

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Ecosystems Based Fishery Management Committee

I. STATUS

- A. EBFM: The PDT met twice since the June Council meeting to begin working on the development of an example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP).

The first meeting held on September 9 in Warwick, RI focused on developing a draft eFEP framework and strawman goals and objectives. Both are meant to be generic and would be tailored to any management area or ecosystem boundaries that apply. The intent is to develop this product by next June into an operational model that can be validated and tested, as well as used for scoping hearings.

The second meeting held on September 14 in Woods Hole, MA focused on analytical trophic models that might be used to support eFEP development. Technical details of various models were presented, ranging from a relatively simple time series analysis approach to a full-blown food web dynamics model for Georges Bank. Most of the presentations focused on Georges Bank models which included a limited suite of species, although efforts are underway to update and expand the models to be more inclusive. Several climate effect models were also presented that could influence the structure and parameterization of the ecosystem models. The PDT decided to develop a table that rates the ability of various models to support eFEP development and address relevant objectives.

Additional work by the PDT is needed on eFEP development and on the analytical process before reporting to the Council on these issues. A follow up PDT meeting will be scheduled in October followed by an EBFM Committee meeting in November.

- B. Presentations: Dr. Jason Link will give a presentation that explains NMFS' EBFM Policy Statement and asks for further comment from the Council.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

No Council action is required.

III. INFORMATION

1. Presentation by Dr. Jason Link on NMFS' EBFM Policy Statement