

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Whiting (Small Mesh Multispecies) Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Amendment 19: The Council plans to approve a draft amendment document in January 2012 and approve a final amendment in April 2012, which will include ACL specifications and accountability measures. This timetable was pushed back one meeting to allow time for the PDT to develop the draft amendment and analyze the alternatives. Alternatives approved by the Council in Sep 2011 will be described and analyzed for impacts in a draft amendment to be approved in January 2012 for public hearings.

- B. Meetings: The Whiting PDT met twice in October to analyze and develop Draft Amendment 19 alternatives. Several policy issues arose and were communicated to the Oversight Committee.

The Whiting Advisory Panel and Skate/Whiting Oversight Committee met on Nov 3 to refine the Draft Amendment 19 alternatives. Whiting PDT meetings will be scheduled in December and January to complete a Draft Environmental Assessment. A Skate/Whiting Oversight Committee meeting will be held in January to choose preferred alternatives based on the final analyses.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. The Oversight Committee will report on the status of Amendment 19 alternatives.

III. INFORMATION

1. Revised Draft Amendment 19 timeline.
2. Skate/Whiting Oversight Committee meeting summary, Nov 3, 2011.