Ken Booth started the meeting by taking roll call of the advisory panel members and requesting we move agenda item #6 (yo-yo rigs) to item #2 because it has relevance to the 1st agenda item (stock status). Ray Jobin made a motion to change the agenda, a second was made by Andrew Dangelo, and a vote resulted in all in favor, motion passed. K. Booth stated that Nicole Lengyel of the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW or the Division) is the Division staff member for the STB AP and turned it over to N. Lengyel to start the presentation.

N. Lengyel began the presentation (see attached) by reviewing the current striped bass stock status taken from the ASMFC 2013 benchmark stock assessment which stated that the stock was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring. N. Lengyel briefly discussed recruitment and the striped bass young of year (YOY) index from the Chesapeake Bay which indicated a strong year class in 2011 but a decline thereafter. N. Lengyel informed the group that according to the
stock assessment, if the current level of fishing mortality (F) is maintained through 2013-2017, there will be a high probability that the spawning stock biomass (SSB) will decline to a level beneath the threshold leading to the stock being overfished. N. Lengyel reviewed the process occurring at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) with the development of two draft addenda that will 1) set new reference points and 2) propose management options to reduce F. N. Lengyel urged anyone who had questions regarding the benchmark assessment or the process happening at ASMFC to contact her.

The next agenda item covered was the banning of yo-yo rigs in RI. N. Lengyel reviewed that this had been discussed at the 2013 AP meeting and turned into a larger mortality discussion which was referred to the RI Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC). The RIMFC thought it best to wait until the 2013 benchmark assessment had been completed to take on the issue of mortality further. N. Lengyel explained that because the yo-yo rig discussion had turned into a larger mortality discussion, it did not make sense to proceed any further until the process currently occurring at the ASMFC with the development of two draft addenda was completed.

Next, N. Lengyel reviewed the 2013 RI striped bass fishery. The 2013 floating fish trap (FFT) fishery was discussed first followed by the general category (GC) fishery. A brief discussion occurred regarding the overage that occurred in the GC in the spring. It was stated that with reporting requirements for dealers and online reporting it seems that such a large overage in the 1st sub-period should not be happening every year. N. Lengyel explained that the overage was due to 1) late dealer reporting and 2) high daily catch rates at the end of the 1st sub-period. N. Lengyel explained that dealers with poor reporting in 2013 will not be allotted as many striped bass tags in 2014 until their reporting improves. Additionally, N. Lengyel explained that with the requirement to notice 48 hrs before closing the fishery in addition to the daily catch rates increasing the last few days the fishery was open, an overage resulted. K. Booth asked about going to a one-ticket system to have more real-time reporting data. N. Lengyel explained that this was still an interest being pursued at the ACCSP. N. Lengyel reviewed the recreational landings from MRIP next. She stated that the Division recognizes that the wave 3 landings are extremely high and our Recreational Biologist Kevin Smith was looking into it further.

The 2014 FFT season and quota allocation was discussed next. It was stated that the Division was proposing that the start of the FFT season be changed from January 1 to April 1. N. Lengyel explained this was merely to assist the Division with compliance requirements they have with the ASMFC, not to change the nature of the fishery and that landings typically occur after April anyway. Additionally, the Division was proposing that they be given the authority to rollover any unused FFT quota to the GC beginning on October 15. N. Lengyel clarified that this was not an automatic rollover, nor did it mean that all of any remaining quota would be rolled over. If FFT quota remained on 10/15, the Division would consider several factors and make a decision regarding a rollover. Alan Glidden stated that the FFT’s were ok with the proposed changes. R. Enright asked why the GC fishery did not remain open in November and December if there was unused quota. N. Lengyel stated that the Division decided on a 5-day opening in November unsure what catch rates would be for the given time of year. After extremely low landings came in during that opening, the Division did not think a re-opening was warranted. A brief discussion then occurred regarding the unused FFT quota in 2013. A. Glidden updated the group stating that the unused quota resulted from one company not fishing in 2013. He also stated the future
of that company/FFT was uncertain at this point. Re-allocation of that companies share to the GC was briefly discussed. J. Macari made a motion for the Divisions proposed FFT management for 2014. A second was made by R. Jobin and a vote resulted in all in favor, motion passed.

The 2014 GC season and quota allocation was discussed next. It was stated that the Division was not proposing any changes for 2014. The group looked at what days of the week status quo openings would fall on. A motion was made by R. Enright for status quo and a second by R. Jobin. There was a discussion regarding how keeping it status quo for the opening dates could be confusing because June 6 was a Friday and the fishery is closed Friday/Saturday throughout. A brief discussion also took place regarding the potential changes that could take place in the MA fishery. N. Lengyel reviewed the MA public hearing notice and the proposed changes to the MA fishery. N. Lengyel then reviewed the timeline for the RIMFC process to illustrate that a decision regarding 2014 management could not be put off to another meeting after the MA public hearings. The group felt a decision had to be made and that if a drastic change in the MA fishery took place that there would be opportunity to comment or recommend changes to the RI season at the public hearing and RIMFC meeting. The motion on the table was modified to a June 8th opening and status quo of Sept. 8th opening. A second was made by J. Macari, a vote resulted in all in favor, motion passes.

K. Booth asked if there was any other business. N. Lengyel again stated that anyone with questions regarding the stock assessment or ASMFC process could contact her.

R. Beresford made a motion to adjourn and a second was made by A. Dangelo. The meeting was adjourned at this point.
Striped Bass Advisory Panel Meeting

January 28, 2014
Striped Bass Stock Status

Stock Status:

The striped bass stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring according to the ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Benchmark Assessment, 2013.

Female SSB = 128 million lbs, just above the threshold SSB = 127 million lbs, and below the target SSB = 159 million lbs.

Fishing mortality estimated to be 0.20, a value between the proposed new fishing mortality threshold (0.219) and fishing mortality target (0.18).
Striped Bass Stock Status

YOY Index

Stock Status:
- Strong recruitment 1993-2003
- Poor recruitment 2004-2009
- Strong 2011 year class followed by weak year class in 2012

Source: MD DNR
Striped Bass Stock Status

Stock Status:

Current F (0.20) maintained 2013-2017, high probability until 2015-2016 that:

SSB < SSB threshold

stock overfished
Review of 2013 Fishery Commercial – Floating Fish Trap

Striped Bass Floating Fish Traps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>2013 Quota Allocation</th>
<th>Rollover 1</th>
<th>Rollover 2</th>
<th>Total Landings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1 - Dec 31</td>
<td>93,586</td>
<td>5,078</td>
<td>8,512</td>
<td>79,996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Review of 2013 Fishery
Commercial - General Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>2013 Allocation</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Period Adjustment/Rollover</th>
<th>Remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 6 – Aug 31</td>
<td>102,275</td>
<td>112,101</td>
<td></td>
<td>-9,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 8 – Dec 31</td>
<td>43,832</td>
<td>39,183</td>
<td>3,764</td>
<td>8,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 Total</td>
<td>146,107</td>
<td>148,042</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Review of 2013 Fishery Preliminary Recreational Landings (MRIP)

Harvest (A+B1) Lbs

Wave

2012

2013
Review of 2013 Fishery Preliminary Recreational Landings (MRIP)

Total Harvest (A+B1) Numbers

Wave

2012

2013

3

4

5
The Division proposes the following changes for 2014:

- Change the season from January 1 – December 31 to April 1 – December 31
- Provide the Division the authority to move any remaining floating fish trap allocation to the general category beginning on October 15

The Division recommends maintaining the 26” minimum size (TL)
2014 General Category Commercial
Seasons and Quota Allocation

The Division does not propose any changes for 2014
2013 management:

- 34” minimum size (TL)
- January 1 – June 5: CLOSED
- June 6 – Aug. 31:
  - 70% of quota
  - 5 fish/person/day
  - CLOSED Friday and Saturday throughout
- Sept. 8 – Dec. 31:
  - 30% of quota
  - 5 fish/person/day
  - CLOSED Friday and Saturday throughout
Discussion of Recreational Striped Bass Fishery

The division does not propose any changes for 2014

2013 management:

- 28” minimum size (TL)
- 2 fish/person/day possession limit
In 2013 AP voted to send issue to RIMFC for further discussion including mortality issues and enforcement capabilities.

The RIMFC decided to wait for the 2013 ASMFC benchmark assessment to be completed and use that report as a foundation for further exploration of the issue.

Currently ASMFC is developing draft addendum in response to the benchmark assessment that:

- Propose the adoption of new F reference points
- Propose a range of management options to reduce F to at least Target F