



New England Fishery Management Council

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Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 10, 2022
TO: EBFM Committee
FROM: John Pappalardo, EBFM Committee Chair
SUBJECT: Purpose and agenda for meeting

The **Ecosystem Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee and Plan Development Team (PDT)** will meet by conference call beginning at 9:00 am on March 10, 2022. The meeting will break for lunch and at other times, as needed.

Purpose: The Committee will:

- **Receive a progress report from the Council's facilitator on initial outreach efforts and EBFM public information workshop plans**
- **Discuss and develop a draft project plan to conduct a prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for EBFM based on the example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) strategies.**
- **Other business**
 - **Discuss and develop recommendations for 2022 management priorities**
 - **Update on National Standard 1 deliberation with the NMFS agency.**

Following the Council's completion of an example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP), the Council convened a [Management Strategy Evaluation Steering Committee](#) (MSE SC) to advise the Council on how initiate the next step and to roll out the eFEP to the public. Their [primary advice](#) was to begin a strategic outreach program involving a professional science communicator and a more tangible worked example.

The Council has hired Mr. Tom Balf of Oceanvest to conduct initial outreach and facilitate six port-based meetings to discuss the EBFM concept and answer questions from stakeholders. Up to 50 people will be interviewed before the workshops and the Council's communication tools (infographics, brochures, etc) will be made more accessible. Mr. Balf is looking for Committee feedback on the structured conversation for these initial interviews. Following this first phase, local workshops will be conducted that will be open to the public and all stakeholders will be invited and encouraged to participate.

The Council has begun development of a prototype MSE for the Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit, based on the strategies outlined in the eFEP. The first step is to design the process, including objectives for doing the MSE and expected outcomes. Desired features and characteristics of the MSE will be discussed at this meeting and the EBFM Committee will

finalize their recommendations at a follow-up meeting on April 5, 2022. The plan for the MSE will be presented at the April Council meeting for approval.

Under other business, the Committee will discuss updating the Council's research priorities that are related to EBFM. The Committee's final list of recommendations will be approved at the April 5, 2022 meeting. The Committee will also receive a briefing on the Council's deliberations with NMFS regarding the feasibility of managing catch for ecologically-related stock complexes instead of by single stocks as is done under existing management plans.

Meeting materials. A PDF of each document will be posted to www.nefmc.org. Staff will provide access to additional meeting materials that are not included in this package. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Andrew Applegate (aapplegate@nefmc.org ; 978-465-0492 ext. 114). Although the Council is not currently staffing the office, phone calls to the office will ring through to many staffers.

1. Meeting memo and agenda (this memo)
2. Public Information Workshops and Outreach
 - a. Presentation
 - b. Criteria for prioritization of EBFM public outreach with the Georges Bank eFEP
 - c. Core draft questions for outreach interviews
 - d. Worked example and MSE characteristics
3. Prototype MSE
 - a. Presentation
 - b. Prototype EBFM MSE draft planning outline and timeline
4. List of existing research priorities for 2022-2026

AGENDA

ECOSYSTEM BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Conference call

March 10, 2022

- 9:00 am Agenda and purpose of meeting (Document 1).....(Pappalardo)
- 9:15 Public information workshop update (Document 2)(Applegate, Balf)
- 11:00 Prototype EBFM MSE draft planning outline and timeline (Document 3)
..... (Applegate)
- 3:00 pm Other business (Document 4)
2022-2026 Management Priorities
National Standard 1 deliberations
- 4:00 Adjourn