



Report from the January 4th Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee Meeting

Introduction



- TC met via conference call to review a conservation equivalency proposal from the state of MD
 - A second proposal was offered after the call from PRFC, providing the same request and supporting information
- A brief review of the proposal was given to the group
 - In general looking to allow 2 bycatch possessions to be taken on a single vessel with 2 permitted fishermen

Introduction



- Brief review (cont.)
 - Proposal only applies to pound net fishermen who must possess appropriate licensure
 - Pound net fishery for menhaden is limited entry in MD (and PFRC), limiting opportunity for expansion
 - MD (and PRFC) conclude the proposal won't result in increases in harvest, and allows for efficiencies

Technical Committee Comments



- TC agreed by consensus that MD (and PRFC's) proposals will not adversely impact the biological status of Atlantic menhaden
- Noted that the proposal would most likely not significantly change the harvest currently occurring

Technical Committee Comments



- Limited entry program for pound nets is expected to limit potential expansion
- Given current status of menhaden (not overfished or experiencing overfishing), and limited amount of landings occurring under bycatch allowance (~ 1% coastwide), the TC does not have biological concern with the conservation equivalent proposals

Technical Committee Comments



- TC recommends continued monitoring of bycatch landings coastwide to ensure an expansion of harvest can be addressed if it occurs
- TC also recommends the Board consider further evaluation of the bycatch landings on a coastal scale as it develops Amendment 3 to the menhaden FMP
 - Bycatch portion of the harvest can currently expand
 - Assessing upper bound of this expansion and its potential impacts to the fishery/stock status should be considered while developing the amendment



Questions?



LEC Comments on Bycatch Conservation Equivalency

Presented to Atlantic Menhaden
Management Board
February 2016



LEC Review

- Conference Call on January 7, 2016
- 18 enforcement members participating
- Reviewed MD proposal
 - 12,000lb bycatch limit (two permitted individuals)
- Subsequent consideration of PRFC proposal
- LEC memorandum to board

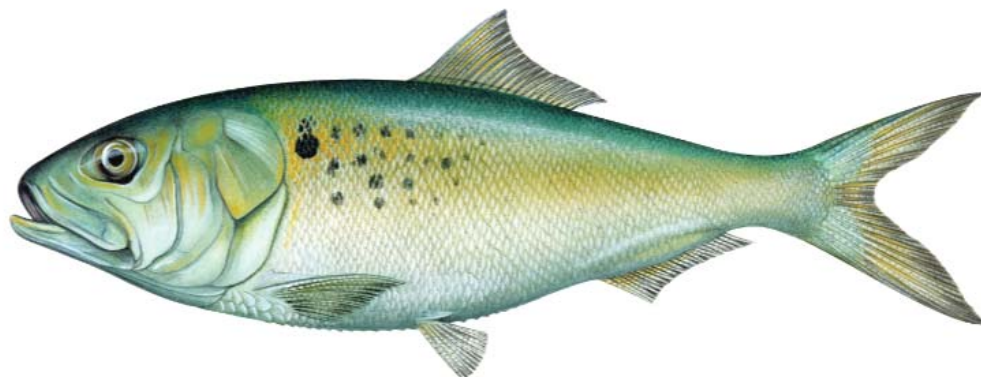


LEC Comments

- No specific concerns raised about proposal
 - Similar provision in 2013 in MD
- A general concern was raised
 - Unforeseen loopholes could increase bycatch violations
 - LEC would like opportunity to evaluate after one year



Draft Amendment 3 Development



Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
February 2016

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Draft Amendment 3 Motion



Move to proceed under Option 2 which initiates a PID in 2017 and includes ERPs and allocation with the CESS Report to be implemented in 2018

Draft Amendment 3



- Two major topics:
 - Ecological Reference Points
 - Revisiting Allocation
- Two rounds of public input:
 - Public Information Document in 2017
 - Amend 3 in later 2017
- Aiming for implemented in 2018

Allocation Considerations



- Board WG has potential list of allocation options compiled
- CESS Socioeconomic analysis available in early 2017
- ASMFC is working on finalizing contract for work now
- Intent is for socioeconomic analysis to help allocation discussion

Ecosystem Reference Points



- Current Biological Reference Points
 - approved for management use
 - not yet part of a management document
- Ecosystem Reference Points
 - Some ERPs available now, but BERP WG does not recommend using for management
 - BERP is developing ERPs
 - Timeline is 2019-2020 so not for Amend 3, but possible adaptive management

Draft Amendment 3 Timeline



Potential Timeline

- PID for Comment Nov 2016
- PID Public Comment Period Nov-Feb
- PID guides Draft A3 Feb 2017
 - Socioeconomic analysis released
 - PDT develops Draft A3 Feb-Aug
- Draft A3 for Comment Aug 2017
- Draft A3 Public Comment Period Aug-Nov
- Finalize A3 at 2017 Annual Meeting
- Implementation likely in 2018.

Total Allowable Catch



- 187,880 mt TAC for 2015 and 2016
- Stock Assessment Update in 2017
- Need to set fishery specifications for 2017
 - Next agenda topic



Questions?