

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Research Steering Committee

I. STATUS

A. Meetings:

The Council's Research Steering Committee met on October 25, 2006 to discuss the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries cod industry-based survey evaluation and project final report, as well as the status of the yellowtail flounder industry-based survey; and to develop a strategy for "next steps" with respect to review and use of findings. The committee also discussed the NERO Guidelines for Individuals Requesting Exempted Fishing Permits and recommended a course of action for further review. Additionally, members conducted a management review of six final reports that were submitted to the Northeast Region's Cooperative Research Partners Program (NCRPP) and the Northeast Consortium and forwarded to the RSC.

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 summary.

Finally, the committee discussed potential future uses of study fleets in NEFMC-managed fisheries and received an update from the Council staff concerning RSC-related activities since the last committee meeting. Topics included herring research priorities, project review workload, meeting scheduling and meeting locations.

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 consider other recommendations made during the committee report.

II. INFORMATION

1. Final reports reviewed by the RSC (list provided below; documents can be found on the websites indicated. Others are available upon request to the Council office)
 - *Determining Groundfish Movement Patterns in Closed Areas and Determining Groundfish Movement Patterns in and Around the Western Gulf of Maine Closed Area*, Submitted by UNH and industry partners - presentation by Dr. Hunt Howell followed by committee discussion - <http://www.northeastconsortium.org/projects.shtml#recset>
 - *Northeast Regional Cod Tagging Program*, Submitted by GMRI – presentation by Dr. Shelley Tallack - http://www.codresearch.org/GMRI_Final_Report_2003-2006.htm

- *Northeast Regional Cod Tagging Program – Georges Bank, Final Report 2003-2005*; Submitted by Brian Rothschild, SMAST and MA Division of Marine Fisheries
 - *A Tagging Study of Atlantic Cod in the Gulf of Maine (a component of the Northeast Regional Cod Tagging Program)*; Submitted by the ME Dept. of Marine Resources
 - *Tagging Cape's Cod, 2003 – 2004 (a component of the Northeast Regional Cod Tagging Program)*; Submitted by the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association
 - *Maine Scallop Fishery: Monitoring and Enhancement*; Submitted by the ME Dept. of Marine Resources (Dan Schick and Scott Feindel)
<http://www.northeastconsortium.org/projects.shtml#recset>
2. RSC meeting summary for October 25, 2006 meeting (final to be distributed prior to the Council meeting)
 3. Research Steering Committee Policy for Incorporation of Research Results into the NEFMC Management Process
 4. Northeast Regional Office's Guidelines for Individuals Requesting Exempted Fishing Permits
 5. Memorandum to Executive Committee dated October 13, 2006 – Possible Uses of Study Fleets
 6. List of final awards associated with NCRPP's 2006 Broad Agency Announcement