



New England Fishery Management Council

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 C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 15, 2012
TO: Council
FROM: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Summary of October 9, 2012

The Executive Committee met on October 9, 2012 at the Sheraton Colonial Hotel in Wakefield, MA. Messrs. Cunningham, Stockwell, Blount, Dempsey, Preble, Bullard and Darcy participated in the meeting. Messrs. Howard and Kellogg and Ms. Roy attended from the Council staff. Dr. Bill Karp of the NEFSC participated as well. The committee discussed the following agenda items:

1. Discuss timelines and management actions: Mr. Kellogg reviewed the draft timelines. During the habitat discussion, the committee agreed to incorporate a potential extra March or late July/early August Council meeting to speed up completing the amendment if possible.

2. Discuss November 9 science forum: Dr. Karp discussed the workshop which will be held in the Portsmouth, NH area. Dr. Karp explained the setup of the program with panels, Q&A sessions and general sessions to discuss data sources (surveys) and assessments. A preliminary agenda will be forthcoming and the public will be notified to pre-register their attendance online.

Mr. Howard asked about the value of a cooperative research discussion. Mr. Preble stated the public's lack of understanding of cooperative research v. cooperative assessment and stressed the importance of clarifying the differences. Mr. Bullard asked how to make the workshop more than one of complaints and feels the industry needs the chance to have a dialogue about how science is related to them. How should industry suggestions from the workshop be acted upon? Mr. Dempsey stated the need to improve the science process. Mr. Howard stressed the need to improve the fisherman's involvement and participation in the workshop process.

3. Approve reappointment of SSC membership expiring 12/31/12 and discuss SSC meeting schedule for 2013: Mr. Kellogg reviewed the current list of SSC members and their terms and explained that Dr. Les Kaufman has asked to not be reappointed at the end of his 12/31/12 term. Staff will check with current SSC members to see if they wish to be reappointed to the committee and will work with current SSC members to seek out a replacement for Dr. Kaufman. Mr. Dempsey inquired about having a third party review the makeup of the committee and provide an objective opinion on making improvements to the overall membership. The committee agreed that at this time they will keep it simple and replace Dr. Kaufman as an ecologist, but there is potential in the future to discuss reviewing the composition of the committee with a 3rd party.

4. Review priorities including the cost benefit of additional resources provided by NMFS to the Council: Mr. Howard reviewed the draft management priorities and recommended, based on current staff, consideration should be given to working on EBFM, whiting or skates. Mr. Stockwell suggested splitting Groundfish Amendment 18 to address the development of accumulation limits. The committee agreed to keep the priority numbering the same for the groundfish, monkfish, sturgeon, scallop, herring, SBRM, red crab, Habitat, RSC, SSC and enforcement priorities as is for further discussion at the November Council meeting. From the 3 actions listed for consideration, the committee agreed to proceed with combining whiting/skates and moving it above the line and delaying EBFM action. The committee agreed to review the PDT makeup to ensure the committees are working at their potential. The Executive Director will look into the Knauss Fellowship program that may cover the cost of additional members to the PDT. Mr. Bullard explained that getting help through the Knauss Fellowship program might be difficult because there is a high demand for the people in the program.

5. Discuss scup joint management: Mr. Howard stated that looking at 2011 commercial landings of scup, NE states landed 54% of scup compared to 46% in the Mid-Atlantic area. Mr. Darcy explained that the Northeast Regional office will continue to develop a white paper and it will be brought to the November Council and NRCC meetings for further discussion. Mr. Cunningham stated that 2 seats for New England Council members have been added to the MAFMC's Demersal and Coastal Migratory Committee.

6. Discuss FOIA for Council members: Mr. Howard reviewed a recent FOIA request which is under appeal. The DOC lawyers are reviewing our response to the FOIA and will let us know the outcome of the appeal.

7. Discuss GB and the ASMFC GOM winter flounder addendum: Mr. Stockwell reviewed the motion from the September Council meeting approving the 2013 quotas for the US/CA resource sharing understanding for analysis in Framework 48 including the SSC recommendation for an ABC of 1,150 mt as a bycatch fishery. Mr. Stockwell felt that this will be a contentious issue at the next Groundfish Committee meeting. Mr. Dempsey stated that the SSC should only provide management advice when we request it and that we need OFLs and specific ABCs. Mr. Cunningham will provide TMGC background information at October 11 committee meeting. Mr. Howard stated that the determination that 1,150 mt is based on the best available science and must be made by NMFS.

8. Closed Session: The Executive committee reviewed in closed session the 25 applications received for the position of Executive Director.