

On behalf of the management board, thank you to everyone for joining today. We recognize that this virtual format may be a poor substitute for the in person meeting and discussions we had planned for this spring but hope that it will be a productive morning and provide an opportunity for updates and at least some limited discussion. We hope to reschedule our in person meeting for the fall if that is allowed at the time!

I want to provide a quick overview of how we got here and where we are headed over the remainder of this year.

This Collaborative Management Strategy or CMS is the outcome of an internal review of the Atlantic salmon framework process. The CMS aimed to align our governance structure with the Recovery Plan and address the challenges associated with communications and decision making.

In the Fall of 2019, we began a one-year pilot of the CMS. The fundamental purpose of the CMS is to:

- Provide clarity on roles and responsibilities
- Provide clarity on where decisions are made
- Increase the speed of decision making
- Increase accountability and transparency
- provide more opportunities to Incorporate external partners and stakeholders

The basic structure of the CMS includes a Policy Board, Management Board, SHRU Teams and Committees. Much of the work of the CMS is handled by the SHRU teams. The SHRU Team is not a decision making body and participation is open to anyone.

These teams are the Penobscot, Merrymeeting Bay, Downeast teams. These teams are responsible for:

- planning, coordinating and tracking recovery efforts in each SHRU.
- Develop and maintain work plans that incorporate goals, priorities and actions, including stocking recommendations.
- Annual reporting on progress towards meeting recovery goals.

The Coordinating Committees are resource professionals from ME DMR, USFWS, NOAA, and PIN who use the individual expert advice and recommendations that they receive from the SHRU Teams to guide decisions and develop annual work plans.

The implementation team ensures vertical and horizontal communications across SHRUs, across agencies, with the Tribe, and among leadership. The IT provides a venue for collaboration and communication on substantive issues that affect the program as a whole, or affect another agencies' ability to carry out its programs.

The Implementation Team includes the 4 member management board representing NMFS, FWS, DMR, and PIN as well as a supporting member from each agency, the SHRU Team Chairs, a Science Advisor, and an Administrative Coordinator.

In addition to the Imp Team we have a structure for standing and ad hoc committees. Committees conduct specific tasks geared towards providing essential information necessary for the Implementation Team or Policy board to make informed decisions in respect to the direction of the program. The management board authorizes and sets the charge for committees. Each committee is guided by a terms-of-reference. To respond rapidly to a number of challenges and issues faced by the programs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have assembled a small number of ad hoc committees that will present information on their activities today.

Standing committees: Are considered permanent parts of the governance structure charged with performing specific functions that are essential to ensuring that the program is on track in achieving its stated goals and objectives. At this time there is one standing committee, the FERC (or fish passage) committee.

Ad Hoc Committees: Are short-term committees created to perform a specific task that addresses a specific problem, need or challenge. These committees aim to provide the implementation team, SHRU Teams or policy board with specific information they need to make informed decisions.

The CMS also retains the policy board, representing agency leadership from NMFS, FWS, DMR, and PIN. The policy board retains an oversight and dispute resolution role.

Progress to Date

The Implementation Team has been meeting regularly since the pilot began, with quarterly ½ day meetings. Additionally, in response to a need for more frequent collaboration and coordination brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have held biweekly conference calls. Each SHRU Team has held at least one in person meeting and has prepared reports reflecting on progress made in 2019; work to develop 5-year plans for each SHRU is ongoing.

The CMS is currently half way through a one year pilot to evaluate its effectiveness towards achieving the original goals of improving communication, collaboration and decision making. We will be working this fall to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of this current approach and identify steps and measures we can take to improve transparency, decision making, and

most importantly, progress towards recovery. What that evaluation will look like is still under consideration.

To close, on behalf of the management board, thank you again for taking the time to sit through this webinar this morning. We greatly appreciate your continued attention and commitment to this process and the recovery and restoration of Atlantic salmon.