

## **EBFM WORKSHOP STATUS REPORT**

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**BACKGROUND:** The core format and schedule for the Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management introductory workshops have been developed, and the outline is included at the end of this document. The workshops will be an opportunity to “introduce” an EBFM approach to fishery management with a focus on its potential application to Georges Bank. The goal is to achieve a core level of EBFM literacy among key stakeholders, engage the audience on the topics and the potential, and generate discussion on issues and ideas that can inform next steps for a “deep dive” workshop in 2023.

The workshops will be held in the following ports.

- Chatham/Harwich, MA
- New Bedford, MA
- Gloucester, MA
- Point Judith, RI
- Portland, ME
- Montauk, NY
- Manahawkin, NJ

The workshops are being scheduled to occur between October 24<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>, depending on room availability and speakers’ schedules.

Once the workshop locations and dates are finalized, we will conduct extensive outreach and promotion to try to maximize attendance at these workshops.

### **POTENTIAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT EXPERTS**

Core PowerPoint presentations have been developed, which cover:

- An Introduction to Ecosystem Based Fishery Management
- Ecosystem Management: Ceilings and Floors
- The Science Supporting EBFM

These presentations will be delivered at the workshops by expert presenters. These individuals will speak from the core presentation, but will be allowed to tailor the presentation to their particular expertise, style, or to the audience in a particular port. The list of invited experts who have agreed to make presentations at one or multiple workshops include the following. Many of these experts are current or former members of the EBFM Committee and/or the PBT.

- Mike Pierdinock, CPF Charters, NEFM Council
- Alan Tracy, Vessel Services, NEFM Council

- John Pappalardo, CCCFA, NEFM Council
- Dr. Michael Sissenwine, former member of NEFMC
- Dr. Gavin Fay, SMAST
- Dr. Rich Bell, TNC
- Dr. Sean Lucey, NEFSC
- Dr. Geret DePiper, NEFSC
- Dr. Jake Kritzer, NERACOOS
- Andrew Applegate, NEFMC

We (Andy Applegate and Tom Balf) are currently in the process of running “practice sessions” with these speakers. This includes providing feedback and recording their sessions in the event that we have travel challenges with an in-person presentation. Presentations will generally be no longer than 25 minutes in length, followed by 20 minutes of group exercises on the topics presented.

## **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

Based on our stakeholder outreach findings, the guidance of the EBFM Committee, and the suggestions of stakeholders, a draft workshop outline was developed and reviewed. It is presented below in its near final format. Assuming an audience of 13-30 people, the room will be arranged with tables for stakeholders to actively participate in breakout group discussions. If the audience is less than 12 people, our contractor will actively facilitate the discussion with the entire group.

1. INTRODUCTIONS (15 Mins)
  - a. Assuming audience is small, brief introductions of speakers, staff, and participants
  - b. Goals for the workshop and some history of EBFM development
2. INTRODUCTION TO EBFM (45 Mins) w Expert Presenter
  - a. What is EBFM?
  - b. Key concepts and terminology
  - c. Georges Bank, what and why?
  - d. eFEP

Resources: “An Introduction to Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management” Slide Presentation

### **Group Exercise**

- In Breakout Groups, participants discuss benefits and concerns and get 2 cards to complete: (In ten years, I would like the fishery management system on Georges

Bank to \_\_\_\_\_). Attendees read aloud their sentences. Facilitator aggregates “thoughts” into some categories

3. FISHERY MANAGEMENT (45 mins) w Expert Presenter
  - a. Biomass Ceiling – examples of how ecosystem productivity could be assessed and applied.
  - b. Stock Complex Ceiling – example of how it could work
  - c. Biomass Floor Ceiling – example of how it could work. Discuss how this could be different than the current system for “choke species” and options for approaches to rebuilding plans

Resources: “What are Catch Ceilings and How are They Determined” Slide Presentation

#### Group Exercise

- Participants discuss each of the 3 types of catch ceilings and floors (ecosystem, stock complexes, biomass floors) and record strength, weaknesses, and questions. Groups report back with focus on how this system could work differently than current management system and identify examples of trade-offs or options.

#### BREAK (10 Mins)

4. THE SCIENCE (45 mins) w Expert Presenter
  - a. What data is currently available from GB and what new data could be used.
  - b. How could existing data be used for ecosystem, stock complexes, or biomass floor estimates
  - c. How could data collection be more timely to inform dynamic decision-making?

Resources: “Science in Support of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management ” Slide Presentation

#### Exercise

- Breakout groups discuss data gathering approaches for EBFM, how to collect data and integrate into the management process more quickly, and opportunities for transparency and collaboration. Reports back from group on 3-5 suggestions or priorities

5. WRAP UP (15 Mins)
  - a. Brief summary of the day’s activities
  - b. Sharing of a Roadmap for the development of an eFEP for Georges Bank
  - c. Request for additional questions – what didn’t we cover that we could or should have
  - d. Brief post-workshop survey