

**DRAFT Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures**  
***New England Fishery Management Council's Risk Policy Working Group***  
April XX, 2023

**Work Group Purpose and Tasking**

The Risk Policy Working Group (RPWG) was reconvened by the Council in 2023, and will review the New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) current Risk Policy and consider recommending changes, if necessary. The RPWG will address terms of reference (TORs) set by the Council. Feedback on the current Risk Policy and any recommendations will be made to the Council. The group shall strive to address the risk policy TORs incrementally, and report to the Council as work is completed. Changes to the Council's Risk Policy will be made through a Council vote.

**Background**

The Risk Policy Working Group (RPWG) was originally formed by the New England Fishery Management Council as the ABC Control Rule Working Group. The work group name was changed to the Risk Policy Working Group to more accurately reflect the working group's tasking, i.e., to assist the Council with developing a risk policy, which addresses risk and uncertainty across all levels of fisheries management, not just in the ABC Control Rule. The Council approved its current Risk Policy in 2014.

**Organizational Structure**

The RPWG is a working group of the Council and is tasked with addressing the terms of reference set for the group. The working group is composed of government and non-government experts with experience in fisheries science and management and related fields who shall provide recommendations in response to terms of reference set by the Council and shall report directly to the Council. Subgroups, comprised of members of the WG, may be established to undertake specific tasks, subject to available resources. All sub-groups must be approved by the Council chair.

**Membership and Chair**

The RPWG will consist of members with the relevant experience and expertise needed to address the terms of reference. Working group members will be appointed by the Chair of the Council. Neither proxies nor designees may serve in place of an appointed working group member. The RPWG will be supported by Council staff and, if appropriate, hired contractors.

Working group members will be selected from the following:

- Council members
- Council's Science and Statistical Committee
  - Stock assessment expertise

- Economist and/or social scientist
- Council Staff
- NOAA Fisheries
  - Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
  - Northeast Fisheries Science Center

The working group chair will be responsible for conducting meetings and for coordinating with Council staff to ensure that summaries and other products from meetings are produced and distributed. The chair, supported by Council staff, will present working group recommendations to the Council.

### **Working Group Timespan**

The RPWG will meet as needed over 12 to 18 months to address TORs. The RPWG shall operate at the discretion of the Council . The status and continued need for the working group will be evaluated by the Council’s Chair in consultation with the Executive Committee and Executive Director.

### **Meetings and Recommendations**

The RPWG shall hold in-person and webinar-based meetings. Decisions made by the RPWG must be made in a public forum. All meetings shall be announced through established Council processes. A quorum is required to develop formal recommendations from the RPWG to the Council. This total must include at least half of the designated work group members. The working group shall strive to develop recommendations through consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the Chair may call a vote.

### **Working Group Organizational Support**

The administrative costs associated with RPWG operations shall be financially supported by the Council. Work group activities, including communications, meeting and venue scheduling, and meeting equipment shall be supported by Council staff.

Non-federal RPWG members are eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses incurred while attending in-person authorized meetings, subject to availability of funds. RPWG members will be paid for travel expenses in accordance with the Council’s travel policy. Eligibility for compensation (Council Members) and stipends (SSC members) shall be based on guidance in the Council’s SOPPS.

Council staff shall be responsible for the development of a draft agenda for approval by the Chair. Meeting summaries and/or reports shall be the responsibility of Council staff. Analytical and administrative support may be provided as needed, subject to resource and time constraints. The Council may utilize contractors to support the administrative and analytical needs of RPWG, subject to resource and time constraints.