

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Risk Policy Working Group

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Risk Policy Working Group (RPWG) met by webinar on January 23, 2026.
- B. Use and Development of Risk Policy: The revised Risk Policy statement and concept took effect on January 1, 2025. The use and further development have been carried out in two concurrent phases (Alpha and Beta). The Alpha phase has focused on the use of updated Risk Policy matrices. The Beta phase includes the refinement of the Risk Policy Concept, including the mechanics and translation of Z-scores, factors, the scoring and weightings process. The Beta phase is also considering data flows, and connection to harvest control rules through simulation testing. A work plan has been developed to complete work on the Beta Phase by June 2026. This would culminate with the Council completing a weightings exercise for all stocks and approving changes to the Risk Policy Concept.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

No Council action is required.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Staff Presentation (*to be provided*)
- 2. Risk Policy Beta Work Plan
- 3. Recommended Revisions to Risk Policy Concept
- 4. Meetings Summaries – June 2023 through November 2025
- 5. Correspondence

- Prior meeting materials and the Risk Policy Concept can be found [here](#).