

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Research Steering Committee

I. STATUS

A. Meetings:

The Council's Research Steering Committee met on January 17, 2007 to evaluate the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries cod industry-based survey (IBS) project final report and peer review, and to begin discussions about the future direction of industry-based survey projects relative to other east coast trawl surveys, cooperative research priorities and available funding. Additionally, members conducted a management review of four other final reports that were submitted to the Northeast Region's Cooperative Research Partners Program (NCRPP), as well as 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.

The committee also discussed the Council's request for a peer review of the NCRPP-funded pilot study fleet project and developed a response to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's questions regarding details about proceeding with the peer review. Research set-aside programs and projects were also addressed during the meeting.

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. RSC meeting summary for January 17, 2007 meeting (final to be distributed prior to the Council meeting)
2. NEFMC Research Review Policy
3. Final reports reviewed by the RSC (list below; documents are provided on the CD mailed to all Council members or are provided in paper format in the mailing.)
 - *Correlation of Silver Hake Abundance with Bottom Water Temperatures in the Middle Atlantic Bight and Stock Identification Using Microsatellite DNA* – Undersea Research Foundation (Dr. William Phoel)
 - *Eastern Gulf of Maine Inshore Community-Based Tagging of Atlantic Cod* – Island Institute (Tagging component of the larger GMRI-led Northeast Regional Cod Tagging Program)

- *Comparison of Environmental Contaminants on Georges Bank and Stellwagen Bank* - PIs Dr. Emily Monasson and David Lincoln with 15 Gloucester boats participating in the project
 - *Sea trials to assess codend mesh selectivity*. Fisherman Kelo Pinkham, Trevett, ME with two additional ME fishermen and Dana Morse, ME Sea Grant
 - *Industry-Based Survey for Gulf of Maine Cod Pilot Study* – MA Division of Marine Fisheries
4. Summary of Industry-based Survey project reviews with NEFSC comments appended as a cover memorandum (includes cod IBS review materials, ME-NH Inshore Groundfish Trawl Survey review and reviews of the Mid-Atlantic supplemental finfish and monkfish surveys)
 5. Correspondence concerning the Council's request for a peer review of the NCRPP-funded pilot study fleet project
 6. NEFSC correspondence received January 23, 2007 addressing the Council's request for a review of the information available concerning the impacts of fishing on stocks during peak spawning periods relative to the issuance of Experimental Fishing Permits
 7. NERO correspondence received January 24, 2007 announcing the list of projects recommended for funding through the Council's scallop and monkfish research set-aside programs