

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Scientific and Statistical Committee

I. STATUS

A. Meetings:

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met on June 14-15, 2011 in Portland, ME. The Committee:

- Received an update from the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) on the process for setting Acceptable Biological Catch for all groundfish stocks for 2012 -2014. The PDT provided the SSC preliminary information comparing past survey trends to stock size and described other analyses that are planned to examine the reliability of stock projections. The SSC developed guidance to the PDT for additional work on these topics which will be communicated to the PDT at the end of June. (information item A.1)
- Discussed and supported a process for developing a “risk policy” for setting ABC suggested by the Council staff. The staff will communicate its recommendation to the Executive Committee (information item C.1)
- Reviewed analyses and presentations provided by the Skate Plan Development Team (PDT) and developed an ABC recommendation for the Council to consider in setting specifications for the skate fishery in fishing years 2012– 2013. (information item B.1)
- Discussed improving communications with the public at SSC meetings and with the Council

II. COUNCIL ACTION

None - The Council will consider the SSC recommendation for the ABC for the skate complex when it approves measures for skate specifications for fishing years 2012 -2013 (under the Skate agenda item).

III. INFORMATION

A. Groundfish Reference Documents

1. SSC Memo, June 20, 2011 re Process for setting ABC for Groundfish Stocks for 2012 -2014
2. Memo from Paul Howard to SSC, June 1, 2011 re SSC Meeting: Groundfish Discussion
3. Groundfish PDT memo April 16, 2011 re FY 2012-2014 ABCs
4. Groundfish PDT memo May 31, 2011 re FY 2012-2014 ABCs
5. Groundfish PDT memo June 10, 2011 re FY 2012-2014 ABCs: Update on Analytic Work
6. Groundfish ABCs - Presentation to SSC – June 14, 2011
7. Letter from Nancy Thompson to Paul Howard, December 27, 2010
8. Memo from Paul Howard, Jan. 4, 2011, Summary of Jan 4, 2011 Exec. Committee Mtg.

B. Skate Reference Documents

1. SSC memo, June 20, 2011, Skate Complex Acceptable Biological Catch, Annual Catch Limit and Total Allowable Landings
2. Memo from Paul Howard to SSC, May 20, 2011 re Terms of Reference (Northeast Skate Complex) for June 14-15, 2011 SSC Meeting
3. 2012-2013 Skate Complex Acceptable Catch Limit Recommendations (*document under Tab 13*)
4. Skate Discard Mortality Rate Review

C. Other Documents

1. Council Staff memo to SSC, June 13, 2011 re Developing a Council Risk Policy