

## NEFMC No Cost Extension Request

The New England Fishery Management Council seeks approval for a 12-month No Cost Extension for its Cooperative Agreement Award #NA15NMF4410007. Total expenditures related to work to be completed under the extension are estimated at \$741,102, broken down into the following grant expenditure categories:

Personnel Costs	\$323,178
Fringe Benefits & PR Taxes	\$176,647
Contractual	<u>\$244,277</u>
Total	<u>\$741,102</u>

A detailed narrative identifying 8 activities linked to the Council Statement of Work (SOW) which expected to be completed by December 31, 2020 is presented below. **A detailed schedule of Staff time allocations, wages and fringe are provided in Attachments 1 and 2.**

## Detailed Narrative Supporting NEFMC No Cost Extension Request and Budget

### 1. Groundfish Amendment 23

**Purpose and Linkage to 2019 SOW:** To implement measures to improve reliability and accountability of catch reporting and to ensure a precise and accurate representation of catch (landings and discards). To improve the accuracy of collected catch data. Accurate catch data are necessary to ensure that catch limits are set at levels that prevent overfishing and to determine when catch limits are exceeded. To create fair and equitable catch reporting requirements for all commercial groundfish fishermen, while maximizing the value of collected catch data and minimizing costs for the fishing industry and the National Marine Fisheries Service. 2019 SOW Linkage: Groundfish Amendment and Framework

**Extension Period Requested:** The Council is requesting a no cost extension until 12/31/2020 to complete this work.

**Timeline and Rationale:** The Council began work on this action in 2017, but due to its complexity, need to develop information about unusual compliance issues, controversy and the scope of the action, it has not been possible to complete within the originally expected timeframe and the Council now expects to complete the action in 2020.

#### Anticipated work to be done in 2020

- Conduct public hearings on amendment and DEIS
- Council chooses preferred alternative for action
- Finalize impact analyses for all alternatives in FEIS
- Complete Regulatory Impact Review and document sections on compliance with other applicable law
- Deem draft regulations in consultation for consistency with Council intent
- Review and revise submission documents in consultation with NMFS

#### Estimated Expenditures to Complete in CY 2020

Personnel Costs	\$43,966
Fringe Benefits & PR Taxes	\$24,964
Contractual	<u>\$19,277</u>
Total	<u>\$88,206</u>

## 2. Groundfish Catch Share Review

**Purpose and Linkage to 2019 SOW:** To meet NOAA/NMFS guidelines for Regional Fishy Management Councils to review of catch share programs every five years. 2019 SOW Linkage: Groundfish Amendment and Framework

**Extension Period Requested:** The Council is requesting a no cost extension until 12/31/2020 to complete this work.

**Timeline and Rationale:** The Council began work on this action in 2017 as a multiyear priority. Due to other priorities and the need to use NMFS contractors on parts of the review, it cannot be completed by December 2019. The technical analyses have been completed and a contractor has held the public input workshops.

**Anticipated work to be done in 2020:** Technical team and Council staff will review the contractor's work and present to the Groundfish Committee, Advisory Panel (AP) and the Council. The Council is expected to accept/approve the final Catch Shares Review report in 2020.

### Estimated Expenditures to Complete in CY 2020

Personnel Costs	\$12,250
Fringe Benefits & PR Taxes	<u>\$ 6,953</u>
Total	<u>\$19,203</u>

## 3. Skate Limited entry

**Purpose and Linkage to 2019 SOW:** To consider limiting the number of vessels in the skate fishery to prevent possible overfishing in the future. Landings of skate species are controlled through trip limits on catch. Changes in the profitability of skates or other fisheries fishing opportunities could disrupt stability in the skate fishery leading to overfishing and the implementation of more restrictive trip limits. 2019 SOW Linkage: Skate Specifications

**Extension Period Requested:** The Council is requesting a no cost extension until 12/31/2020 to complete this work.

**Timeline and Rationale:** The Council began work on Amendment 5 to the Skate FMP in late 2016 but delayed further work on it due to other priorities. It anticipates substantially completing this work in 2020.

**Anticipated work to be done in 2020:** The Council through its Standing Committee and PDT will develop a range of alternatives and begin to develop a DEIS in which the alternatives will be analyzed.

### Estimated Expenditures to Complete in CY 2020

Personnel Costs	\$ 96,900
Fringe Benefits & PR Taxes	<u>\$ 52,146</u>
Total	<u>\$149,046</u>

#### 4. Ecosystems Based Management (EBFM) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

**Purpose and Linkage to 2019 SOW:** To complete a management strategy evaluation (MSE) of operating models that have been developed to explore how ecosystems-based management (EBFM) might work for the ecological production unit of Georges Bank. 2019 SOW Linkage: Ecosystem Considerations

**Extension Period Requested:** The Council is requesting a no cost extension until 12/31/2020 to complete this work.

**Timeline and Rationale:** The Council reinitiated work EBFM in 2014. During 2019, the Council worked to develop an example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) and initiated a robust planning effort for a complex MSE effort. This effort built upon lessons learned from the Herring MSE and other MSE efforts. It anticipates completing the initial management strategy evaluation (MSE) work for this in 2020.

**Anticipated work to be done in 2020:** The Council will involve stakeholders in the design and evaluation of management strategies. The MSE will be conducted using operating models that have been peer-reviewed. It will communicate the results to stakeholders and use the results to develop EBFM future management strategies.

##### Estimated Expenditures to Complete in CY 2020

Personnel Costs	\$ 68,865
Fringe Benefits & PR Taxes	\$ 32,741
Contractual	<u>\$200,000</u>
Total	<u>\$301,605</u>

#### 5. Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting (EVTR)

**Purpose and Linkage to 2019 SOW:** To complete an action to implement electronic vessel trip reporting (EVTR) for all vessel fishing in NEFMC-managed fisheries. 2019 SOW Linkage: This activity is cross-cutting and supportive of all fishery management activities and actions. It is also supportive of cross-Council coordination.

**Extension Period Requested:** The Council is requesting a no cost extension until 12/31/2020 to complete this work.

**Timeline and Rationale:** In June 2019, the Council voted to engage in a joint omnibus eVTR action with the Mid-Atlantic Council for spiny dogfish and monkfish, and to expand the framework action to include the full range of fisheries managed by the New England Council for all commercial and recreational for-hire permit holders for vessels with commercial permits for species managed by both Councils. Because many fishermen have never used the electronic reporting method, the Council is planning to have an extended implementation period that will include in-person workshops and training webinars from the fall of 2019 through the spring of 2020 for impacted permit holders.

**Anticipated work to be done in 2020:** Most of the work on this action will be completed in 2019 however, final action by the NEFMC is not anticipated until 2020.

##### Estimated Expenditures to Complete in CY 2020

Personnel Costs	\$10,674
Fringe Benefits & PR Taxes	<u>\$ 4,936</u>
Total	<u>\$15,610</u>

## 6. Scallop Amendment 21

**Purpose and Linkage to 2019 SOW:** This action seeks to improve the management program for the scallop resource in the northern Gulf of Maine, which has been primarily fished by smaller scallop boats, most of which are in the general category IFQ program. 2019 SOW Linkage: Scallop Framework Adjustment and Amendment

**Extension Period Requested:** The Council is requesting a no cost extension until 12/31/2020 to complete this work.

**Timeline and Rationale:** Work on this action was begun in 2019; however, final action by the NEFMC is not anticipated until 2020.

**Anticipated work to be done in 2020:** In January 2020, the Council will approve a range of alternatives and a DEIS for public hearings. After public hearings are held, the Council will select final alternatives. Staff will complete and submit the FIES and deem proposed regulations for review.

### Estimated Expenditures to Complete in CY 2020

Personnel Costs	\$ 62,977
Fringe Benefits & PR Taxes	<u>\$ 38,812</u>
Total	<u>\$101,789</u>

## 7. Southern Red Hake Rebuilding

**Purpose and Linkage to 2019 SOW:** Continue development of management measures to rebuild the southern Red hake stock. NOAA/NMFS has notified that the southern red hake stock is overfished. Due to other priorities and the lack of a recent stock assessment, this action was not completed in 2019. 2019 SOW Linkage: Whiting, Red Hake, and Offshore Hake Amendment

**Extension Period Requested:** The Council is requesting a no cost extension until 12/31/2020 to complete this work.

**Timeline and Rationale:** Due to other priorities and the lack of a recent stock assessment, this action was not completed in 2019.

**Anticipated work to be done in 2020:** Complete development of management measures and a rebuilding program to remedy the overfished status of Southern Red Hake. Complete management action and associated NEPA document, and submit action to NMFS for review and approval. This action may require the Council to produce an EIS depending on whether it causes significant environmental impacts.

### Estimated Expenditures to Complete in CY 2020

Personnel Costs	\$27,546
Fringe Benefits & PR Taxes	<u>\$13,096</u>
Total	<u>\$40,642</u>

## **8. Marine Resources Education Program (MREP)**

**Purpose and Linkage to 2019 SOW:** The MREP program provides opportunities for NOAA Fisheries and the Fishery Management Councils to engage in productive and positive dialogue with marine stakeholders and build relationships. It provides a mechanism for effective transfer of science and policy information to stakeholders, and supports effective stakeholder engagement in the council process, allowing the councils to operate more efficiently. It provides a critical pathway for stakeholders to get involved in the fishery science and management process and be effective. This effort will provide 2 multi-day workshops held in the greater Atlantic region for up to 56-64 fisheries participants. 2019 SOW Linkage: This activity is cross-cutting and supportive of all fishery management activities and actions.

**Extension Period Requested:** The Council is requesting a no cost extension until 12/31/2020 to complete this work.

**Timeline and Rationale:** In mid-2019, the Council initiated work with a contractor to develop and execute a Fisheries Science and Management program consisting of two core workshops designed to engage fishermen in the tools and concepts of fisheries science and resource management. During 2019, all preparatory work is expected to be completed, with the workshops to be held early (February – March) in 2020, to align with fisheries seasonal activities.

### **Anticipated work to be done in 2020**

Two multi-day MREP workshops are targeted to occur early (February – March) in 2020, followed by a review and assessment of the program’s effectiveness in meeting its objectives. Work is expected to be complete by June 2020.

### **Estimated Expenditures to Complete in CY 2020**

Contractual	\$25,000
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