



New England Fishery Management Council

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Daniel Salerno, *Acting Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 22, 2025
TO: Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee
FROM: John Pappalardo, Steering Committee Chair

SUBJECT: Charge to Steering Committee for September 2, 2025 meeting

The third meeting of the Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee will be held on September 2 via webinar. We will begin at 10:00 am and aim to conclude the meeting by approximately 2:30 pm. See here to register: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/4cKdQEaLQdutdtsy2Jqo4Q>.

Inflation Reduction Act Initiatives

Staff and contractors will provide an overview of the Council's active Inflation Reduction Act-funded climate resilient fisheries projects and seek Steering Committee feedback on some specific issues, including focal species selection for the Portfolio and Ecosystem Component Species Analyses. Steering Committee members are invited to offer general guidance and suggestions to support these projects, including identifying connections with other research projects and initiatives and providing ideas for communicating progress to the Council and its stakeholders. The project briefs give some details about each of the projects and the status update document provides an overview of progress to date across the portfolio.

Subcommittees

At our February meeting, the CESC agreed to form two subcommittees, one on process mapping and climate information on ramps, and a second on communications. During the May meeting, we reviewed work plans for these subcommittees. Both groups met once since that meeting, in early June, and process mapping work continued over the summer. Staff will provide an update on behalf of the subcommittees to share progress to date and discuss the next steps. It would be helpful to discuss a timeframe for the work of the subcommittees, including how the timing relates to the IRA projects.

State of the Ecosystem (SOE) Report

At our May meeting, as a follow-up to April meetings of the SSC and Council, we discussed the 2025 SOE report, highlighting the need for better integration with management decisions at both individual stock and ecosystem levels. We discussed the relationship between the SOE and Risk Policy factor scoring, avoiding over-reliance on data that may not be consistently available, and carefully considering the use of trends analyses from the SOE when implementing the Risk Policy. We agreed the SOE report is valuable for providing context to management decisions and suggested mapping out the uses of various metrics to help prioritize updates and ensure the continued relevance of the report. We also discussed various approaches for developing future updates to the report given changing resource and

data availability.

Since May, the SOE development team at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center has met with managers, represented by SSC members and staff, to discuss priorities and plans for the 2026 report. In early August, the SOE team hosted a kickoff webinar for the 2026 report, which Ms. Bachman attended. Dr. Caracappa will summarize these discussions and can take any questions from the Steering Committee about plans for 2026 and how the Council can continue to engage in this process. Also, NEFSC has been working on an outline for short versions of Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles. Dr. Caracappa will share the approach they are taking and solicit feedback from the Steering Committee.

Changing Ecosystems and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)

NOAA's Changing Ecosystem and Fisheries Initiative continues to evolve given available resources. At our last meeting, we received an update on planned projects, including updates to the species Climate Vulnerability Assessment and a brief tour of the data portal (https://psl.noaa.gov/cefi_portal/). At this meeting, Dr. Andrew Ross (NOAA Office of Atmospheric Research) will share the July 2025 quarterly MOM 6 forecast and take questions about how it was prepared. It would be helpful to discuss management applications of these forecasts.

Meeting Materials

The documents listed below will be posted to <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/sep-2-2025-climate-and-ecosystem-steering-committee-webinar>. If you have any questions about the materials, please contact Ms. Bachman (mbachman@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 x120).

1. Tasking memo from Steering Committee Chair John Pappalardo (this document)
2. Presentations
 - a. NEFMC staff presentation
 - b. ABC Control Rules – Dr. Lisa Kerr, University of Maine
 - c. Ecosystem Component Species – Angelia Miller, Maris Collaborative
 - d. Portfolio Analysis – Dr. Lauran Brewster, UMass Dartmouth
 - e. NOAA staff presentation
3. May 6, 2025 meeting summary
4. Inflation Reduction Act
 - a. Briefs that describe scope of work, staffing, and timeline for each NEFMC initiative, August 2025
 - b. Status update, August 2025
5. Subcommittee materials
 - a. Process Mapping Subcommittee updated work plan
 - b. Specifications process schematic
 - c. Communications Subcommittee updated work plan