

eFEP Outline & Timeline

Andrew Applegate
NEFMC Staff

EBFM PDT Chair

eFEP Development
September 27, 2018



Meetings

- June 21, 2018 – EBFM Committee
- August 3, 2018 – EBFM PDT
Conference Call
- October 10, 2018 – EBFM Meeting
(Foxboro)
- Mid-November – EBFM Committee
(TBA)

EBFM Committee Agenda

June 21, 2018

Hilton Garden Inn, Boston, MA

- EBFM Plan Development Team report
- Provide feedback on an initial draft “Ecosystem Risk Assessment for the Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit”
- Discuss the “2018 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Strategy Independent Peer Review” Report
- Receive a report about a draft “Northeast Regional Implementation Plan of NOAA Fisheries Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Roadmap”
- Discuss a draft strawman outline of an example prototype Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP)
- Identification of tasks and timeline to complete an eFEP



NEFMC Approach

- To prepare:
 1. A policy describing goals and objectives, and approaches, for taking account of ecosystem processes in fishery management, and
 2. An example of a fishery ecosystem plan that is based on fundamental properties of ecosystem (e.g., energy flow and predator/prey interactions) as well as being realistic enough and with enough specification such that it could be implemented. The example should not be unduly constrained by current perceptions about legal restrictions or policies.



NEFMC Approach

- The Council is pursuing a fundamentally different EBFM approach relative to other Fishery Management Councils and management authorities.
- Unlike other EBFM approaches, the NEFMC is focused on place-based management and trophic guilds (i.e., energy production units) as management units rather than managing fish stocks using independent harvest control rules.
- The new approach addresses the implications of both biological interactions (i.e., predator/prey) and fishery interactions (bycatch and mix species fisheries).



NEFMC Process

3. With respect to number 2, it is understood that the example might not be implemented, but it should make clear what a fishery ecosystem plan would actually entail and it should focus debate.



DRAFT prototype Fishery Ecosystem Plan

Problem statement

- MSY consistent with ecosystem productivity
- Often no allocation for species caught
- Complex regulations
- Usually no consideration of ecosystem demand
- Gaps in data and monitoring across FMPs



DRAFT prototype Fishery Ecosystem Plan

Vision statement

- Consideration of broader objectives and benefits
- Accounting for trophic interactions
- Simplified regulations
- Reduce discards
- Increase opportunities for fishermen
- Ensure sustainability of fish and non-fish marine resources
- Promote sustainable fishing communities
- Avoid implementation costs and scientific uncertainty associated with single species management

DRAFT prototype Fishery Ecosystem Plan

Key features

- Dynamic and flexible approach
- EPU MSY based on sum of MSY for species complexes, subject to limits of primary productivity (ceilings).
- Stock complexes
 - Reference points (ceilings)
 - Similar trophic and life history characteristics
 - Catch limits harmonious with role in the ecosystem
 - Objectives to serve multiple needs
 - Production of economic value
 - Sustenance of fishing communities
 - Support of fish, birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals at higher trophic levels

Fishery Ecosystem Plan

Key features

- Protections against excessive depletion of stocks (floors)
 - Thresholds that vary in consideration of stock vulnerability to fishing, resilience, and role in the ecosystem
- Rebuilding plans for overfished stocks
 - Special catch limits
 - Technical measures
- Catch limits allocated to functional groups – stock complexes caught together in a fishery (gear, area, etc).
 - Equivalent to Sub-Annual Catch Limits (ACL) with Accountability Measures when the stock complex ACL is exceeded
- Vessels permitted on the basis of a fishery (gear, area), instead of a species
- Greater use of data sources and ecosystem monitoring

Fishery Ecosystem Plan Components

- Objectives – Strategic and Tactical
- Scope – area, fisheries, managed stocks
- Ecosystem MSY
- Biological reference points and Harvest control rules
 - Stock complexes, recognizing trophic interactions
 - Assessments & indicators
 - Status determinations
 - Overfishing stock complexes
 - Overfished stocks and rebuilding



Fishery Ecosystem Plan Components

- Fishing Access and Permitting
- Catch Allocation
 - Functional group allocations
 - Vessels in a fishery having allocations of one or more Georges Bank functional groups
 - Recreational catch allocations
- Spatial management measures for habitat, spawning, and endangered/threatened species protection
- Unmanaged and invasive species policies
- Technical measures (e.g. mesh, area, seasons, size limits)



Fishery Ecosystem Plan Components

- Decision support
 - Advisory Teams
 - Data collection, monitoring, and fishery research
 - Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
 - Ecosystem Risk Assessment
 - Management Strategy Evaluation
- Transition strategy to place-based FEP
- Jurisdiction, cooperation, and collaboration



eFEP Development Timeline

| Task – prepare draft document outlining concept and potential issues | DRAFT Document | Timeline (based on Council meeting schedule) |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strawman goals, strategic objectives, tactical objectives | | September 2016 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest control framework | | April 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked example | | September 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIE review of worked example | | June 2018 (April 2018 postponed) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overfished stocks, status determinations, and rebuilding measures • Accountability measure application to fishery functional groups | Document 4 | Sept 2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope (area, fisheries, managed stocks) • Catch allocation by functional group • Fishing access and permitting | Document 6 Document 8 | December 2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Management Measures for Habitat, Spawning, and Endangered/Threatened Species Protection | Document 9 | January 2019 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical measures • Incentive-based measures • Data collection and monitoring • Jurisdiction, Cooperation, Coordination amongst management authorities • Unmanaged and invasive species policies | Document 7 Document 5 Document 12 | April 2019 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision support (IEA, ERA, MSE) • Transition strategy from species to place-based FEP | Document 11 | June 2019 |

NEFMC EBFM Development Process

- Phase I Decide on application (EBFM with eFEP, EAFM, Omnibus, FMP)
- Phase II Develop example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP)
- Phase III Management Strategy Evaluation**
- **Steering committee**
 - **Process & participation**
 - **Conduct meetings/workshops**

