

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Small Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Amendment 22 (limited access): The Council held five public hearings in Gloucester, New Bedford, Warwick, Montauk, and Tinton Falls, NJ to accept public comment on Draft Amendment 22. The close of the comment period was August 6, 2018 and the Council received 18 written comments. A joint Committee and Advisory Panel meeting was held on August 29, 2018 to consider the comments and impacts analyses to recommend final alternatives. Final action on Amendment 22 will be postponed until the December Council meeting to allow for a re-opening of the public comment period to address a discrepancy in the amendment and public hearing document.
- B. Annual Monitoring Report for Fishing Year 2017: The PDT completed the annual monitoring report which summarizes 2017 catches (catches did not exceed the Annual Catch Limits for any stocks), trends in survey biomass (no change in status), and recent effort and economic trends in the fishery.
- C. Regulatory streamlining: The Committee considered GARFO concerns about potential actions to streamline small-mesh multispecies regulations. Council approval of the final list is recommended.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Approval of final Council recommendations for regulatory streamlining for the small-mesh multispecies fishery.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Memo from Tom Nies explaining Amendment 22 discrepancy and corrections to Amendment 22 and the Public Hearing Document
- 2. August 29, 2018 Small-Mesh Multispecies Committee meeting summary
- 3. Documents (link)
 - Public hearing Document (uncorrected):
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Amendment-22-public-hearing-document.pdf>
 - Draft Amendment 22 (uncorrected):
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Amendment-22-DEIS-final-submission.pdf>
 - Public Hearing Summaries: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Summary-of-Amendment-22-public-hearings.pdf>
 - Written Comments: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Amendment-22-Written-Comments-r.pdf>

Draft Decision Document: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Document-3a.-Final-Amendment-22-Decision-Document.pdf>

4. Presentation: Annual Monitoring Report
5. Annual Monitoring Report for Fishing Year 2017
6. Presentation: Small-Mesh Multispecies Regulatory Streamlining
7. List of recommendations for small-mesh multispecies fishery regulatory streamlining
8. Correspondence