



# Technical Committee Report



American Eel Management Board

August 2015

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

# Background



- Add IV requires life cycle survey for states with a glass eel fishery > 750 lbs
- Survey requirements:
  1. Sample glass, yellow, and silver eel stages
  2. Sample at least one river system
  3. Sampling requirements outlined in Add IV
    - E.g., Index of abundance
- Maine submitted life cycle survey design to TC
- TC formulated recommendations on survey



# Maine Proposed Survey



- 3-yr survey on glass, yellow, and silver eel stages
- Cobboseecontee Stream Drainage
- Various field sampling and tagging techniques

| Activity               | Apr   | May   | Jun      | Jul      | Aug   | Sep      | Oct   |
|------------------------|-------|-------|----------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Glass eel fyke netting |       |       |          |          |       |          |       |
| at stream mouth        | daily | daily | daily    |          |       |          |       |
| at head-of-tide        | daily | daily | daily    |          |       |          |       |
| Yellow eel US passage  |       |       | daily    | daily    | daily | daily    |       |
| Yellow eel e-fishing   |       |       | biweekly | biweekly |       | biweekly |       |
| Yellow eel pot fishing |       |       | biweekly | biweekly |       | biweekly |       |
| Silver eel DIDSON      |       |       |          |          | daily | daily    | daily |



# Maine Proposed Survey



## Survey estimates for each eel life stage:

1. Index of abundance
2. Biomass
3. Mortality
4. Prevalence of parasitic nematode *A. crassus*
5. Average length and weight of eels

## Additional estimates for yellow and silver eels:

1. age of entry into the survey
2. age structure



# TC Recommendations



- Commended Maine for comprehensive design
- Concern of use for science and management:
  1. Span at least one life cycle
  2. Extend across watershed
  3. Verify tagging model assumptions
    - No marks or tags lost
    - Marks or tags accurately recorded on recapture
    - No animals die due to capture and/or tagging
    - Tagged animals represent random sample of untagged population



# TC Recommendations



- Further development of design prior to implementation
- Re-established TC subcommittee that previously worked on life cycle survey designs
- Will work with Maine to help address TC concerns
- Follow up TC report at November Meeting



# Questions?





# Addendum III Implementation Update



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# Addendum III Requirements



- 9" min size limit for yellow eel recreational and commercial fisheries
- ½" x ½" min mesh size for yellow eel pots
- allowance of 4x4" escape panel of ½" x ½" mesh in pots for 3 years beginning Jan 1, 2014
- Recreational 25 fish bag limit per day per angler
- Crew and Captain involved in for-hire are exempt from bag limits and allowed 50 fish bag limit per day
- Implementation required January 1, 2014



# Delaware Measures



- 6-inch minimum size limit in the commercial and recreational fisheries
- No minimum mesh size for pots
- Recreational possession limit of 50 eel
- Delaware's measures are not consistent with the FMP

