

# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Horseshoe Crab Advisory Panel Conference Call

*Wednesday September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

*2:30pm – 4:00pm*

### Meeting Summary

#### 1) Welcome/Introductions

Advisory Panel (AP): Allen Burgenson, Walker Golder, George Topping, Brett Hoffmeister, Benji Swan, Dr. Jim Cooper, Jay Harrington, Jeff Shenot

Staff: Dr. Mike Schmidtke, Tina Berger

- T. Berger introduced 2 new AP members, Walker Golder and Jeff Shenot. T. Berger explained their process of being appointed to the AP as the result of a call for non-traditional stakeholders intended for shorebird interests due to the disbandment of the Shorebird Advisory Panel.

#### 2) Updates on 2017 Board Meeting, Benchmark Stock Assessment, and 2018 ARM Model Results

- At 2017 Meeting: Board approved ARM Harvest Package 3 (500,000 male crabs) for bait harvest in the Delaware Bay and considered the use of biomedical mortality in the ARM but postponed any decisions until after the assessment.
- Assessment: Data and modeling issues (have generally been resolved); assessment due date delayed so peer review now in March 2019 with presentation to Board in May 2019.
- 2018 ARM Results: Harvest Package 3.
- G. Topping discussed observations of a summer abundance of juvenile horseshoe crabs off of Maryland. This is not regularly sampled by the Virginia Tech survey because the VA Tech survey is conducted in the fall. G. Topping discussed volunteering to conduct a new juvenile survey in this area, with assistance from A. Burgenson and Jeff Eutsler (AP member that works with VA Tech to conduct their survey; not present on call due to sampling for the survey). Idea of new summer survey generally supported by other AP members.

### 3) **Discuss Mortality Rate Associated with Biomedical Use**

- M. Schmidtke informed the group that the previously used range of mortality percentages (5-30%) for biomedical bled crabs will no longer be used in Commission outreach materials, as the range has no bearing on management decisions and creates confusion for some who see it. The estimate of bleeding mortality will simply be shown as 15%. Upon completion of the stock assessment, while uncertainty surrounding an estimate of mortality must be shown in the assessment report, outreach materials beyond the assessment report will only include the point estimate provided by the Stock Assessment Subcommittee.
- B. Swan stated that to reduce a negative stigma associated with biomedical use, rather than stating the rate as mortality, it should be stated conversely as survivorship. In the case of the current mortality rate, it would correspond to an 85% survivorship of bled individuals.

### 4) **Discuss How to Improve Cooperation between Commission and Biomedical Stakeholders**

- B. Swan cited a letter that will be provided to the Horseshoe Crab Management Board in Supplemental Materials for their next meeting at the 2018 Commission Annual Meeting. This letter references two newspaper articles in which Larry Niles made comments concerning horseshoe crab harvest and biomedical use. A previous email was sent from Swan to biomedical members of the AP and Commission staff, which indicated a breach of confidential data from Limuli Labs (NJ). J. Cooper asked about this breach.
- M. Schmidtke stated that Larry Niles is not a Commission employee nor do his comments speak for or represent the Commission. The “breach” was discussed on a previous call between Benjie and Commission staff, and both agreed that what occurred was not, in fact, a breach of confidential data. Instead the comments of the letter were meant as an example to illustrate the importance

of maintaining the confidentiality of biomedical information so that it cannot be used to single out and hurt the business of an individual facility.

**5) Discuss Inclusion of LAL Purchasers in Advisory Panel**

- J. Cooper stated that a user-group not currently represented on the AP is the parenteral industry, i.e., the purchasers of LAL products. Cooper stated that the main organization for this industry is the Parenteral Drug Association (PDA), and a representative from this organization should sit on the Horseshoe Crab AP. No objection to this was stated from other members of the AP.
- M. Schmidtke explained that the most direct route to an appointment for the PDA is for a representative to be nominated by a Horseshoe Crab Board member to fill a currently vacant seat on the AP. This can happen at any time and does not require a wider call for non-traditional stakeholders.

**6) Elect Chair & Vice Chair**

- Allen Burgenson was elected as Chair, and Brett Hoffmeister was elected as Vice Chair.

**7) Other Business/Adjourn**