



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

#5C

12 March, 2020

Mr. Tom Nies
Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Mr. Nies,

In this memo we list the comments and requests received on the 2019 State of the Ecosystem (SOE) reports, and how we responded to those requests. We include comments from both Councils because adjustments to the report were made in response to both. We welcome comments on whether this memo is useful and how to improve it for future SOE reporting.

The attached document includes a table where we summarize all comments and requests with sources. The Progress column briefly summarizes how we responded, with a more detailed response in the numbered Memo Section. In the Progress column, "SOE" indicates a change included in the report(s). In each detailed response, we refer to SOE pages where changes are found or describe information that was not sufficiently developed to include in the 2020 SOE in an effort to solicit feedback on how best to develop indicators for future reports.

We welcome comments on the entire SOE report as well as information included in this memo, and look forward to feedback from the SSC and Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hare".

for Jon Hare, PhD
Science and Research Director
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

encl: State of the Ecosystem 2020: Response Memo