

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Research Steering Committee

I. STATUS

A. Meetings: The Council's Research Steering Committee met on March 29, 2007 to conduct a management review of six gear-related final reports that were submitted to the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Cooperative Research Partners Program (NCRPP), as well as the Northeast Consortium. In addition, the committee discussed and developed recommendations concerning the NCRPP-sponsored peer review of the Southern New England yellowtail flounder pilot industry-based survey project conducted by the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife; received a briefing on the NCRPP-sponsored peer review of the study fleet and identified research priorities for 2007. Members also made initial comments on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's report on the impacts of fishing on groundfish spawning activities.

The objective of the RSC's management review of final reports is to provide feedback to the Council, its oversight committees and Plan Development Teams on the applicability and use of project results in management decision-making. The meeting summary also contains a number of RSC member technical comments on the reports listed below. Recommendations concerning the other issues on the agenda are discussed in the summary.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

A. The Council should review the recommendations of the RSC concerning use of the final project results in a management context and consider other issues contained in the summary and identified by the RSC Chairman. It should also review and approve the recommendations for 2007 research priorities made during the committee report.

II. INFORMATION

1. RSC meeting summary for March 29, 2007 meeting
2. NEFMC Research Review Policy
3. Final reports reviewed by the RSC (list below; documents are provided on the CD available to all Council members)
 - ***Groundfish Trawl Nets Designed to Reduce the Bycatch of Cod***; Submitted by Mike Pol, MA DMF and Luis Ribas, Provincetown, MA – Funded by the Northeast Consortium (NEC)
 - ***Development of Net to Reduce the Bycatch of Cod in the Flounder Fishery***;
 - Submitted by Allan Michael, ADM Associates and Industry Partner Bill Lee – Funded by the Northeast Consortium
 - ***A Rope Separator Trawl for Haddock and Pollack Using "B" DAS in the Inshore Western Gulf of Maine***; Submitted by Pingguo He, University of New Hampshire, along with UNH Research Associates Rachel Hamilton, Tracey Smith and

Sea Maxwell; and Industry Partner Carl Bouchard – Funded by the NCRPP (NOAA Fisheries)

- ***Cooperative Industry-Based at Sea Experiment to Test the Performance of Haddock Separator Trawl in Closed Area I on Georges Bank***; Submitted by David Martins, Steven Cadrin, and Brian Rothschild, School for Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth, MA and Industry Partner Robert Lane, - Funded by NCRPP (NOAA Fisheries)
 - ***Bycatch Reduction in the Directed Haddock Bottom Trawl Fishery***; Submitted by David Beutel, Laura Skrobe, and Kathleen Castro, University of Rhode Island Sea Grant Program; and Industry Partners Philip Ruhle, Sr., James O’Grady, Jonathan Knight and Philip Ruhle Jr. - Funded by the NCRPP (NOAA Fisheries)
 - ***Examining the Efficacy of a Haddock Separator Trawl in Eliminating Cod Bycatch in Limited Areas within Closed Area I and Closed Area II***; Submitted by Christopher Glass of Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Laura Taylor Singer and Catherine Salerno of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and Industry Partner James Odlin – Funded by NCRPP (NMFS)
4. NCRPP-sponsored peer review of the Southern New England yellowtail flounder pilot industry-based survey project conducted by the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife
 5. NEFMC correspondence to Pat Kurkul with Council research priorities for 2006
 6. NEFSC correspondence concerning the NERO’s Guidelines for Individuals Requesting Exempted Fishing Permits