

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Small Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee

I. STATUS

Meetings:

- PDT webinar – October 14
The PDT reviewed a draft annual monitoring and fishery performance report, developing management recommendations.
- Joint Small-Mesh Multispecies Committee and Advisory Panel (AP) webinar – November 6.
The Committee and AP received a report on annual monitoring and fishery performance, providing additional comments and recommendations for the final report. The AP also provided comments on the on-demand gear framework and discussed management measures for potential inclusion in a 2027-2029 specifications action.

Specifications: Catch specifications for 2024-2026 are in effect. A data update is scheduled for September 2026, and the Council will prepare new specifications for 2027-2029 based on the results.

Annual monitoring The PDT will present a final annual monitoring report with additional fishery performance and risk factor data summaries. The annual monitoring indicates that small-mesh multispecies catches did not exceed the Annual Catch Limit (ACL), except for an 18% overage of southern red hake. Most of the southern red hake is discarded and was associated with the squid fishery.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

The Council should consider the PDT recommendations and rationale to defer the post-season accountability measure (AM) for southern red hake which the default AM would otherwise reduce the 2026 TAL trigger from 40% to 22% of the TAL.

III. INFORMATION

1. Presentation
2. Final annual monitoring and fishery performance report
3. [Committee and Advisory Panel meeting summary, November 6, 2025](#)