

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Small Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee

I. STATUS

- A. 2018-2020 Specifications: The Scientific and Statistical Committee has recommended Overfishing Limit and Allowable Biological Catch specifications for fishing years 2018-2020. The PDT and Council staff prepared a draft specifications package with a No Action alternative and an alternative with the revised specifications.
- B. Amendment 22 (limited access): The Small-Mesh Multispecies Committee met with the Advisory Panel to develop an alternative with a tiered system of whiting and red hake possession limit triggers for the proposed limited access program. The draft amendment has been revised to identify the preferred alternatives the Council chose. Staff and the Whiting PDT have also revised the document to incorporate and analyze the new alternatives added by the Council at the September meeting.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Approve the FY 2018-2020 Specifications for submission.
- B. Approve Draft Amendment 22 and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for NMFS review and public hearings.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Presentation – 2018-2020 Specification Package alternatives and analysis of impacts (*to be distributed*)
- 2. Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishing Year 2018-2020 Specifications Environmental Assessment Regulatory Impact Review and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis – December 2017 draft.
- 3. Presentation – Amendment 22 alternatives analysis of impacts (*to be distributed*)
- 4. PDT Advice on Triggered Possession Limit Alternative in Amendment 22 – December 2017 draft
- 5. Joint Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting Summary, October 30, 2017
- 6. Draft Amendment 22 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP (Small-mesh Multispecies) With an Environmental Impact Statement
- 7. Correspondence