



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 2, 2015

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Jason Didden *JTD*

**SUBJECT:** Nov 23, 2015 River Herring/Shad (RH/S) Committee Meeting Summary

The RH/S Committee met on Nov 23, 2015 to receive updates on RH/S conservation, science, and management activities. The Committee also considered if any additional actions were appropriate to recommend to the Council for 2016. The presentations and a webinar recording are available at <http://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2015/rhs-committee-meeting>.

Update topics included:

- NOAA/ASMFC Technical Expert Working Group Progress
- Ongoing RH/S lawsuits
- Voluntary bycatch reduction programs (SMASST - University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)
- Genetic Research (stock areas, origin of bycatch)
- Bycatch/oceanographic linkages
- RH/S catch cap performance

While there were no motions from the meeting, discussions focused on the following issues:

- The revisiting of the RH/S stock in the fishery question should be a 2016 priority, and include a detailed analysis of conservation progress since the October 2013 Council decision.
- Lawsuit outcomes could affect planned 2016 activities (or their timing).
- The Committee would like to have ongoing discussions with staff about what will be included in analyses for the planned 2016 review of whether to initiate an action to consider adding RH/S as stocks in a Council-managed fishery management plan.
- Developments around RH/S catch avoidance should be tracked closely in case new information suggests additional management measures may be appropriate (e.g. time/area closures).