



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201  
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)

---

## MEMORANDUM

### Shad & River Herring Stock Assessment Subcommittee Call Summary

April 14, 2017

**Stock Assessment Subcommittee Members:** Mike Bailey, Kiersten Curti, Kevin Sullivan, Ed Hale

**ASMFC Staff:** Jeff Kipp

**Non-SAS Members:** Gary Nelson (MA DMF), Ansley Samson (Natural Resources Defense Council), Erica Fuller (Earthjustice), Pam Lyons Gromen (ASMFC Shad and River Herring Advisory Panel Chair)

Jeff opened the call by identifying the discussion points for the call: (1) Issues/decision points/anomalies that have come up during the preliminary analyses, (2) How will the results be presented, and (3) Details on in-person meeting.

- Issues/decision points/anomalies that have come up during the preliminary analyses

Each analysis lead gave a quick summary of results from analyses. Gary is updating the escapement model for the Monument River in MA and the SCA model for the Chowan River in NC. Gary mentioned he had not received corrected age data from NC DMF, so Jeff will follow up to get the corrected data. Once Gary is able to update the model, abundance estimates from the model will be sent to Kevin for the run count trend analysis. The group confirmed that a terminal year of 2015 was determined for the update. All analysis should be through 2015 to be consistent with this determination. Kiersten mentioned that the Mann-Kendall analysis on mean lengths from the NMFS bottom trawl survey in volume 2 of the benchmark assessment (state-specific) had not been updated. Kevin pointed out that those data are also included in the coastwide mean length trend analysis. To avoid duplicative effort, Kiersten will provide the mean length data by season, region, and species to Kevin for the coastwide analysis and the results will not be included in the state-specific volume. Ed also confirmed that the NMFS bottom trawl data had been included in his update of the ARIMA analysis, so Kiersten will not need to update this analysis in the state-specific volume. Mike Bailey will follow up with John Sweka to determine how shaded tables of length data from the NMFS bottom trawl were developed and the same procedure will be used by Kiersten when updating this table.

Kiersten has updated the species-specific indices from the NMFS bottom trawl, but is unsure of how the combined river herring species index was developed.

Kevin asked for suggestions on time blocks to use for the updated cluster analysis, since choice affects how the clusters fall out. The decision for the run count cluster analysis was to include a fourth time block with the same number of years used in the final block of the benchmark assessment (8 years). The fourth block for the update will be 2008-2015 and the full time series block will be updated from 1984-2010 to 1984-2015. The decision for the YOY cluster analysis was to update the analysis as was done in the benchmark (1980-2007 and 1993-2007) to show the effects of data changes and updated time blocks (1980-2015 and 1993-2015) to show the effects of additional data during the update period. Mike Bailey mentioned that most of the commercial CPUE data series had been discontinued due to moratoria. The group decided all data sets for all analyses where the data set is analyzed independently (i.e., not cluster analyses) used in the benchmark should be reported in the update, regardless of the year they were discontinued. This will highlight data sets that have been discontinued while also making sure trends in rivers where data sets have been discontinued are presented with updated information and not forgotten. Jeff relayed an update from Mike Brown that the Mann-Kendall analysis of Z estimates was straightforward and there were no issues that needed to be debated by the SAS. Mike did note that several rivers have discontinued data collection since the benchmark and it should be recommended that these data collection efforts be reinitiated. Kevin suggested it would be important to highlight data sets that have been discontinued by choice versus those that have been discontinued due to extirpation (e.g., some rivers in NH).

- How will the results be presented

There was discussion on how the results (river-specific and coastwide meta-population statuses) were determined during the benchmark assessment. The determination was consensus-based after reviewing the results of the trend analyses and qualitative determination of trends. The group also discussed the basis behind the “depleted” status being that there are no reference points to determine an overfished level and, in the case of a mortality status, fishing may not be the only depleting factor. Since this is an update assessment, the same process is needed to provide results of the updated assessment. The SAS agreed to add a column to the summary table to reflect the recent trend (i.e., during the update years of 2011-2015). The 5-year trend columns in the benchmark table will be replaced with the update period trends. The group discussed the preference to have an objective, quantitative framework to making status determination, but noted that this change in methodology is not appropriate in an assessment update. The SAS also agreed to add coastwide trends to the summary table to provide a more comprehensive representation of the populations. The analysis leads will make the first attempt to determine trends for the data types they’re working with and the SAS will review and change, if necessary, during the in-person meeting. For example, Kevin will update the table with trends from run counts. The final SAS

determinations will be reviewed by the full TC on a conference call following the in-person meeting.

- Details on in-person meeting

The meeting will be at the NOAA Woods Hole lab. The meeting will be a full day meeting, so SAS members will likely need to travel in the night before. Details on hotel accommodations will be distributed ASAP, but reservations will be on an individual basis as opposed to a room block. Please wait for the Travel Authorization from ASMFC before making travel and hotel arrangements.

Based on the decisions during the call, all analyses should be updated, if necessary, and final results should be distributed to the group (via email or FTP) ahead of the in-person meeting. Update report sections should just be the respective section from the benchmark report updated to discuss the update results. Figures and tables can be included in these update sections. Update sections will be compiled immediately following the in-person meeting and distributed to the full TC for review. Analysis leads should also update the assessment report summary table with update period trends.