New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street • Newburyport, MA 01950 • (978) 465-0492
Daniel Salerno, Chair • Cate O'Keefe, PhD, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 2, 2026

TO: Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee and Advisory Panel (AP)

FROM: Jackie Odell (Committee chair) and Katie Almeida (AP chair)

SUBJECT: **Purpose and Agenda for Meeting**

Meeting registration: https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/WnQIQOwaSjavM44x1XTpLw.

Meeting materials (to become available): https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/nov-19-2026-whiting-joint-committee-and-advisory-panel-meeting

The **Small-Mesh Multispecies Committee and Advisory Panel (AP)** will meet jointly at the Courtyard by Marriott Boston Dedham/Westwood, MA and via webinar starting at 9:30 am on November 19, 2026. The meeting will break for lunch and at other times, as needed. Webinar access will be provided.

PURPOSE: The AP and Committee will receive fishery data from an updated Fishery Performance Report for Fishing Year 2025 and Risk Policy Matrices, along with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommendations for 2027-2031 catch specifications. The AP and Committee will also receive the Plan Development Team's analysis of fishery impacts of the management alternatives, including potential changes to the southern red hake possession limit and total allowable landings (TAL) trigger, the northern red hake possession limit, and the lobster and monkfish possession limits while fishing in the Cultivator Shoals Area.

The Committee and AP are expected to identify and approve recommendations for preferred alternatives, slated for approval at the December Council meeting. The Committee and AP are also expected to discuss the draft 2027 Council Priorities (scope of proposed management actions) and develop Committee comments for Council consideration. The Committee and Advisory Panel may also discuss potential management priorities for 2028 and beyond.

Meeting materials. Limited paper copies of the documents listed below will be provided at the meeting. A PDF of each document is posted to www.nefmc.org. Staff will provide copies of any 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).

MEETING DOCUMENTS

1. Meeting memo and agenda (this memo)

2. Catch specifications
    a. 2027-2031 specifications tables
    b. Scientific and Statistical Committee report and recommendations for 2027-2031 catch specifications

3. Staff presentation
    a. Fishery Performance Report for Fishing Year 2025
    b. Small mesh multispecies risk policy summary

4. Staff presentation
    a. Analysis of fishery impacts for possession limit alternatives
    b. Analysis of southern red hake TAL trigger alternatives

5. 2027-2031 Small-mesh Specifications Decision Document

6. 2027 and future management priorities presentation
    a. 2027 Council draft management priorities

AGENDA

Small-Mesh Multispecies Plan Committee and Advisory Panel
November 19, 2026
Westwood, MA

9:30 AM	**Agenda and purpose of meeting** (Document 1) …. (Odell, Chair)
9:45	**Summary of 2027-2031 specifications approved by the SSC** (Document 2) • Presentation …. (Applegate, NEFMC)
10:00	**Fishery Performance Report and Risk Policy Matrices overview; 2027-2031 catch specifications** (Document 3) • Presentation …. (Applegate/Bodell, NEFMC)
10:45	**Management alternatives and fishery impact analyses** (Document 4) • Presentation …. (Grant, Applegate, NEFMC) • Questions and discussion o Northern red hake possession limits o Southern red hake possession limits and TAL trigger o Monkfish and lobster incidental catch limits for Cultivator Shoals Area exemption fishing
12:00 PM	Break
1:15	**Decision document for specifications management actions** (Document 5) • Presentation …. (Bodell, NEFMC) • Questions and discussion • Recommendations for preferred alternatives
3:15	**Management priorities** (Document 6) • Presentation …. (Bodell, NEFMC) • Questions and discussion • Scope of 2027 exemptions area management alternatives • Long-term small-mesh multispecies management priorities
4:30	**Other business**
5:00	Adjourn