

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Scientific and Statistical Committee

I. STATUS

Meetings: The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met on March 17-18, 2009 to accomplish the following:

- **Scallops** - Review proposed methods for analyzing Amendment 15 social and economic impacts;
- **Monkfish** - Review and comment on proposed methods for determining monkfish ABC and ACLs, as well as other management reference points to be included in Amendment 5 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan;
- **Habitat** - Evaluate the sufficiency of the Habitat Plan Development Team's Fishing Gear Seabed Impact (FiGSI) model as a basis for crafting and analyzing alternatives to be included in Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2; the action is intended to minimize to the extent practicable the adverse effects from fishing on essential fish habitat; and
- Review the outcome of a February conference call and any other business related to planning for a proposed EBFM Workshop.

A report on the SSC's review of these items will be presented to the Council on April 7 by SSC Chair Dr. Steve Cadrin.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Review the SSC recommendations on the items identified above.

III. INFORMATION

Paper copies of the Terms of Reference memoranda for the above topics are provided in the Council mailing along with PowerPoint presentations containing summary information. Additional documents provided to the SSC as background information are included on the enclosed CD. Any outstanding final documents summarizing the SSC's discussions and comments will be forwarded to Council members prior to the meeting.

1. **Scallops:** March 5, 2009 memo from the Scallop Plan Development Team to the SSC - Follow-up of issues to be reviewed related to Scallop Amendment 15
2. Staff PowerPoint Presentation given to the SSC

Scallop Background Documents on CD (4): A.) Sections of Scallop Amendment 15 DEIS – Description of stacking and leasing alternatives only; B.) Summary of methods used for economic analyses; C.) Addendum to Methods used for Economic Analyses, including information discussed and analyses prepared since the February 16 sub-Committee meeting; and D.) Issues that will be considered in the social impact assessment for Amendment 15.

3. **Monkfish**: February 27, 2009 cover memo from Executive Director Paul Howard to the SSC - Initial Monkfish Report and Terms of Reference
4. Staff PowerPoint Presentations given to the SSC – Initial PDT Report on Proposed Biological and Management Reference Points; Monkfish Assessment Summary
5. Initial Report of the Monkfish PDT to the NEFMC’s Scientific and Statistical Committee

Monkfish Background Documents on CD (3): A.) Haring, P., and Maguire, J.J., 2008. The monkfish fishery and its management in the northeastern USA. In: ICES Journal of Marine Science. 65: 1370-1379; B.) Northeast Data Poor Stocks Working Group. 2007. Monkfish Assessment Summary for 2007. Northeast Fisheries Science Center Reference Document 07-13; C.) Richards, R.A., Nitschke, P. C., and Sosebee, K. A.. 2008. Population biology of monkfish *Lophius Americanus*. In: ICES Journal of Marine Science. 65: 1291 -1305.

6. **Habitat**: March 6, 2009 cover and terms of reference memo from Executive Director Paul Howard to the SSC – Review of EFH Omnibus 2, Phase II, Analytical Tool (FiGSI)
7. Staff PowerPoint Presentation given to the SSC – Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2, Phase II Analysis Methods

Habitat Background Documents on CD (6): A.) The Fishing Gear Seabed Impact Model: A tool for assessing the potential adverse effects of fishing on Essential Fish Habitat in the Northeast region; B.) Draft Summary of 03 March 2009 Habitat Oversight Committee meeting; C.) Summary of 13 February 2009 Habitat PDT conference call; D.) Summary of 11 February 2009 Habitat PDT meeting; E.) Summary of 15 January 2009 Habitat Oversight Committee meeting; and F.) Summary of 7-8 January 2009 Habitat PDT meeting