

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)

I. STATUS

Meetings:

The SSC met on September 1, 2015 in Boston, MA. The Committee received reports on the US/CAN TRAC assessment update for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder (GBYT), Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) background information on ABC alternatives GBYT for fishing years 2016-2017 and a presentation by the Skate PDT on background information for the Northeast Skate Complex for fishing years 2016-2017, including a revised estimate of the discard mortality of skates caught in scallop dredges. The committee developed ABC recommendations for GBYT for fishing years 2016-2017 and for the skate complex for fishing years 2016-2018.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

No action is required as a part of this agenda item, but the Council will consider the SSC's recommendations in later approving the FY 2016-2017 GBYT ABC as part of FW 55 and for the Skate ABC as part of the Skate specifications for FY 2016-2018.

III. INFORMATION

1. Documents considered by the SSC are available from the Council's website at <http://www.nefmc.org/committees/scientific-and-statistical-committee> under the details and documents for the September 2, 2015 SSC meeting.
2. SSC Memo to Tom Nies re Overfishing levels (OFLs) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for fishing years 2016 and 2017
3. SSC Memo to Tom Nies re ABC recommendations and MSY estimate for the Northeast Skate Complex for fishing years 2016-2017