

River Herring Technical Expert Working Group (TEWG)
Ecosystem Integration Committee Webinar/Conference Call
August 15, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Summary

I. Overview

The Ecosystem Integration Committee (EIC) of the River Herring Technical Expert Working Group was established to “ensure that the work of the subgroups is fully integrated to facilitate subgroup and TEWG discussions, as well as conservation planning development.” The EIC is comprised of chairs/co-chairs from the six river herring TEWG subgroups. Kim Damon-Randall and Jon Hare, co-chairs of the EIC, convened a call on August 15, 2014, to continue discussions with the committee. The draft agenda focused on providing updates on any cross-cutting and overlapping issues discussed in the subgroup meetings. This meeting summary includes the primary discussion topics and outcomes to contribute to future TEWG discussions. The information provided below reflects individual expert opinion and not consensus.

II. Key Topics

A list of individual expert opinion provided by EIC members or the public on various overarching topics is presented below:

- Chairs/co-chairs provided summaries of each of the subgroup’s work to-date, including any larger considerations related to the subgroups for committee discussion.¹ Topics with broad implications related to the TEWG and its products included the following:
 - Subgroups are working to compile information in a cohesive manner while avoiding redundancies from previous work (e.g., Endangered Species Act listing decision, stock assessments, current research, etc.). They are doing this by searching through the literature, having guest speakers talk about their research, etc.
 - Some subgroups are continuing to work on the first drafts of their data gaps and conservation actions documents. Identifying data needs so that river herring can be a data rich species someday is important.
 - The EIC considered and discussed the process for identifying and discussing cross-cutting issues brought up by the subgroups, as well as a draft table which summarized these issues. This is a dynamic document that will be continually updated as the subgroups continue to meet. Options included that the members of the EIC can update it as necessary, and once an update is made, an e-mail is sent to the full EIC so the chairs can look at it and

¹ See TEWG meeting and subgroup summaries for additional information on subgroup progress:
<https://www.nero.noaa.gov/protected/riverherring/tewg/index.html>
October 31, 2014

determine whether it's an overlapping issue with their subgroup. At this time, Diane and Marin will continue to work with the subgroup chairs/co-chairs to identify these in the meeting summaries so they can be further discussed by the EIC.

- The EIC should meet the week before the TEWG calls, when possible, to help ensure that updates from all subgroups can be considered. For example, this will help ensure consideration of cross-cutting issues.
- Some of the chairs and co-chairs made suggestions on how to facilitate their roles.
 - One member suggested putting the overlapping questions and issues up first in the beginning of the agendas.
 - Some participants felt face-to-face meetings may help facilitate discussions, but funding limitations were acknowledged. Meetings could be held around larger meetings and conferences. NMFS and ASMFC will ask the TEWG whether they could drive to satellite locations/meetings along the coasts, and what travel restrictions they may have.

III. Key Outcomes

A list of individual expert opinions provided by participants related to specific threats, data gaps, research projects, conservation actions, information to be considered and/or monitoring (i.e., the identified research projects and/or conservation actions) is provided below. These outcomes are listed in no particular order and are related to cross-cutting and/or overlapping subgroup issues. See the background document and table for the full list of cross-cutting and overlapping issues at <https://www.nero.noaa.gov/protected/riverherring/tewg/ecosystem/index.html>

- Data Gaps
 - Canadian information.
 - Contaminants (Some discussions in the Habitat Subgroup).
- Research Projects
 - Consideration of marine habitat information (e.g. Patrick Lynch's study) to supplement current coastal habitat efforts for a future river herring map on the TEWG website.
- Information To Be Considered (e.g., published papers)
 - Presentations and discussions at the Climate Change Subgroup, including Thibaud Rougier's modeling efforts and Karen Wilson's overview of research efforts (<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected/riverherring/tewg/climate/index.html>).
- Monitoring
 - Consistent and standardized monitoring of both alewife and blueback herring is important in order to start building a time series.

IV. Next Steps

The EIC discussed the following next steps:

- Discussions of cross-cutting issues should be added to the agenda of subgroup calls.
- Presentations from guest speakers will be available on the TEWG website with the presenter's consent. Non-copyrighted literature will be available in the share site. A list of copyrighted literature will also be available.
- Ideas for possible speakers should be provided to NMFS and ASMFC for the larger TEWG meetings. John Carlos Gaza's will be giving a talk to the full TEWG in December on the genetic markers project. Dan will also reach-out to Paul Bentzen to see if he can also present.
- Any suggestions on how to make the EIC documents as current as possible are welcome. The EIC will continue to think about how to address the overlapping issues. Diane and Marin will distribute an updated table before the next call.
- The EIC will convene the week before the December TEWG meeting.
- If there are any suggestions on how to facilitate the role of the chairs/co-chairs, please send them to Diane and Marin.
- NMFS and the ASMFC are going to try to reach out to additional potential members in the southeast region.

V. Participants

- Committee Members

The affiliation of each member can be found on the TEWG EIC website (see below):

Michael Alexander
Michael Bailey
Alison Bowden
Kim Damon-Randall

Jason Didden
Jon Hare
Dan Hasselman
Janet Nye

Jeffrey Pierce
Kevin Sullivan

- Staff

Diane Borggaard
Marin Hawk
Edith Carson

VI. Meeting Materials

The following materials were provided to support the meeting. Additional information can be found at the TEWG EIC website:

<https://www.nero.noaa.gov/protected/riverherring/tewg/ecosystem/index.html>

- Draft Agenda
- Draft Table of Overarching Issues