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The New England Fishery Management Council's proposed Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan is an example of that approach, where

"NOAA Fisheries proposes regulations to implement Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. The New England Fishery Management Council developed Amendment 8 to specify a long-term acceptable biological catch control rule for Atlantic herring and address localized depletion and user group conflict.

"This amendment would establish an acceptable biological catch control rule for Atlantic herring that accounts for herring's role in the ecosystem and prohibit midwater trawling in inshore federal waters from the U.S./Canada border to the Rhode Island/Connecticut border.

"Amendment 8 is intended to support sustainable management of the herring resource and help ensure that herring is available to minimize possible detrimental impacts on predators of herring and associated socioeconomic impacts on other user groups."

That's not as bold a step toward ecosystem management as the ASMFC took with Atlantic menhaden, but it's still a reasonable step in the right direction.

So, right now, it looks like the ASMFC's adoption of ecological reference points was a big win for the conservation community, although we won't know for certain just how big a win it was until the ASMFC's October meeting, when the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board sets the annual catch limit for 2021.

If it sets that catch limit at or below the fishing mortality target, the celebrations can really begin. On the other hand, if it decides to be "flexible," as the Menhaden Fisheries Coalition, an association that includes the largest menhaden harvesters, urges, and allows fishing mortality to exceed the target level, we'll know that there is still more work to be done.

Thus, newspaper articles which declare that "Menhaden decision marks a new era in Atlantic fisheries management" are exaggerating the impact of the ASMFC's actions. While it certainly marked a new era in Atlantic menhaden management, its impact on Atlantic fisheries management will probably be somewhat less.

But that shouldn't detract from our enthusiasm over the ASMFC's actions. The ASMFC clearly took the right action based on the science and based on its own five-year plan, which supports a move toward ecosystem-based management.

Mackerel, herring and butterfish might not benefit from the ASMFC's actions.

But menhaden, and its predators, most certainly will.



Office of the
Secretary

Susan Lema



NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

In accordance with the RISAA By-Laws:
Article XI

Section 1. Election of Officers and Directors will take place during the Annual Meeting

C. The Secretary shall announce in the Association monthly newsletter for August and September that the date of the Close of Nominations for the election of Officers and Directors shall be October 15.

Therefore, all members are hereby notified that election of officers for 2020 will take place at the **Annual Meeting** to be held on **Monday, December 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm** at the West Warwick Elks, 60 Clyde St., West Warwick, RI.

Further, any member who wishes to run for election as a 2021 Officer or Board Member should notify either myself, or the chair of the Election Committee no later than October 15, 2020.



Warning to Connecticut Fishing License Holders

Scammers attempt to obtain angler information

On August 20, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Marine Fisheries Division alerted anglers that states in the area have reported attempts by scammers to obtain personal information from fishing license holders.

The scammers are utilizing a spoof phone number made to look like the licensing agency or providing a link to a bogus website. These scams are likely to vary, but generally include a warning that failure to contact them or follow the bogus link will result in suspension of your license or a delay in your ability to renew. The scammer then asks the licensee to share or verify personal information.

The CT DEEP does not ask for personal information in unsolicited emails.

If you receive a suspicious call or email, do not share any personal information, and you should never click on any link in an email that you consider suspicious.

If you have received an email of this type, please contact the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection at dcp.complaints@ct.gov.

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