



New England Fishery Management Council

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John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

REVISED Meeting Agenda
Red Crab Committee
Thursday, August 12, 2010
Sheraton 4 Points, Revere, MA

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and administrative issues
- 9:15 Review the status of the red crab fishery and recent developments in processing, marketing, and cooperative research
- 9:30 Review Draft Amendment 3 to the Red Crab Fishery Management Plan, which is intended to:
- Bring the Red Crab FMP into compliance with Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements for annual catch limits and accountability measures;
 - Establish specifications for fishing years 2011-2013;
 - Consider changes to the management system that respond to industry suggestions for increasing efficiency in the fishery:
 - Replace the Target TAC and Days-at-Sea management system with a hard TAC;
 - Eliminate trip limits;
 - Replace the blanket prohibition on landing more than one tote of females per trip with a procedure that would allow the harvest of female crab contingent upon SSC and Council approval of specifications that include a female ABC and ACL. (NMFS has requested that this proposal be moved to the "Considered but rejected" category based on the SSC Report to the Council on June 23, 2010 and other considerations.)
 - Modify the regulatory language concerning trap limits in the red crab fishery, which is currently written in a way that prevents vessels with both offshore lobster and limited access red crab permits from fishing both lobster and crab traps on the same trip.
 - Choose "preferred alternatives" for the management actions under consideration.