

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Small Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Southern Red Hake rebuilding: The Plan Development Team (PDT) developed advice on conceptual approaches to rebuilding, considering the existing information on population dynamics for southern red hake.

- B. Research track assessment: A research track stock assessment for red hake, focusing on stock structure, is scheduled for spring 2020. The terms of reference include an examination of stock structure, survey catchability, biological reference points, and gaps in research. The assessment will consider differences in morphometrics and otolith microchemistry, but DNA and tagging data are unavailable.

After an initial conference call to identify data and analyses to be used, a work group meeting has been scheduled for January 6-8, with a working group report due in early February. The peer review meeting is scheduled for March 9-12, with results to be presented to the committee when the peer review results become available. This will be followed by management track assessments for red and silver hakes in the fall of 2020.

- C. Specifications: The final year for current specifications are 2020. The Council will initiate an action to adjust specifications for 2021-2023, with a final meeting for approval in December 2020.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Considering the PDTs advice, decide on one or more conceptual approaches for southern red hake rebuilding.

III. INFORMATION

1. PDT advice on conceptual approaches to southern red hake rebuilding
2. Correspondence