

## NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### Research Steering Committee

#### I. STATUS

##### A. Meetings:

The Council's Research Steering Committee met on May 30-31, 2006 to: 1) conduct a management review of seven final reports submitted to the Northeast Region's Cooperative Research Partners Program and forwarded to the RSC; 2) discuss further refinements to the management review process; and 3) and review the sea scallop research set-aside process.

The objective of an RSC evaluation 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 contains the RSC's comments on the reports. Recommendations on other issues also are discussed in the meeting 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 as necessary.

#### II. INFORMATION

1. Final reports reviewed by the RSC (list provided; documents on the enclosed CD)
  - *Northeast Groundfish Study Fleet Pilot – Phase II Report for July 2004 – February 2005;*
  - *Improving the Selectivity of Trawl Gear with Escape Windows and Visual Stimuli;*
  - *Development of Video Techniques for Bycatch Reduction Study;*
  - *Assessment of Benthic Community Recovery in the Western Gulf of Maine Closed Area;*
  - *Near-term Observations of the Effects of Smooth Bottom Net Trawl Fishing Gear on the Seabed;*
  - *Ongoing Study Expansion - Smooth Bottom Net Trawl Fishing Gear Effect on the Seabed: Investigation of Temporal and Cumulative Effects;*
  - *Characterization of Bycatch Reduction from Codend Mesh Size Increases in the Directed Scup Bottom Trawl Fishery*
2. RSC meeting summary for May 30-31 2006 (to be distributed on and prior to the Council meeting)
3. Research Steering Committee Policy for Incorporation of Research Results into the NEFMC Management Process
4. NMFS Inventory of projects funded through the Cooperative Research Partners Program