



## New England Fishery Management Council

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## MEETING SUMMARY

### **Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group**

School for Marine Science and Technology, New Bedford, MA

August 6, 2018

The Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group (Working Group) met on August 6, 2018 in New Bedford, MA to present and discuss work to address the group's four main deliverables. The Working Group also began discussions on working group recommendations related to the deliverables.

#### ***MEETING ATTENDANCE:***

*Working Group Members:* Chris Brown, Steve Cadrin, Chad Demarest, Robin Frede, Vito Giacalone, Emily Keiley, and Paul Rago

*Audience:* Greg DeCelles, Alex Hansell, Chris McGuire, Cate O'Keefe, and Brooke Wright

***SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:*** 1) Meeting notice; 2) meeting agenda; 3) draft report for deliverables.

The meeting began at approximately 9:35 a.m.

#### ***REVIEW AGENDA AND LAST MEETING DISCUSSION, DR. CADRIN AND MS. FREDE***

Staff reviewed the agenda and discussion from the last meeting. The Chair explained the plan for today's meeting to go over the draft reports for deliverables (where available) and develop draft recommendations under each deliverable. The Chair explained that these recommendations should be consensus statements from the working group. Staff gave an update on the timeline for the review of the working group report by the SSC, which will now be scheduled for sometime in the fall. Staff also clarified that the working group should plan to report out to the Council in December, when the Council will also receive an update on development of the draft alternatives for Amendment 23.

#### ***DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EACH OF THE FOUR MAIN DELIVERABLES, DR. CADRIN***

The working group received and discussed draft reports for deliverables #1 and 2, and discussed plans for drafting reports for deliverables #3 and 4. The group began developing recommendations to address each of the deliverables.

### ***Deliverable #1 - Use of fishery data in stock assessments:***

The working group received a revised draft report for Deliverable #1, and discussed additions to be included for this deliverable.

There was discussion as to whether this deliverable should focus on New England groundfish assessments, or whether the group could also include information on other stocks, particularly those that incorporate CPUE in their assessments. The working group agreed that while the focus should be on New England groundfish stocks, providing information from outside the region would be a helpful addition to further explain how fishery data is used in assessments. Additionally, the working group noted that the deliverable specifies a focus on age-based analytical assessments, but felt that providing some explanation of index-based assessments would be appropriate, since roughly half of groundfish stocks have index-based/empirical assessments.

### ***Deliverable #2 – CPUE in groundfish assessments:***

The working group received a revised draft report for Deliverable #2, and discussed additions to be included for this deliverable.

The working group agreed on the approach to include a summary of recent efforts to develop a CPUE for groundfish stocks in the main body of the text, and include several review papers as appendices.

### ***Deliverable #3 – Factors identified for a CPUE for groundfish stocks:***

The working group received a draft outline for the report for Deliverable #3, and discussed next steps for drafting the report for Deliverable #3.

The working group clarified that for this deliverable they should be identifying the ideal information needed to develop a CPUE for groundfish stocks, and then in deliverable #4 they will discuss the issues with developing a CPUE and work through ways to get from the current system to one that would provide information for the factors identified.

### ***Deliverable #4 – Data and approaches needed to develop a CPUE for groundfish stocks:***

The working group received a draft outline for the report for Deliverable #4, and discussed next steps for drafting the report for Deliverable #4.

The working group had originally planned to go through past recommendations from various review papers and workshops (MFI workshop, FDDV Project, O’Keefe et al, 2015 review paper) and discuss each of these to consider whether the group would like to endorse them. But the working group agreed

that it would be difficult to perform the gap analysis without knowing what it would like to see out of the new system in order to develop an ideal CPUE.

***PLAN FOR COMPLETING DRAFT REPORT, DR. CADRIN***

The working group discussed the plan for completing the draft report and recommendations, and agreed that since the deliverables are sequential and build upon one another, it will be important for the group to have fairly fleshed out drafts for deliverables #1 and 2, which describe how fishery data is used in assessments (Deliverable #1) and summarize recent efforts to create a CPUE for groundfish stocks (Deliverable #2), as a foundation before the group can identify recommendations on what factors are needed to develop a CPUE for groundfish stocks (Deliverable #3) and compare these to the current fishery system to identify gaps (Deliverable #4).

The working group agreed on the following for next steps:

- Council staff to follow-up on scheduling the SSC review.
- Council staff to confirm the updated timeline for Amendment 23 development.
- Revise draft reports for deliverables #1 and #2.
- Begin thinking of ideas/recommendations for deliverables #3 and #4.
- Identify additional work to address the deliverables.

The Working Group meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.