Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Subcommittee and Technical Committee Conference Call Summary

February 28, 2014

Technical Committee Members: Matt Cieri, Joey Ballenger, Jeff Brust, Amy Schueller, Lindsey Staszak, Todd Mathes, Jason Schaffler, Josh Newhard, Micah Dean, Kurt Gottschall, Alexei Sharov

ASMFC Staff: Mike Waine, Genny Nesslage

Public: Will Smith, Joe Grist, Ron Lukens, Andre Bucheister

1. Bait landings
   a. Differences between SAFIS and state landings are different in some years
   b. TC members need to help reconcile these differences in next 2 weeks
   c. Historical data – pull same way as in benchmark, no better way to do this
   d. Confirmed model year: example 2012 is March1-end Dec 2012 plus Jan&Feb 2013. Will examine how much was caught in past few years up the 2012 model year bait landings by recent average in Jan/Feb amounts if necessary and will call terminal year landings "preliminary" in report.
   e. MD and VA need to strip out PRFC landings (if they included them). Mike will total bait landings from the 3 agencies.
   f. If you haven't sent 2012 and/or 2013 landings, send them in ASAP
   g. Finalize all bait by COB March 14th!!
   h. Bait samples to Beaufort ASAP
2. WAA – will put agenda for March 13th call. Alexei needs to complete this analysis.
3. Tagging (Will)
   a. Used 1970 rekeyed data, 66-69 from Dryfoos and Coston reports. Rekeyed data used were age and magnet efficiency data. Amy will check on earlier reports vs. rekeyed data.
   b. Tried truncating data to eliminate ages that may emigrate but may lost too much data. Eliminated fall/winter recaptures.
   c. Ran simple coastwide model without spatial approach and estimate M. Used informative priors from MSVPA runs and very different from MSVPA models for age0-1 (1.5-2).
   d. Ran 3 and 5 area models. In 5 area model got opposite (high vs. low) Ms in NY area than when used 3 area model – turned out to be age and spatial heterogeneity in South Atlantic area recapture rates that caused problems in model. NC fish move up to NY at age 2 and ChesBay fish don't move until age 3. 3 area model not capturing that heterogeneity in movement rates. Recommends use 5 area model and sum across rows to get southernmost 3 strata into 1.
   e. Included different selectivity functions.
      i. Dome-shaped selectivity model shows super low selectivity at age 5 but may be due to low sample size for these old fish (only those fish released in 1966 and caught in 1970 = 52/38000 fish).
      ii. Flat-topped selectivity generates lower Fs. Max F not different between

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selectivity models. Prob(movement) didn't change much between sel models.
- iii. DIC model selection – indicated dome-shaped selectivity clearly best fit.
- f. Status of problems in rekeyed database?? Something lost in QA/QC (lots of zeros for fish tagged in different areas). Amy/Joe/Staff follow up on these (missing? Problematic?) records?
- g. Will Smith will send Amy estimates and full pdfs of uncertainty around those estimates once get final data (tagging database cleaned up if nec and MSVPA estimates).

4. Jeff – maturity recalculated
   - a. Tripled checked maturity schedule developed using NEAMAP data: seasonal/annual
   - b. All years combined – just fall-caught fish. Maturity at size curve developed. Converted %mat at size to %mat at age. Similar to data workshop. Higher maturity at ages 1&2 than what used in past.
5. Growth curves
   - a. Conducted bias correction using fishery independent lengths (beyond that which the reduction fishery has caught and provided age samples for). Will have impact on SSB.
   - b. Set bounds of 100mm FL and 99.95% quantile. LAA corrected now. Needed to fix t_0 in a few cases – fixed at uncorrected value.
6. Send area covered by your survey to Joey by end of March. Genny will send an email with instructions.
7. Review items for next agenda:
   - a. Fish dep indices (Micah)
   - b. Indep indices (FIG)
   - c. MSVPA/M update (Matt)
   - d. WAA (Alexei)
8. Joe & Jason – sending scales and otos to Amy/Joe and Ethel will re-age for ageing error matrix