



New England Fishery Management Council

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MEETING SUMMARY

Management Strategy Steering Committee for EBFM (MSE SC)

Via Webinar
May 27, 2021

The MSE SC held a third and final meeting to develop guidance to recommend how the Council should conduct public information workshops on EBFM, using the example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP), the science communication tools developed for the Council by Green Fin Studio, and the tangible worked example tools developed by the EBFM PDT. The committee will report its recommendations and guidance at the June Council meeting.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: Dr. Matthew McKenzie (Chair), Mr. John Pappalardo, Ms. Libby Etrie, Dr. Lisa Kerr, Mr. Chris McGuire, Mr. Eric Hansen, Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Mr. Frank Mirarchi, Dr. Jon Deroba, and Mr. Andrew Applegate. In addition the following people attended and participated in the meeting: George LaPointe (Fishery Survival Fund), Melissa Smith (ME DMR), Kelly Whitmore (MA DMF), Jocelyn Runnebaum (The Nature Conservancy), and Mrs. Janice Plante (NEFMC).

Meeting documents are available on the Council's EBFM web page (<https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/may-27-2021-ebfm-mse-steering-committee-conference-call>)

KEY OUTCOMES:

- The committee developed final recommendations and guidance for EBFM public information workshops, which will utilize the eFEP, communication materials developed by the Council, and worked example tools developed by the EBFM Plan Development Team.

Motions: There was one committee motion offered, but it was withdrawn because of uncertainty about whether a committee motion could be made at the Council meeting, given the makeup of the MSE Steering Committee which has members who are not on the Council. Instead the committee agreed to the following statement by consensus.

“The Committee adopts and recommends approval by the Council the submitted recommendations for the development of EBFM outreach workshops.”

Dr. McKenzie intends to make a motion at the Council meeting, which would then require a second.

Introduction

Dr. McKenzie reviewed the agenda and walked the committee through the document to finalize the committee recommendations, which staff prepared as a draft using comments from the May 20 committee meeting.

Presentations

The committee focused on the draft recommendations and guidance to collaboratively edit the document.

Discussion

Mr. Hanson commented at the start of the meeting that the public information workshops should build an inventory of what is not working with the current management plans. Mr. Applegate had discussed this issue before the meeting and explained why he thought that doing this would not be productive. Mr. Applegate explained that it could divert the workshop discussions into focusing on how to fix or patch current plans individually. He added that the workshops should focus on broad, out of the envelop approaches which cannot be addressed in individual management plans. Mr. Pappalardo agreed and pointed out that the EBFM Committee had discussed this issue in the past several times and decided to focus on broad overarching ecosystem issues with a new approach.

The committee also discussed whether it would be beneficial to have single, long workshops at a few events, covering the range of topics in the eFEP and outlined in the proposed workshop structure. On one hand, longer workshops would be easier to coordinate with invited experts who would give presentations of various aspects of EBFM. Committee members also recognized that long workshops lead to fatigue of the participants and declining participation. The committee agreed that during a long workshop, the Council should arrange for refreshments, meals, and an evening activity.

A different approach of a series of topical workshops was also discussed. This approach would reduce meeting-fatigue, but it would be more difficult to ensure continued participation by the same people in different, topical workshops. It would also be more difficult to coordinate with invited experts with so many different workshops (possibly in different locations).

In the end, the committee settled on a hybrid approach – a series of short overview workshops held in various parts, followed by a longer workshop delving into the details of EBFM (for example explaining how catch rules could work and how to use the tangible worked examples). The committee thought it would be best to make recordings of all workshops available online so that participants that come in later can review earlier material.

The committee also discussed how to utilize a facilitator. While it was recognized that the Council should have facilitators at the workshop, the committee favored using the facilitators to help design the workshops as well as possibly analyze the results.

After editing the document and clarifying some of the recommendations, the committee agreed to forward its recommendations to the Council, after modifying the proposed workshop structure and doing some additional proofing and formatting.

The meeting concluded at noon.