



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE699]

Research Track Assessment for Atlantic Herring; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS will convene the Research Track Assessment Peer Review Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the Atlantic herring stock. The Research Track Assessment Peer Review is a formal scientific peer-review process for evaluating and presenting stock assessment results to managers for fish stocks in the offshore U.S. waters of the northwest Atlantic. Assessments are prepared by the research track working group and reviewed by an independent panel of stock assessment experts from the Center of Independent Experts. The public is invited to attend the presentations and discussions between the review panel and the scientists who have participated in the stock assessment process.

DATES: The public portion of the Research Track Assessment Peer Review Meeting will be held from March 10, 2025 – March 13, 2025. The meeting will conclude on March 14, 2025 at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Please see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the daily meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in person and virtually. The in-person meeting will be held in the S.H. Clark Conference Room in the Aquarium Building of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543 and virtually using this Google Meet link:

<https://meet.google.com/her-pcjt-aog>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Brian Hooper, 508-258-9580;

brian.hooper@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please visit the NEFSC website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/population-assessments/fishery-stock-assessments-new-england-and-mid-atlantic>. For additional information about research track assessment peer review, please visit the NEFSC webpage at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/population-assessments/research-track-stock-assessments>.

Daily Meeting Agenda – Research Track Peer Review Meeting

The agenda is subject to change; all times are approximate and may be changed at the discretion of the Peer Review Chair.

Monday, March 10, 2025

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
9 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Logistics	Conor McManus, Panel Chair Brian Hooper, Assessment Process Lead	
9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Research Track Process Overview	Kristan Blackhart, NEFSC PopDy Branch Chief	
9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Overview of Herring Research Track	Matthew Cieri	
10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Management History and Currant Practices	Jaime Cournane	
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Break		
10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Term of Reference (TOR) 1 - Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile & Supporting Analysis	Adelle Molina	Ecosystem
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Lunch		
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.	TOR 1 - Copepods & Vector Autoregressive	Sarah Gaichas	Ecosystem

	Spatio-Temporal (VAST) model		
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.	TOR 1 - Haddock Predation	Micah Dean	Ecosystem
3 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Break		
3:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.	TOR 1 - Stakeholder Observations	Jaime Cournane	Ecosystem
4 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Public Comment	Public	
4:15 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Discussion/Summary	Review Panel	Conclusions, Recommendations & Final Wrap-up of TOR 1
5 p.m.	Adjourn		

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
9 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	Welcome/Logistics/ Agenda	Conor McManus, Panel Chair Brian Hooper, Assessment Process Lead	
9:05 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	TOR 2	Ashley Asci, Matthew Cieri	Catch
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Break		
10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.	TOR 3	Mathew Cieri	Surveys
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Lunch		
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	TOR 4	Jonathan Deroba	Model
3 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Break		
3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	TOR 4, continued	Jonathan Deroba	Model
3:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Public Comment	Public	
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Discussion/Summary	Review Panel	Conclusions, Recommendations & Final Wrap-up of TORs 2, 3 & 4
5 p.m.	Adjourn		

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
9 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	Welcome/Logistics/ Agenda	Conor McManus, Panel Chair Brian Hooper, Assessment Process Lead	
9:05 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Review Homework	Conor McManus	If needed
10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	TOR 5	Jonathan Deroba	Biological Reference Points (BRPs)
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Break		
10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.	TOR 5, continued	Jonathan Deroba	BRPs
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Lunch		
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	TOR 6	Jonathan Deroba	Projections
3 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Break		
3:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.	TOR 8	Jonathan Deroba	Backup Approach
3:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Public Comment	Public	
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Discussion/Summary	Review Panel	Conclusions, Recommendations & Final Wrap-up for TORs 4, 5, 6 & 8
5 p.m.	Adjourn		

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
9 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	Welcome/Logistics/ Agenda	Conor McManus, Panel Chair Brian Hooper, Assessment Process Lead	
9:05 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Review Homework	Conor McManus	If needed
10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	TOR 7	Jaime Cournane	Research Recommendations

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Break		
10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.	TOR 7, continued	Jaime Cournane	Research Recommendations
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Lunch		
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Revisit any remaining issues	Conor McManus	If needed
3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Public Comment	Public	
3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Discussion/Summary	Review Panel	Conclusions, Recommendations & Final Wrap-up for TOR 7, any remaining issues
5 p.m.	Adjourn		

Friday, March 14, 2025

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Report Writing	Review Panel	If necessary, open session may be reconvened to revisit any remaining issues
5 p.m.	Adjourn		

The meeting is open to the public; however, during the ‘Report Writing’ session on Friday, March 14th, the public should not engage in discussion with the Peer Review Panel.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Special requests should be directed to Brian Hooper, via the email provided in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 25, 2025.

Karen H. Abrams,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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