

Building a Shared Vision of Atlantic Cod Population Structure and New England Fisheries

Thursday, June 6, 2019
University of New Hampshire

This symposium will present the preliminary findings of a one-year interdisciplinary review of Atlantic cod stock structure and provide an opportunity for participants to provide feedback on how these new findings relate to their on-the-water experience and observations. The symposium results will contribute information to the final report by the Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group (ACSSWG), which is focused on re-evaluating cod stock structure in US waters.

Objectives:

- Present the preliminary conclusions about cod stock structure from the perspective of six disciplines: 1) spawning and early life, 2) genetic markers, 3) basic life history [abundance, growth, maturity], 4) external or internal 'natural' markers, shape, or coloration, 5) applied markers, both conventional and technology tags, and 6) fisherman's ecological knowledge
- Capture insight and feedback from fishermen on what is being observed on the water to incorporate into the developing model by researchers
- Compare status quo and alternatives regarding biologically-supported stock structure of cod in US waters to further identify areas of common ground in the understanding of cod population structure and areas of remaining uncertainty
- Outline further steps forward for the working group and its products

8:30 AM **Registration** (*coffee & light breakfast available*)

9:00 AM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- *Erik Chapman, New Hampshire Sea Grant*
- *Laura Taylor Singer, Facilitator*

9:10 AM **Introduction to the Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group**

- *Richard McBride, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (ACSSWG, co-chair)*

9:20 AM **'Briefs' and Discussion: What Our Research is Showing Us**

- *Spawning and Early Life History* (Micah Dean, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries)
- *Genetic Markers* (Adrienne Kovach, University of New Hampshire)
- *Life History* (Richard McBride, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)



- 10:20 AM BREAK**
- 10:40 AM 'Briefs' and Discussion: What Our Research is Showing Us (Continued)**
- *Natural Markers* (Lisa Kerr, Gulf of Maine Research Institute)
 - *Applied Markers* – (Steve Cadrin, School for Marine Science & Technology)
 - *Fishermen's Ecological knowledge* (Greg DeCelles, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries)
- 11:40 AM Summary Discussion: Synthesizing Findings of Individual Disciplines**
- 12:00 PM LUNCH** *(Provided)*
- 1:00 PM Reflections on Morning Discussion**
- 1:20 PM Preliminary Ideas and Discussion: What We Think This Information is Telling Us about Alternative Models of Atlantic Cod Population Structure**
- *Richard McBride, Northeast Fisheries Science Center*
- 2:40 PM Symposium Wrap-up and Next Steps**
- *Richard McBride, Northeast Fisheries Science Center*
- 3:00 PM Adjourn**

