



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 4, 2023
TO: Risk Policy Working Group
FROM: Megan Ware, Risk Policy Working Group Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Risk Policy Working Group meetings on April 11, 2023**

The Council will be holding a Risk Policy Working Group meetings in-person and by webinar on April 11, 2023. Documents for this meeting will be posted to a Sharefile site and then the Council's website as they become available. You will receive a link to access files ahead of the meeting.

Purpose: The main objectives of the meeting are to:

- 1) Discuss the Council's current risk policy and receive a presentation on Risk Policies used by other Regional Fishery Management Councils.
- 2) Discuss the application of the Council's current Risk Policy, and hear perspectives from the the SSC Chair, Council's Executive Director, and Working Group members.
- 3) Recommend draft terms of reference for reviewing, and potentially revising, the Council's Risk Policy.
- 4) Discuss other business.

Webinar: In order to participate remotely in the meeting, you will need to register for the webinar. Please register before the meeting begins. You can use the following link to register.

- <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7849302889795266143>

The Council has developed an instruction guide for GoToWebinar remote participation. It can be found at [this link](#).

1. **Participating in the meeting:** This meeting is being held as a hybrid meeting, with working group members meeting in-person at the Doubletree by Hilton in Danvers, MA. There is also webinar option to participate remotely. **To participate remotely, you MUST register for the meeting.** If you do not register, staff will not be able unmute you.

Council staff will be working closely with the Chair to accommodate remote participation during the meeting. Staff will review how individuals can participate during the meeting. Questions about presentations will be entertained before taking comments. The Working Group will have the first opportunity to weigh-in, followed by the public. Individuals interested in speaking should raise their hand on the webinar.

2. **Developing Working Group Recommendations:** During the development of Terms of Reference, the Working Group should strive to reach consensus at the meeting on April 11, 2023.

Meeting Materials:

1. Meeting Information
 - a. Meeting Agenda
 - b. Meeting Memo from Working Group Chair, Ms. Megan Ware
2. Presentations (*to be provided*)
 - a. Overview of Regional Fishery Management Council Risk Policies (Joyce)
 - b. New England Fishery Management Council's Risk Policy (Peros)
 - c. Perspective on Application of NEFMC Risk Policy by SSC (Kerr)
 - d. Perspective on Application of NEFMC Risk Policy by Council (Nies)
 - e. Draft Terms of Reference (Ware and Peros)
 - f. Review of draft SOPPs, Work Plan, and Future Topics (Peros)
3. Draft Terms of Reference
 - a. Working Group Member input on Draft TORs
4. New England Fishery Management Council Risk Policy
 - a. Risk Policy
 - b. Risk Policy Road Map
5. Regional Fishery Management Council Risk Policy Overview
 - a. Summary Table of Regional Fishery Management Council's Risk Policies
6. Draft Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures
7. Correspondence

Background Materials

1. Risk policy and managing for uncertainty across the regional fishery management councils (2012)
2. Examples of Terms of Reference for SSC (include reference to Risk Policy)
 - a. Monkfish
 - b. Groundfish Stocks
3. Examples of Risk Policy Matrix prepared by NEFMC Staff
 - a. Atlantic Sea Scallops
 - b. Georges Bank Haddock
4. [Risk Policy Working Group webpage, with meeting materials from last process](#)

[All background materials can be accessed at this link.](#)

If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 117).

Risk Policy Terms of Reference

Recent Activity: At its December 2023, the Council voted to “Review Council Risk Policy and consider changes.” One of the first steps in this effort is to adopt Terms of Reference (TORs) that will guide the work of the Risk Policy Working Group. Council Staff, the Chair, and Vice-Chair have drafted initial TORs for review. Members of the RPWG were asked to review the TORs and provide feedback ahead of the April 11th meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes: Recommend Terms of Reference at the April 11, 2023 meeting for the Council to consider during the Risk Policy report at the April Council meeting in Mystic, CT.

Risk Policy SOPPs, Work Plan, and Future Topics

Recent Activity and Next Steps. The RPWG will likely meet again before the June Council meeting to begin addressing the TORs. A draft Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures (SOPPs) was included in your meeting materials for review.

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Based on recommended TORs, provide feedback about areas that the working group should focus, and information/research that the group may consider.
2. Consider the text provided in the Risk Policy SOPPs. Recommend changes as necessary. This document does not need to be finalized at the April 11th meeting. A final version should be agreed upon by the Working Group and approved by the Council's Executive Director and Council Chair.

Other Business

Anticipated Outcomes: Additional items and issues may be taken up under other business.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

If you have any questions about these enclosures, please contact Jonathon Peros (978-465-0492 ext. 117).