

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Research Steering Committee**

**I. STATUS**

Meetings: Since the last Council meeting held in late January 2011, the Research Steering Committee met on February 28, March 16 and April 14. The February 28 meeting was convened principally to review a number of cooperative research projects, in keeping with the Council's research review policy. Members discussed eight projects, each listed below, and made recommendations concerning their technical soundness and applicability to management decision-making.

At its March 16 meeting the committee discussed possible revisions to the research review policy, the publication *Challenges and Opportunities of Open Data in Ecology* and committee emphasis and involvement in Council's RSA programs, NMFS cooperative research activities and those that take place under the auspices of other funders --- i.e. the Northeast Consortium, Southern New England Collaborative Research Initiative, and SMAST. The committee also reviewed the final cooperative research report *Exploring Bycatch Reduction in the Haddock Fishery Through the Use of the Eliminator Trawl with Fishing Vessels in the 250 to 550 HP Range*.

Review of the above project was continued at the April 14, 2011 meeting. The discussion at that time included the final review by the RSC, as well as issues related to incorporating new trawl gear types into the groundfish management program.

**II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. No action is required by the Council, although members may wish to comment on or ask questions about the RSC's discussion and project reviews.

**II. INFORMATION**

1. Exploring Bycatch Reduction in the Haddock Fishery Through the Use of the Eliminator Trawl with Fishing Vessels in the 250 to 550 HP Range; Laura Skrobe and Kathleen Castro, URI; David Beutel, Coastal Resources Management Council, Wakefield, RI; and Jonathan Knight, South Kingstown, RI
2. Appendix to the above final report
3. Publication *Challenges and Opportunities of Open Data in Ecology, Science, Vol 331, February 2011*
4. The following reports and accompanying technical reviews are provided on the enclosed CD and are listed below.

- a. Drifter study of a front in the Maine coastal current system off Penobscot Bay, Maine, Lewis S. Incze, Aquatic Systems Group, Proctor Wells, James Manning NEFSC, D. Grooms
  - b. A biological study of the sand lance in the southern GOM, Dr. Les Kaufman and Briana Brown, Boston University
  - c. Selective gear research and development to reduce bycatch: Investigating the use of square mesh side panels and increased taper in a groundfish trawl, Capt. Stanley Coffin, Dana Morse Maine Seagrant, Claudia Coffin and Capt Kelo S. Pinkham
  - d. Effects of the Western Gulf of Maine Closure Area on groundfish populations in rocky habitats, Raymond E Grizzle UNH
  - e. An Atlas Based Audit of Fishing Territories, Local Knowledge, and the Potential for Community Participation in Fisheries Science and Management, Kevin St. Martin, Madeleine Hall-Arber
  - f. Mapping mobility: The movement of New England Multispecies vessels and crew in New England and beyond from 1994-2004, Jennifer Brewer, Sarah Robinson
  - g. Testing raised-webbing gillnets to reduce bycatch of cod while targeting pollock, Steve Eayrs and Daniel J. Salerno, GOMRI
  - h. Haddock migration in New England Waters: Analysis of closed areas and stock boundaries, Tom Rudolph, Cape Cod Hook Fishermen's Association
5. RSC meeting summaries February 28, 2011; March 16 and April 14 (combined). *These documents will be mailed out to members prior to April 26-28 Council meeting.*