



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 2019
TO: Groundfish Plan Development Team
FROM: Terry Stockwell, Groundfish Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Tasking for Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring**

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring is the number one priority for the Council in 2019. While I recognize the partial Federal government shutdown impacted Plan Development Team (PDT) work plans, the Groundfish PDT and Committee must continue to make substantial progress on this action. The current timeline for Amendment 23 is summarized in the following table. Further delays jeopardize implementation in fishing year 2020.

2019	
JAN 29-31	NEFMC - Receives report from Fishery Data Working Group; SSC provides report on review of Fishery Data Working Group
FEB	SSC reviews PDT analytical approach to monitoring issues
FEB-APR	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
APR 16-18	NEFMC - SSC provides report on review of PDT analyses; Council approves range of alternatives
MAY	PDT completes DEIS
JUN 11-13	NEFMC - Approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings and possibly identifies preliminary preferred alternatives
JUL-AUG	Public hearing and comment period
SEP 24-26	NEFMC - takes final action
OCT	Staff finalizes EIS
DEC	Preliminary submission
2020	
FEB/MAR	Final submission
MAY	Target Implementation

Consistent with Council Operations, I am providing the PDT with the Terms of Reference for work related to Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring in order to ensure that the Committee and Council continue to make progress.

Terms of Reference, to be completed in advance of the April 2019 Council meeting:

1. Draft alternatives
 - a. Update the draft alternatives while considering the PDT Dockside Monitoring Discussion Paper, recent Groundfish Advisory Panel and Groundfish Committee discussions, and other relevant materials.
 - b. Present draft alternatives to the Groundfish Advisory Panel and Groundfish Committee at their April meetings.
 - c. Update the draft alternatives following the recommendations received at the Groundfish Advisory Panel and Groundfish Committee at their April meetings.
2. Analysis for the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Review.
 - a. Complete reports of PDT analysis for SSC review.
 - b. Participate in the SSC review.

Thank you for all your efforts and superior work. I look forward to reviewing the material.