

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Scientific and Statistical Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet on November 17 and possibly the morning of November 18 to elect a committee vice chairman, finalize recommendations for Amendment 3 to the Skate Fishery Management Plan, develop comments on the NMFS Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning National Standard 2, approve five-year research priorities and further develop its operating procedures based on the proceedings of the recent national SSC Workshop and further committee discussion. A report on these items will be presented to the Council on November 18.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

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

III. INFORMATION

1. September 25, 2008 memorandum from Executive Director Paul Howard relative to the SSC's review of the scientific basis of Skate Amendment 3, including the terms of reference; the amendment is located at http://www.nefmc.org/skates/planamen/amend3/Amend3_DSEIS_Sept08.htm.
2. September 18, 2008 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which proposes to the revise National Standard 2 (NS2) guidelines regarding use of best scientific information available, following reauthorization of the MSRA, and possibly including the content and purpose of Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Reports, adding language about peer review processes, the role of SSCs and the relationship between peer reviews and SSCs; (draft comments, if any, will be provided at the Council meeting).
3. NEFMC Draft Five-Year Research Priorities; (draft to be provided via email prior to the Council meeting; any additional priorities added by the SSC will be presented at the Council meeting).
4. SSC Report and Presentation from October 7-8 Council Meeting.
5. Draft SSC Schedule for Reviewing Council Management Actions.