

DRAFT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S STRAWMAN FOR NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES VISION

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management is implemented with a gradual shift from single species management throughout the range to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management which is adaptive, specified geographically by ecosystem production units (EPU), takes into account uncertainties and strives to balance diverse social objectives.

There is comprehensive consideration of fishery and biological interactions in each ecosystem plan. Ecosystem constraints are considered by managers with an understanding that rebuilding timelines are not fixed within each EPU.

Management structures are simplified. One spatial ecosystem based plan, with three ecosystem production units (GB, GOM, and SNE) with 3 Committees and 3 APs. Resulting in greater stakeholder participation (co-management), better analyses of social, economic and biological impacts, improved fisheries trade-offs, and improved data collection and science partnerships. Social, economic, and biological measures of success are established for each EPU. These measures are monitored to ensure they are achieved.

ABCs/ACLs/and AMs are established for 3 geographical areas (EPU). Smaller scale management enhances stewardship, understanding and credibility of scientific data and models.

Quota Based Management

Quota based management, including catch shares, is the mainstay of fisheries management. Quota, not effort, is allocated to individuals, sectors and communities consistent with National Standard 4. ACLs and allocation of catch quotas based on each EPU. Effort and other input controls used only to supplement quota based management when needed.

Economics

All fleets are safe and economically viable. Allocation and accumulation limits are established within each EPU, which ensure fairness and maintain directed commercial and recreational fisheries. Fishing fleets are diverse including different gear types, vessel sizes, geographic locations of homeports, and levels of participation. Fleet capacity is commensurate with the overall health of the ecosystem production unit (EPU).

All States and fishing communities bordering the EPU share in the economic and social benefits from recreational and commercial fishing activities within the EPU. Coastal Communities support necessary infrastructure. Jobs and seafood are supplied to meet public demands.

Governance

There is coordination with states, MAFMC, ASMFC and other governance bodies to ensure the health of the EPU and sustainability of fisheries and communities are not jeopardized by fishing and non fishing activities.

Stakeholder engagement is maximized resulting in improved stewardship.

Enforcement remains a government priority. Monitoring is an industry responsibility.