



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Horseshoe Crab Adaptive Resource Management Working Group Meeting Summary

Conference Call
July 25, 2013

Committee Members: Dave Smith (Chair, USGS), Conor McGowan (Auburn), Jim Lyons (USFWS), Kevin Kalasz (DE FW), Rich Wong (DE FW), Jeff Brust (NJ DEP), Steve Doctor (MD DNR)

ASMFC Staff: Marin Hawk

Public: Jim Gartland (NEAMAP)

The Adaptive Resource Management Working Group (ARM WG) held a conference call to discuss options to estimate horseshoe crab abundance in the Delaware Bay and to prepare for the ARM model harvest outputs for 2014. Below is a summary of their discussions:

Options to Estimate Horseshoe Crab Abundance Data

Due to a lack of funding, the Virginia Tech (VT) Trawl Survey will not occur in the fall of 2013. Because of the importance of this data to the ARM model, the ARM WG discussed other alternatives to obtain horseshoe crab abundance data. The most promising option involves teaming up with the NorthEast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) to modify and/or add on to the fall survey. The ARM WG will investigate the horseshoe crab data that NEAMAP has obtained in the past, in order to come up with a way to obtain abundance estimates that can be used in the ARM model.

Other options which were discussed include using mark-resight data (perhaps combined with the NEAMAP survey data) and designing a dredging survey.

Planning for ARM Harvest Output 2013

The 2013 shorebird data has recently become available. The shorebird data estimates will be calculated (J. Lyons) and then the ARM WG will hold another call mid-August. During that call, the ARM WG will make a final determination on the red knot threshold. Following this determination, the ARM model will be run. The Delaware Bay Ecosystem Technical Committee and the Horseshoe Crab Technical Committee will then review the outputs at an in-person meeting in mid-September. Final recommendations will be presented to the Board at the Annual Meeting in October 2013.