



# 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)

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## Shad & River Herring Technical Committee Task Group Call Summary

January 7, 2019

**Technical Committee Task Group Members:** Ken Sprankle\* (Chair, USFWS), Mike Brown (ME), Brad Chase (MA), Robert Adams (Vice Chair, NY), Brian Neilan (NJ), Holly White (NC), Jeremy McCargo (NC), Jim Page (GA)

\* Ken Sprankle was unable to participate due to a lapse in federal appropriations

**ASMFC Staff:** Caitlin Starks

On the November 20, 2018 conference call of the Shad and River Herring Technical Committee (TC), the TC designated a smaller task group to develop the October 2017 Board task regarding improvements to Amendments 2 and 3. This task group (TG) met via conference call on January 7, 2019 to advance work on identifying and describing conflicts between the requirements of the Amendments and state management and monitoring programs.

### TC task regarding improvements to Amendments 2 and 3

The TC has been developing a database to document cases where harvest regulations or monitoring programs seem to be inconsistent with the requirements of Amendments 2 and 3. Staff presented updates to the database to the task group, including a classification scheme to identify rivers that are legally open to river herring or shad harvest, but either lack a sustainable fishery management plan (SFMP) or monitoring. The task group described several types of conflicts with the Amendments' requirements, including:

- Tributaries of river systems that do have SFMPs and monitoring, but the tributaries are not explicitly addressed in the SFMP;
- Rivers legally open to harvest without a SFMP and/or monitoring, but where no harvest of shad or river herring is suspected;
- Rivers with harvest addressed by a SFMP, but without monitoring to support sustainability

The task group discussed each conflict identified in the database, and made note of additional information needed to understand the situation. The group outlined next steps for this task as follows:

1. Complete the database by following up individually with TC members to fill in missing data and validate the information provided.
2. For all identified conflicts, follow up with the state TC representative to document the reason for the conflict and any additional pertinent information to each case.
3. Develop several potential options for resolving each type of conflict (e.g. redefining the river system in the SFMP to include tributaries)
4. Present all cases of conflict and potential solutions to the full TC for further discussion. The TC may then develop recommendations to the Board for potential paths for resolving each conflict.

Robert Adams and Brian Neilan agreed to follow up with other TC members to complete the first two steps. The task group will carry out the rest of the steps over the next several months with the potential to report to the Board in summer 2019.