



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 17, 2026
TO: Whiting Plan Development Team (PDT)
FROM: Andrew Applegate
SUBJECT: Purpose and Agenda for Meeting

Meeting registration: https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/4b9qHBEHQua4v_K56Tc_Rg

The Whiting PDT will meet **by webinar on September 3, 2026, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**. The meeting will break for lunch and as needed.

Primary Focus: Specifications

The PDT will receive the assessment data update reports from the Science Center and estimate the overfishing limit (OFL) and allowable biological catch (ABC) for silver hake stocks. The PDT will also develop ABC recommendations for both red hake stocks via trend analysis, following the procedures identified by the SSC in 2023 (see Documents 2c and 2d).

The PDT will also conduct final risk factor scoring for each stock using the new Council-approved rubric and guidelines, drawing on the assessment data updates, an updated Fishery Performance Report, risk policy matrices, and other information. Risk factors include:

- SSB/biomass trend
- Recruitment trend
- Climate vulnerability
- Commercial fishery characterization
- Recreational fishery characterization

The risk scores and resulting Z-score that accounts for management weights will inform the Scientific and Statistical Committee's October 27-28, 2026 setting of 2027–2031 catch specifications.

Secondary agenda items

The PDT will briefly discuss the alternatives to be considered and describe ongoing analyses needed to complete and submit the action to NOAA Fisheries for final approval.

If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Andrew Applegate (aapplegate@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 114).

Meeting documents to be distributed:

1. Meeting memo and agenda (this memo)
2. Assessment
 - a. Presentation
 - b. Assessment data update
 - c. 2023 SSC presentation
 - d. 2023 SSC report
3. Risk policy
 - a. Draft Fishery Performance Report
 - b. Final risk policy matrices
 - c. 2026 Advisory Panel responses
4. Draft risk factor scoring
 - a. Scoring Document
 - b. R and SSB program documentation
 - c. Final risk policy statement and concept
 - i. Presentation
 - ii. Concept
5. 2026 Specifications outline of alternatives

AGENDA

Small-Mesh Multispecies Plan Development Team (PDT) September 3, 2026 Webinar

- 9:30 am Agenda and purpose of meeting..... (Applegate)
- 9:45 Assessment data update; OFL and ABC estimation (Document 2) (Alade)
- 11:30 Updated Fishery Performance Report and Risk Policy Matrices (Document 3)
 (Applegate, Bodell)
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 1:00 pm Updated risk factor scoring and Z-score calculations (Document 4)..... (Applegate)
- 3:00 Recommendations for specifications, considering OFL/ABC estimates and risk factor
 analysis (PDT)
- 3:30 Other business (Applegate)
- Scope of 2026 management measures; analysis progress (Document 5)
- 4:00 Adjourn