

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Scientific and Statistical Committee**

**I. STATUS**

- A. **Meetings:** The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met on December 8-9, 2009 primarily to review the Habitat Plan Development Team's Swept Area Seabed Impact (SASI) model and comment on its potential use as a basis for crafting and analyzing alternatives to minimize to the extent practicable the adverse effects of fishing on Essential Fish Habitat. The committee also reviewed the Council's 2009-2013 research priorities and recommended a number of revisions, outlined tasks for the development of an Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management white paper, provided an overview of the issues discussed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> National SSC Workshop held in November 2009, and developed a 2010 meeting calendar in addition to discussing a number of SSC process-related issues. Comments on the National Standard 2 proposed rule published on Dec. 11, 2009 were developed by correspondence and will be presented by staff and the SSC Chair.

**II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. A report outlining the SSC's review of the habitat model and other recommendations will be presented by SSC Chair Dr. Steve Cadrin on Wednesday, January 27, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. No formal action is required by the Council, but motions could be made based on the issues discussed in the SSC report, including the NS2 comments and the revised research recommendations.

**III. INFORMATION .**

1. SSC committee meeting report by Dr. Steven Cadrin (*to be provided prior to the Council meeting*);
2. Memo from Executive Paul J. Howard with attached NS2 comments from SSC members and Council staff, and including the NS2 proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on December 11;
3.
  - a. December 1, 2009 memo containing the Terms of Reference and background information to facilitate the SSC review of the SASI model;
  - b. March 26, 2009 SSC memo to former PDT Chair Chad Demarest with technical feedback on EFH Omnibus Omnibus 2 and the SASI model
  - c. December 4, 2009 document titled SASI Model: A Tool for Analyzing the Effects of Fishing on Essential Fish Habitat
4. Revised 2009-2013 Research Priorities and Data Needs; and
5. SSC tasks and meeting schedule for 2010.