

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

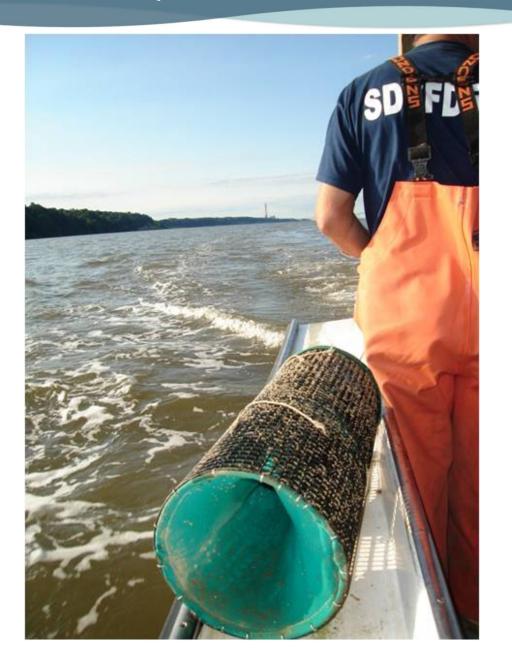
Will work with Maine to help address TC concerns

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

