



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



River Herring Technical Expert Working Group and Conservation Plan



Photo Credit: J. Prezioso, NOAA

March 14, 2016 TEWG Meeting
(Additional slide added post-meeting)

TEWG Outcomes

- Increased coordination with partners
 - U.S. federal agencies
 - U.S. state agencies
 - Councils and Commission
 - Native American tribe
 - U.S. and Canadian academia
 - Environmental organizations
 - U.S. and Canadian industry (fishing and hydropower)
 - U.S. recreational interests
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (invited participant)



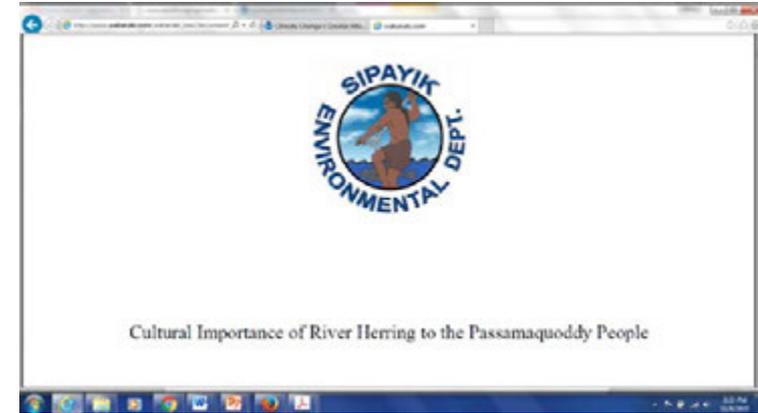
Presented at Dec. 2014 TEWG Meeting

TEWG Outcomes (cont'd)

- Coastwide perspective of river herring by subgroup through identification of:
 - Threats to both species throughout their range
 - Conservation actions to address critical threats and associated costs
 - Key data gaps
 - Research projects and associated costs to fill existing data gaps

TEWG Outcomes (cont'd)

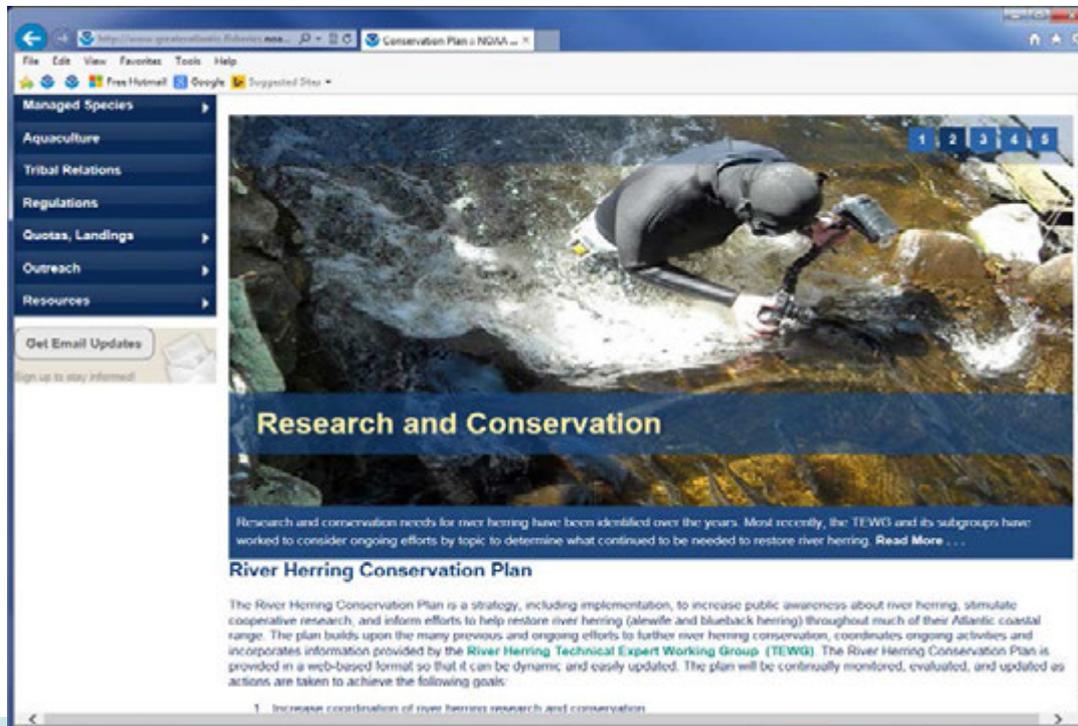
- Passamaquoddy Tribe, Pleasant Point, developed white paper on the cultural importance of river herring to the Tribe



Link available on RH Conservation Plan website

TEWG Informed Outcomes

- Provided/compiled information for use in the development of a dynamic, long term conservation plan
- Plan available as of May 2015
- Continually update/revise



TEWG Informed Outcomes (cont'd)



- TEWG and subgroup individual expert opinion, and public comment provided at TEWG meetings, were some of the considerations in NMFS and ASMFC River Herring Request for Proposals
- NMFS provided \$295K grant to ASMFC as part of this effort.
- The two supported research projects seek to address identified data gaps:
 - **“Linking life stages: marine bycatch mortality, freshwater productivity, and spawning stock recruitment” (\$166,659)**
 - The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the University of California-Santa Cruz in partnership with others.
 - **“Determination of extant herring runs in the Barnegat Bay and Raritan River watersheds” (~\$77,000)**
 - Barnegat Bay Partnership and Rutgers University (The State University of New Jersey)

TEWG Informed Outcomes (cont'd)

- Stock Status Subgroup Identified Need
 - *Creation of a Standardized Sampling Guidance Document for the species population range. (#1 individual rank)*
- Climate Change Subgroup Identified Need:
 - *River run and juvenile survival data measured with same methods along a latitudinal gradient (#4 Individual rank)*
- Also identified by ASMFC River Herring Technical Committee
- ASMFC River Herring Data Collection Standardization Workshop occurred November 18-20, 2015
 - Supported with funds by NMFS



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
NEWS RELEASE

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2015

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
703.842.0740

**River Herring Data Collection Standardization Workshop
Scheduled for November 18-20, 2015 in Linthicum, MD**

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will conduct a River Herring Data Collection Standardization Workshop on November 18-20, 2015 in Linthicum, MD. The Workshop will bring together researchers from state and federal marine fishery agencies, Tribal Nations, and Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans to evaluate current fishery-independent surveys for river herring and develop recommendations to standardize survey methodologies as well as data collected by these surveys for use in future stock assessments. Workshop participants will also consider some fishery-dependent sampling that collect river herring along the Atlantic coast.



Excerpt of News Release

TEWG Informed Outcomes (cont'd)

- Fisheries Subgroup Identified Need
 - *There is uncertainty about the ability of current portside sampling programs to continue given their current funding sources, but portside sampling is likely to be an efficient way to monitor RH catch in fisheries that retain most of their catch.*
- NMFS GARFO provided funds to the ASMFC to support Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries portside sampling in 2016.

Portside Sampling and River Herring Bycatch Avoidance
in the Atlantic Herring and Mackerel Fishery



Mike Armstrong, PhD
Bill Hoffman
Brad Schondelmeier



Kevin Stokesbury, PhD
Dave Bethoney, PhD



Midwater Trawl Vessels



Rhode Island Bottom Trawl Vessels

With funding from:



Presented at Sept. 2015 TEWG Meeting

TEWG Informed Outcomes (cont'd)

- Fisheries Subgroup Identified Need
 - *Studies to date have not conclusively determined if spatial/temporal patterns in incidental RH catch may make “hot spot” avoidance practicable, and have not incorporated environmental variables that may help predict areas of high RH availability.*
- NMFS GARFO provided funds to the NEFSC in 2014 to develop a river herring/ Atlantic herring overlap forecast tool for use by the Atlantic herring fishery to minimize incidental river herring catches.



**USING HABITAT PREFERENCE
MODELS, OCEAN FORECASTS, AND
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH TO
REDUCE RIVER HERRING
INCIDENTAL CATCH**

By: Sara Turner^{1*}, Jonathan Hare¹, John Hoey¹, John Manderson²,
and David Richardson¹

¹NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Narragansett, RI 02882;

²NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Highlands, NJ 07732;

*current: MA Division of Marine Fisheries, New Bedford, MA 02740

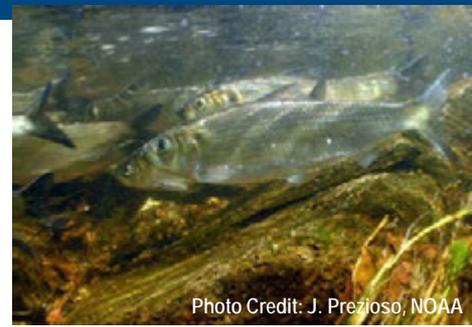
Presented at Sept. 2015 TEWG Meeting

<http://m.icesjms.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/09/15/icesjms.fsv166.abstract>

TEWG and Conservation Plan Outcomes Example

- Upon encouragement by NMFS, NEFMC and MAFMC have or are considering including river herring research needs into their research planning processes
 - MAFMC Collaborative Research Priorities
 - NEFMC 2017-2022 Research Priorities
 - MAFMC Comprehensive Five Year (2016-2020) Research Plan

Future Efforts and Direction



- NMFS and ASMFC Executive Summary
- Monitoring by TEWG and Subgroups
 - Track and monitor progress of conservation actions and research
 - Revise actions as needed
- Continue to stimulate cooperative research efforts and other funding opportunities (internally and externally).
 - Funding opportunities are important to continue efforts to fill data gaps, as well as further conservation efforts