



Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership

Policy Board Update

October 30, 2014
Mystic, Connecticut

Fall Steering Committee Meeting Summary

- Science & Data Updates
 - Decision Support Tool to Assess Aquatic Habitats & Threats in North Atlantic Watersheds & Estuaries progress via NALCC funding
 - Winter flounder assessment near completion
 - River herring assessment commencing end of this month
 - Species Habitat Matrix manuscript
 - NFWF-funded River Herring Habitat Restoration Strategies
- Implementation plan evaluation
- Fish Habitat Partnership update
 - National
 - Multistate Conservation Grant Program funding secured
 - Coastal
 - Presenting at Restore America's Estuaries next week
 - Regional
 - Whitewater to Bluewater Initiative
- International Federation of Fly Fishers applied for membership to ACFHP

Additionally, the Steering Committee had the opportunity to discuss estuarine climate change and fish passage barrier issues, and visited six fish passage barriers in the Connecticut area this week.

FY2015 Proposals Submitted

This past August, the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) sent out a request for project applications to restore and conserve habitat for coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fish species via federal funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The maximum amount available for an individual project was \$50,000, which would go to support on-the-ground habitat conservation and improvement, as well as related design and monitoring activities. The submission deadline was Friday, October 3rd, and this year we received three applications. These proposals were reviewed and scored by an ACFHP subcommittee, and on Monday, the full Steering Committee discussed and approved the ranked list of project proposals for USFWS consideration.



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

To: ISFMP Policy Board
From: Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee
RE: Quarterly Update on 2014 Benchmark Stock Assessment Progress
Date: October 22, 2014

In preparation for the 2014 benchmark stock assessment, the Atlantic menhaden Technical Committee (TC) and Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) have held eleven joint webinars and six in-person meetings to date. This seventh progress report memorandum contains a summary from two webinars and one Assessment Workshop conducted by the SAS that occurred since the last progress report on July 22, 2014 (M14-065). The primary goal of these webinars and workshops was to finalize datasets and model runs in preparation for the December 9-11, 2014 Peer Review Workshop (SEDAR 40).

The final step before submitting the assessment to the SEDAR peer review is a TC meeting on November 5-6, 2016 to review and finalize the benchmark stock assessment.

Below is a brief summary of topics discussed and progress made at each meeting since July 2014. A tentative timeline for the 2014 Atlantic menhaden workshops follows.

August 12-15 Assessment Workshop and September 5th, and October 5th-6th Webinar summary:

- Reviewed all finalized input data sources and decisions regarding treatment of data in assessment models.
- Reviewed model base run results, sensitivity runs, and retrospective analysis.
- Reviewed model projection methodology.
- Finalized single-species biological reference points for use in evaluating stock status.

Tentative timeline for 2014 Atlantic menhaden benchmark stock assessment:

November 2014 – Technical Committee Reviews Benchmark Stock Assessment

December 9-11, 2014 – Peer Review Workshop (SEDAR 40)

February Meeting 2015 – Assessment presented to Atlantic menhaden Board