

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Skate Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Skate specifications: The Scientific and Statistical Committee met on November 15, 2013 to discuss updates to the Skate ABC and the use of revised discard mortality rate estimates for four of the seven skate species. Updates approved by the SSC will be used for 2014 – 2015 skate specifications. The Skate PDT updated the survey and fishery data through 2012 to estimate ABC specifications for 2014 – 2015.
- B. Framework Action: The Council voted at the September 2013 Council meeting to remove the unclassified skate wing VTR code from the Northeast Skate Complex FMP. The unclassified skate wing VTR code is listed in the original FMP and therefore requires council action via a framework to remove the code. The framework will be developed to remove the unclassified wing VTR code and to set skate specifications for 2014 – 2015 with a final vote expected at the January 2014 Council meeting.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Initiate a Framework to set specifications for FY 2014 – 2015 and remove the unclassified skate wing VTR code.

III. INFORMATION

1. Memo from William A. Karp, Ph.D. Re: Update of Skate Stock Status Based on NEFSC Bottom Trawl Survey Data through autumn 2012 and spring 2013
2. Skate Joint Advisory Panel and Oversight Committee meeting summary, September 20, 2013