

## 2012 River Herring Working Groups

### Goals and Agenda for Stock Structure Workshop

June 22, 2012, 9a.m.-4p.m.

NMFS Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Dr., Gloucester, MA

#### **Goal & Objective:**

- The Stock Structure workshop will review and discuss available genetic, life history, and morphometric data sets on alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), collectively referred to as river herring, in freshwater and marine habitats. The public workshop will present information covered at the smaller working group meeting as well as what was presented in the petition. Working group participants will provide their individual expert opinions related to the available genetics, life history, and morphometric information to be summarized in a report which will receive independent peer review. Upon completion, NMFS will utilize this information to assess whether there is evidence of significant population structuring for both species. This information is being collected as part of the ongoing review of the status of these species and ultimately, will be incorporated into the decision as to whether listing these species is warranted under the Endangered Species Act.

#### **Participant Selection Criteria**

- Invited participants were selected based on their working knowledge and recent experience with available river herring data and one or both of the following: 1) expertise in river herring genetics, life history, and/or morphometrics; and/or 2) expertise in fisheries population dynamics, stock assessments and life history of anadromous species. Participants were selected based on their expertise in stock structure and familiarity with its applications in fisheries, particularly anadromous species. Representation focused on areas where the majority of data on river herring is available. Participants with anadromous species expertise were selected to bring information and perspectives from both academic institutions and fisheries management.

#### **Invited Expert Panel**

- Michael Armstrong – Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries
- Meredith Bartron- US Fish and Wildlife Service, Population Ecology
- Matt Cieri- Maine Department of Marine Resources
- Katie Drew- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Steve Gephard- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Adrian Jordaan- State University of New York-Stony Brook
- John Kocik- NMFS, Population Dynamics
- Eric Palkovacs- Duke University
- Kevin Sullivan- New Hampshire Fish and Game
- Theo Willis- University of Southern Maine, Alewife Harvesters of Maine

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**Agenda**

- 9 a.m. Welcome, Introductions, Goals of Meeting
- 9:15 a.m. Background on the river herring petition and ESA listing process (Tara Trinko Lake)
- 9:40 a.m. Overview presentation of ASMFC stock assessment (Katie Drew)
- 10 a.m. Invited expert panel presentations
  - *4- 5 presentations (10 minute presentations + 5 minutes for questions)*
    - Presentation of evidence that suggests the presence or absence of stock structure in alewife and blueback herring populations
- 11 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m. Continue presentations
- 11:30 Recap of Stock Structure Working Group Meeting (Dan Kircheis)
- 12 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 1:15 p.m. Public contributions (*time limit TBD*)
  - Presentation of evidence that suggests the presence or absence of stock structure in alewife and blueback herring populations not included in previous discussions
- 4 p.m. Adjourn