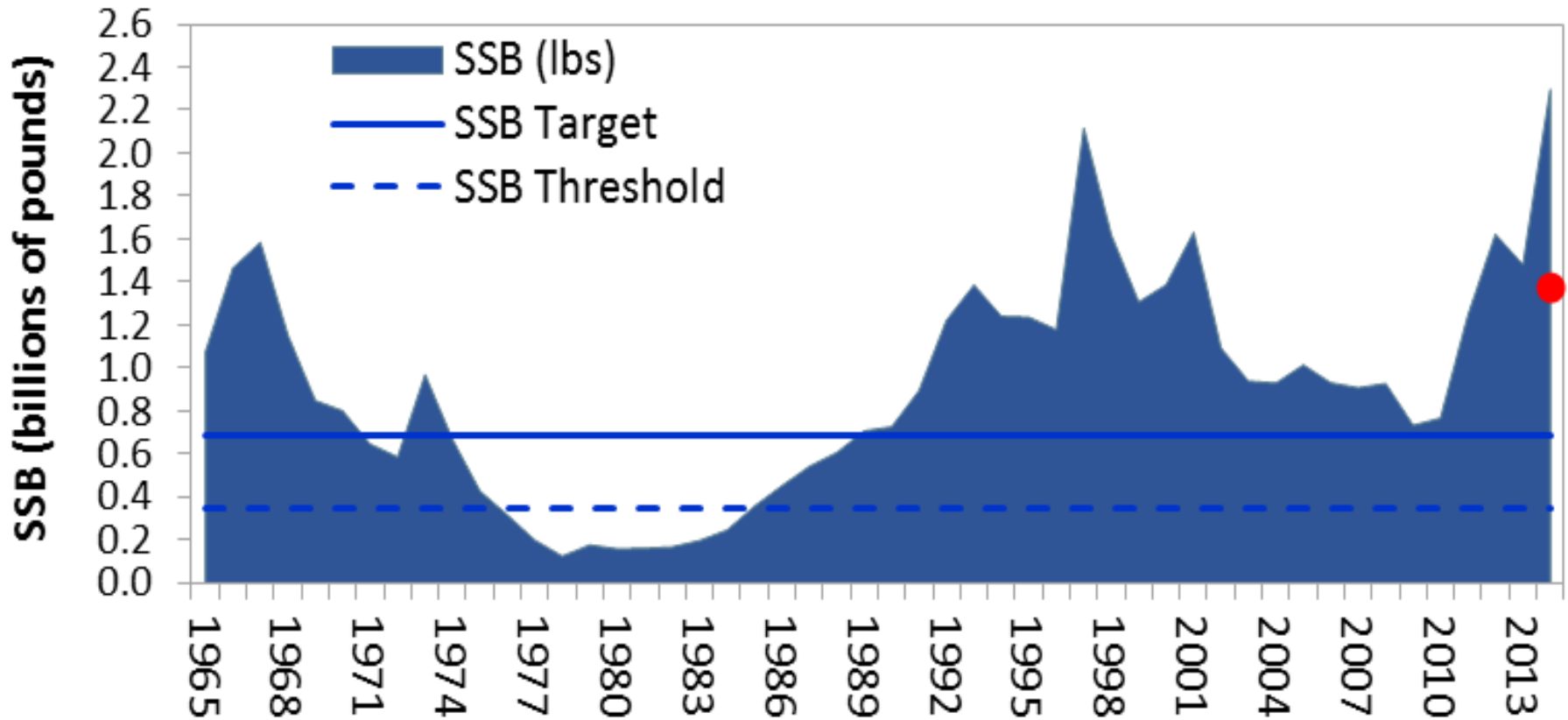
Status of the Stock



Atlantic Herring Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)

Source: Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Update, 2015

The red dot represents the 2014 retrospective adjusted value, retrospective adjustments are not applied to the entire time series.

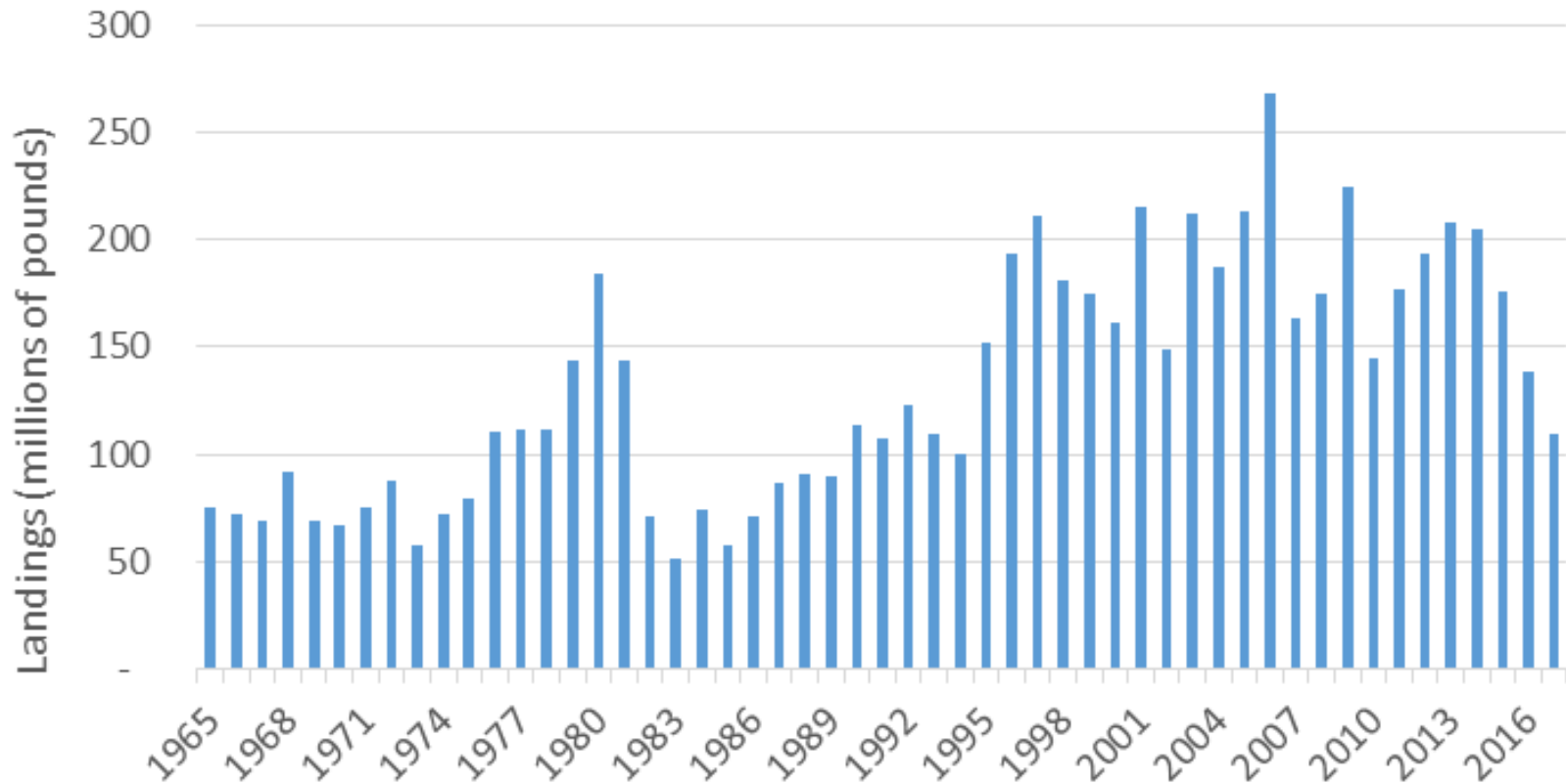


Status of the Fishery



Atlantic Herring Commercial Landings

Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse



2017 Days Out Measures



| Trimester | Date Effective | Consecutive Landing Days for Category A Permit | Weekly Landings Limit for Category A Permit | Poundage that can be Transferred to a Carrier Vessel |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| 2 | June 1, 2017 | 3 | 400,000 | 80,000 |
| | July 2, 2017 | 4 | 600,000 | 80,000 |
| | July 30, 2017 | 5 | 680,000 | 120,000 |
| | September 17, 2017 | 7 | 1,000,000 | 120,000 |
| 3 | October 1, 2017 | 3 | NA | NA |
| | December 18, 2017 | 7 | NA | NA |

Spawning Closures



Eastern Maine Spawning Area

- Closed on the default date of August 28th through September 24th, given there was a single sample from the area at the time
- Closure extended for two additional weeks, closing October 16th through October 30th, after sample indicated a significant number of spawning herring

Western Maine Spawning Area

- Based on GSI_{30} model, closed on the projected date of September 26th through October 24th
- There was no re-closure in the Western Maine area

Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Area

- Based on GSI_{30} model, closed on the projected date of October 1st and continued through October 28th
- Closure was extended two additional weeks (October 29th through November 11th) after samples indicated a significant number of spawning herring in the area

State Compliance and *De Minimis*



State Compliance

- PRT finds all states in compliance with Atlantic Herring FMP

De Minimis

- State may be eligible for *de minimis* if its combined average of the last 3 years of commercial landings constitute less than 1% of the coastwide commercial landings for the same 3-year period.
- NY has requested and met the requirements of *de minimis* status

Questions?



PRT recommends the Atlantic Herring Section approve the 2018 Atlantic Herring FMP Review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* status for NY