

## **NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT Council**

### **Skates**

#### **I. STATUS**

- A. Amendment 3 status: Draft Amendment 3 and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement were submitted on schedule to NMFS and a Notice of Availability was published on September 26, 2008, commencing a 45-day comment period. The SSC met on October 6 to review the scientific analyses and finalize their comments at the November 10 SSC meeting.

Public hearings were held on October 27-30 in Hyannis, MA; New Bedford, MA; Narragansett, RI; and Portsmouth, NH. Skate wing fishermen strongly supported Alternative 3B with a 2005-2007 basis for allocating the TAL. Skate bait fishermen and dealers strongly supported Alternative 4 with three seasonal quotas, using the 1995-2006 basis for allocating the TAL.

The Skate Oversight Committee met jointly with Skate Advisors on November 14, 2008 to develop recommendations for a final alternative.

#### **II. COUNCIL ACTION**

The Council will choose a final alternative for Amendment 3, based on public comments, the DEIS analysis, and recommendations of Skate Advisors and the Skate Oversight Committee.

#### **III. INFORMATION**

1. Skate decision document (handout to be prepared after the Skate Oversight Committee meeting).
2. Amendment 3 public hearing document.
3. Skate Oversight Committee meeting summary (handout to be prepared after the Skate Oversight Committee meeting).
4. Public hearing summaries.
5. Written comments on Amendment 3 received by November 10, 2008 (handout to be prepared after the comment period deadline).
6. Draft Social Impact Assessment, addendum to Draft Amendment 3.