



## New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEETING SUMMARY

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

School for Marine Science and Technology, New Bedford, MA

September 7, 2018

The Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group (Working Group) met on September 7, 2018 in New Bedford, MA to present and discuss work to address the group's four main deliverables. The Working Group also discussed working group recommendations related to the deliverables.

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

*Working Group Members:* Rich Bell, Steve Cadrin, Chad Demarest, Robin Frede, Vito Giacalone, Emily Keiley, Brian Linton

*Audience:* Greg DeCelles, Alex Hansell, Chris McGuire, and Brooke Wright

***SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:*** 1) Meeting notice; 2) meeting agenda; 3) draft report for deliverables #1 and #2; and 4) homework assignment recommendations for deliverables #3 and #4.

The meeting began at approximately 9:15 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 #1 and #2 and identify additions/edits, and to develop draft recommendations for deliverables #3 and #4, which will form the basis for the draft reports for these deliverables. Staff gave an update on the timeline for the review of the working group report by the SSC, which is tentatively planned to occur in November, and clarified that the Council will receive a progress report on Amendment 23 at the September Council meeting. Staff confirmed 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 completed an exercise to identify recommendations to be included for the draft reports for deliverables #3 and 4. The group developed 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 and identified revisions needed to the draft report.

The working group agreed that they should revise the draft to be written in more plain language for the public, as directed by the Council's Executive Committee guidance for the working group's report. The group agreed that more technical documents and information can be included as appendices. The working group also agreed that an explanation of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) indices evaluation worksheet should be included in deliverable #1, with the worksheet attached as an appendix, as well as an explanation of how the Southeast incorporates CPUE, as this would be useful for explaining how CPUE is used in assessments. Some working group members also said that it may be helpful to include an explanation of whether increasing the quality of information/data would improve the outcome of assessments, as this is relevant to Amendment 23.

### ***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 and identified revisions needed to the draft report.

The working group agreed to add a table of recent efforts to develop a CPUE for groundfish stocks in the main body of the text, with several review papers with additional details on these efforts included as appendices. The working group also discussed whether the report needs to describe the specifics of what GLM models it recommends when discussing models to use for developing CPUE, and the group agreed that providing more detail would be useful.

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

The working group had completed a pre-meeting homework assignment used to generate a list of factors identified to develop a CPUE for groundfish stocks for Deliverable #3. The working group used the compiled list as a starting point for an exercise of “dot voting” in order to facilitate identification of factors the working group recommends for Deliverable #3. This exercise was used to both identify consensus working group recommendations for factors needed to develop a CPUE for groundfish stocks and generate further discussion on these factors.

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:***

As with Deliverable #3, the working group had completed a pre-meeting homework assignment used to generate a list of recommendations to consider when comparing the desired factors identified with existing conditions and data for the fishery for Deliverable #4. This is the gap analysis of factors and data needed, as well as the analytical approaches necessary, to create a CPUE that would be a reliable index of abundance for groundfish stocks. The working group used the compiled list as a starting point for an

exercise of “dot voting” in order to facilitate identification of recommendations for Deliverable #4. Additionally, the working group used the list of factors for CPUE identified for deliverable #3 to identify how each of these factors could be addressed through changes to data and/or approaches needed to develop a CPUE. This exercise was used to both identify consensus working group recommendations on the data and approaches needed to develop a CPUE for groundfish stocks and generate further discussion on these recommendations.

Additionally, Mr. Demarest gave an overview of analysis he completed to explore target species information in observer data. The working group may consider and include this in its recommendations.

#### ***PLAN FOR COMPLETING DRAFT REPORT, DR. CADRIN AND MS. FREDE***

The working group discussed the plan for completing the draft report and recommendations. The working group agreed to edit the draft reports for deliverables # 1 and #2 via correspondence. The working group agreed to use the list of factors and recommendations identified from both the homework assignment and “dot voting” exercise as the basis of the draft reports, and plans to develop text from this list. Once draft reports for Deliverables #3 and #4 have been developed, these will be circulated to the working group via correspondence for revisions and additions. The group agreed that completing the report can be done through correspondence, with a meeting via webinar if needed to discuss anything. Council staff will follow-up on scheduling the SSC review, and the working group agreed that it should plan to meet following the review for a wrap-up.

The working group agreed on the following for next steps:

- Council staff to follow-up on scheduling the SSC review.
- Dr. Cadrin to revise draft reports for deliverables #1 and #2 and distribute to working group for review.
- Ms. Frede to compile list of recommendations from the “dot voting” exercise and distribute to working group for review prior to drafting reports for deliverables #3 and #4.
- Ms. Frede and Ms. Keiley to compile draft reports for deliverables #3 and #4 based off discussion today.
- Working group to review draft reports via correspondence and convene via webinar, if needed.

The Working Group meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.