

Other Business

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 7, 2026



New England Fishery
Management Council

SSC MINORITY REPORTS – SEPT. 2 MEMO FROM EX. DIRECTOR

Guidance to promote transparency and integrity (per Nat. Std. 2):

- SSC strives for consensus recommendations
- Members have a right to submit a minority report.
- SSC reports and minority reports must be authored.
- Minority report must be appended to the main report, including dissenting opinion and scientific rationale.
- Chair must inform the Council if a minority report exists and briefly summarize; not required to defend or promote the content.



SSC MINORITY REPORTS – SEPT. 2 MEMO FROM EX. DIRECTOR

Process

Step	Party Responsible	Action
0. Communicate	Dissenting member(s)	During meeting, indicate minority opinion and intent to write a report
1. Submission	Dissenting member(s)	Write and submit authored minority report to chair and staff, <u>before</u> SSC report is finalized
2. Incorporation	SSC chair & staff	Note in full report that the minority report exists; append it
3. Presentation	SSC chair	During Council meeting, presents majority recommendations; informs Council of minority view
4. Council Decision	Full Council	Council may consider majority and minority findings, bound by upper limit of consensus recommendation



DYNAMIC REFERENCE POINTS

September 15-17 Council meeting discussion

- Council members supportive of continued development, formation of SSC workgroup
- Questions on:
 - Capacity to collect enough data
 - Implementing DRPs (NRCC decisions, FMP actions)
 - Using DRPs with stocks managed as a complex
 - Balancing dynamic approaches with the Council's interest in stability
- SSC workgroup is a 2027 **draft** priority – final decision in December



SSC 2026 WORK PLAN - REMAINING MEETINGS

- Oct 27-28 SSC meeting – Boston
 - OFL/ABC for small-mesh multispecies and groundfish stocks (analytical methods/projections, revised methods)
- November 17 SSC subpanel – webinar
 - River herring/shad catch estimation methods, bycatch reduction
- SSS meeting – agenda, date & location **TBD** (December?)
 - Discuss ongoing permit portfolio project
 - Updates on foregrounding social science (groundfish sector reports, advisory panel performance reports).



CONFIRM STOCK LEADS

October 27-28 – Boston/webinar	
GOM haddock	Richard Merrick
Plaice	Alex Hansell
Pollock	Adam Delargy
Halibut	Lisa Kerr
N. Silver hake/whiting	Jason McNamee
S. Silver hake/whiting	Jason McNamee
N. Red hake	Mateja Nenadovic
S. Red hake	Conor McManus



SOLICITATION FOR 2027 SSC MEMBERS

Timeline

- Oct 30 – Application deadline
- Nov 18 – Ex Comm meeting – initial recommendation
- Dec 8-10 – Council meeting – Council recommendation, Ex Comm final decision

Current SSC members up for reappointment

- First 3-year term complete in 2026
 - Ed Camp, Adam Delargy, Gareth Lawson, Kai Lorenzen, Michelle Staudinger
- Second 3-year term complete in 2026
 - Conor McManus
- Third 3-year term complete in 2026
 - Hiro Uchida
- Annual appointments
 - Lisa Kerr, Jason McNamee, Kevin St. Martin, John Wiedenmann

*Thank
you!
(come again!!)*



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PRELIMINARY SSC 2027 WORK PLAN



- Specifications
 - Scallop, red crab, white hake, witch flounder, all cod stocks
- New tasks/panels
 - DRP subgroup, groundfish ABC control rules, scallop projection methods, SCS9 workshop
- Standing/ongoing
 - State of the Ecosystem report review, Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee, Social Sciences Subcommittee, assessment peer reviews

