



New England Fishery Management Council

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John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 5, 2011
TO: Council
FROM: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Summary of January 4, 2011 meeting

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 in Newburyport, MA. Messrs. Pappalardo, Cunningham, Odlin, Ms. McGee and Ms. Kurkul participated in the meeting. Drs. Cadrin, Thompson, Weinberg and Rago attended the meeting as well as Messrs. Howard, Kellogg, Nies, Ms. Roy, Ms. Fiorelli and Ms. Stone from the Council staff. The committee discussed the following agenda items:

1. Discuss Groundfish ACL setting process for 2011: The committee discussed the ABC setting process for Groundfish in 2011. The Cte reviewed 4 options provided by NEFMC staff and agreed to schedule 3 different meetings. The first meeting would be held by an expanded Groundfish PDT to include NEFSC staff. The SSC's "leads" on groundfish would attend this meeting to serve as liaisons to the SSC. During this first meeting, the group would identify the available data, raise red flags (ex., note inconsistencies between projections and survey data) and explore alternative methods if necessary. A second meeting would occur between the expanded PDT and the full SSC to discuss any alternative approaches and finalize methods. A third meeting would be held by the SSC to develop the ABC recommendations that would ultimately be forwarded to the Council. Staff will coordinate agendas, participation and scheduling for these three meetings. See Encl. (1).

2. Discuss US/CA TAC for yellowtail flounder and how this will or will not change how we interact with CA on management: The Cte discussed recent legislation (HR 81) and its affect on the US/CA transboundary management agreement. The legislation removes the MSA 10-year rebuilding requirement for stocks managed under the agreement. The Cte agreed that the TMGC should meet by video conference to explore adjusting harvest levels for 2011 as soon as possible. See Encl (2).

3. Discuss calibration of skate survey data: The Cte reviewed the planned skate calibration and SSC peer review timelines. The Cte agreed with the milestones and timelines developed by staff. See Encl (3).

4. *Review 1) the draft EBFM policy document from the SSC; 2) MAFMC TORs on EBFM for their SSC. Upon review, develop a strawman proposal and timeline for EBFM planning (consistent with approved priorities for 2011) to be presented to the Council in January 2011 and 3) discuss CMSP planning:* The Cte agreed with the current plan for the Council to receive 3 presentations from our SSC about ecosystem based fisheries management plans (EBFM). The Cte acknowledged that Cape Wind type projects are moving very quickly. The Cte agreed that our efforts as a member of NROC may not be enough and the Council should also better coordinate with Dept of Interior's BOEMRE. It was agreed that a BOEMRE representative would be invited to a Council meeting to describe planned energy projects in the region.

5. *Discuss Update on Marine Spatial Planning:* It was agreed that the Executive Director should prepare a series of maps of the regions fishing grounds, essential fish habitat, and hot spots of biomass and biodiversity which need identification and protection from non-fishing impacts. These maps will help us better represent fishing interests at meetings with BOEMRE and NROC.

6. *Approve SSC membership:* The Cte approve Mr. Correia and Drs. Chen, Legault, Thunberg and St. Martin as new members of the SSC. The Cte discussed potential issues that may arise from members serving on both the SSC and PDT. The length of terms was broken down into 1, 2, and 3 years. The new list of members is attached. See Encl (4).

7. *Discuss and approve SOPPs:* The Cte agreed to forward the revised SOPPs to the Council for approval at the January Council meeting. See Encl (5).

8. *Approve Skate and Monkfish Advisors and approve an additional Enforcement and an additional Groundfish advisor:* The Cte reviewed applications and species committee recommendations and approved new advisory panel members for the Monkfish, Groundfish, Enforcement and Skate panels.

9. *Discuss the use of a proxy for AP members; consider a written policy:* The Cte agreed that language should be added to the existing AP policy that would state that no proxies are allowed for AP members. See Encl (6).

10. *Discuss change to election process policy for Executive Committee members:* The Cte discussed and recommended a change to the policy for approval of Executive Committee members by the Council. See Encl (7).

11. *Discuss timelines and management options:* The Cte reviewed management timelines and agreed that the Council, Committee and PDT chair should revisit the Herring Amendment's monitoring objectives for the purpose of refocusing and tasking the PDT with developing alternatives to meet those objectives. It was agreed that the Chair, PDT and Herring Chair should have a conference call to discuss this and the Herring Committee meeting scheduled for Jan 20, 2011.