

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Skate Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Emergency Action: The Regional Administrator published a proposed rule (see Document 3) for Emergency Action to implement updated catch limits in the 2011 fishing year, based on the Council's June 2011 request. The proposed rule had a 15-day comment period, closing on September 14, 2011. This rule would adjust the 2011 ACL specifications to be consistent with those approved by the SSC in June 2011 and included in the 2012-2013 skate specifications document.
- B. Skate specifications: A Draft Final Skate Specifications Document (see Document 1) has been prepared by staff. Measures in this document would be submitted to NMFS after the September Council meeting to be implemented by May 1, 2012.
- C. Meetings: The Skate Oversight Committee met on September 14, 2011 to review the skate specifications document and recommend final alternatives.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. The Council should approve final alternatives for the 2012-2013 skate specifications

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Draft Final 2012-2013 Skate Specifications Document
- 2. Letter to states informing them of increases in skate landings from state-permitted vessels. Responses from MA and RI are included.
- 3. Proposed rule for Emergency Action to implement updated catch limits in the 2011 fishing year, published August 30, 2011. Supplemental Environmental Assessment: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/frdoc/11/11SkatePREA.pdf>
- 4. Skate monitoring reports as of September 8, 2011