SSC Workshop on Dynamic Reference Points

Planning Update

Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting

January 21, 2026

Dr. Jamie Cournane, Council Staff

New England Fishery Management Council

IRA 3.2: Dynamic Reference Points SSC Workshop

- Dynamic reference points can change through time in response to non-stationarity in fish populations.
- While scientific definitions of dynamic reference points are currently being developed, practical applications in regional fishery management plans and adaptation to climate and environmental conditions are lacking.
- We are planning an SSC workshop that will build on prior research and discussions to operationalize dynamic reference points in the New England region.
- The workshop aims to cover the state of the science, management pathways, and the human dimensions associated with dynamic management.
- Workshop outcomes include a workplan for the SSC and the Council.

Workshop Steering Committee

A steering committee is planning the facilitated workshop for the SSC:

- **Council Staff**: Jamie Cournane and Rachel Feeney
- **SSC Members**: Lisa Kerr (UMaine) and Ed Camp (UF)
- **NOAA & State Staff**: Jon Deroba (NEFSC) and Tara Dolan (MA DMF)
- **Contractors/Facilitators**: Hannah MacDonald, Laura Singer (SAMBAS), and Willy Goldsmith (Pelagic Strategies)
- **Additional**: Conor McManus (NEFSC) and Michelle Bachman (Council Staff)

Next Steps for the Steering Committee

- Develop **goals and objectives** for the workshop

  Discussing possible pathways toward developing best management practices and guidelines for integrating dynamic reference points into fisheries stock assessment and management

- Provide input on the **draft agenda** - theme sessions and speakers
- Provide input on the **technical information to summarize in advance** of the workshop

SAVES THE DATES!

- **Dates:** June 1-2, 2026
- **Location:** To be determined

Feedback on the planning so far?

Reach out to Jamie Cournane or Rachel Feeney after today's meeting.

Thank you for your time!