

New England Fishery Management Council Committees

In addition to the committees and advisory panels for each NEFMC management plan, there are a number of standing committees and ad-hoc working groups. This document provides a brief overview of these committees using the following format: Committee name (staff lead), *members*, *description*

Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Committee (Andrew Applegate)

Members: John Pappalardo (Chair)

Matt McKenzie (Vice-Chair)

Rick Bellavance

Warren Elliott (MAFMC)

Mark Godfroy

Roger Mann (MAFMC)

David Pierce

Eric Reid

Mike Sissenwine

Description/current tasks: The Council is exploring Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM), a new approach that involves all species and fisheries in a specific area, recognizes the energetic limits of the system, takes into account the trophic relationships among species, allows for greater adaptability to variability and change, and addresses multifaceted goals and objectives. As a first step, the Council is developing an example Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Georges Bank that will be used to solicit and focus public input. The example could lead to the development of a new fishery ecosystem plan or contribute to a set of ecosystem policies and initiatives that would apply across multiple fishery management plans.

Enforcement Committee/Vessel Monitoring System (Lou Goodreau)

Members: Terry Alexander (Chair)

Mark Godfroy (Vice Chair)

Vincent Balzano

Jon Cornish (ME State Rep)

Tim Donovan (NOAA/OLE)

Capt. Kevin King (USCG)

Patrick Moran (MA State Rep)

Description: The Enforcement/VMS Committee is a standing committee of the Council that meets as needed to review and comment on the enforceability aspects of management measures proposed by other committees. It also discusses general enforcement policies and priorities. Representatives from the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA General Counsel, and state marine enforcement agencies serve on the committee along with designated Council members.

Executive Committee (Tom Nies)

Members:

John Quinn (Chairman)
Terry Stockwell (Vice-Chair)
Terry Alexander
Doug Grout
Peter Kendall

Description: The Council's five-member Executive Committee consists of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the past-year Chairman (if still on the Council) and, as necessary, either two or three members who are elected in the same manner as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Officers of the Council are elected for one-year terms and may be reelected. The Regional Administrator and the Director of the NEFSC are invited to participate in Executive Committee meetings.

Purpose The Executive Committee advises and assists the Chairman in all his responsibilities. In an emergency situation (which does not permit convening the full Council), the Executive Committee may act of behalf of the Council. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at the request of the Chairman between regular Council meetings as necessary.

Responsibilities The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are to develop policy for Council consideration and provide guidance on administrative, financial and personnel matters. The Council may delegate specific policy development to the Executive Committee.

Observer Policy Committee (Industry-Funded Monitoring) (Fiona Hogan)

Members:

Libby Etrie (Chair)
Michael Sissenwine (Vice Chair)
Douglas Brander
Pete Christopher (GARFO)
Wendy Gabriel (NEFSC)
Danielle Kane
Gerry O'Neill
Paul Parker
Rick Usher

Description: The Observer Policy Committee was formed in 2014 and has spent most of its time to date working on the NMFS-led Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Amendment. Membership at present includes non-Council members.

Research Steering Committee (RSC) (Rachel Feeney)

Members:

Mark Alexander (Chair)
Vincent Balzano (Vice-Chair)

Bill DuPaul (VIMS)
Bill Gerencer
Jeff Kaelin
Jake Kritzer
Richard McBride (NEFSC)
Chris McGuire
Matt McKenzie
Peter Moore
Mike Sissenwine
Mike Pol (MA DMF)
Ryan Silva (GARFO)
Graham Sherwood
Mary Beth Tooley

Description: The Research Steering Committee (RSC) assists the Council in identifying and prioritizing regional research needs, provides a mechanism to better integrate management information needs with research efforts, and fosters collaborations between fishermen and scientists to achieve these outcomes. The RSC includes non-Council members. More information about the RSC may be found in the Council's [Operations Handbook](#) (pages 19-21, 47-52).

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) (Chris Kellogg)

Members:

- Mr. Jason McNamee (Vice Chair) - RI DEM
- Dr. Steven Cadrin, SMAST, University of MA
- Mr. Michael Carroll, Boston, MA
- Dr. Yong Chen - Univ. of Maine
- Dr. Jeremy Collie, University of RI
- Dr. Kevin Friedland - NEFSC, Narragansett, RI
- Dr. Daniel Georgianna - SMAST, Univ. of MA
- Dr. Jonathan H. Grabowski - Northeastern University
- Dr. Lisa A. Kerr - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- Dr. Christopher Legault- NOAA/NEFSC
- Mr. Jean-Jacques Maguire - Sillery, Quebec
- Dr. Andrew Pershing - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- Dr. Alexei Sharov - MD DMR
- Dr. Kevin St. Martin - Rutgers University
- Dr. James Sulikowski - University of New England
- Dr. Patrick Sullivan - Cornell University
- Mr. John Walden, NOAA / NEFSC
- Dr. John Wiedenmann - Rutgers University, State University of New Jersey

Description: The purpose of the Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) is to assist the Council in the development, collection, and evaluation of statistical, biological and other scientific information relevant to the development and amendment of any

fishery management plan. More information about the SSC may be found in the Council's [Operations Handbook](#) (pages 15-18).

Joint Committees

Joint Committees enhance coordination among fishery management partners concerning process-related issues, data needs, and stock assessments; or serve as mechanisms to facilitate management negotiations, such as the TMGC.

Northeast Regional Coordinating Council (NRCC)

Members:

John Quinn, Council Chairman
Terry Stockwell, Council Vice Chairman
Tom Nies, Executive Director

Description:

The Northeast Regional Coordinating Council (NRCC) is composed of the Chairs and Executive Directors of the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils, the GARFO Regional Administrator, the NEFSC Science and Research Director, and the Executive Director of the ASMFC. Other senior staff from those organizations also routinely participate in NRCC meetings and workgroups. The GARFO Regional Administrator and the NEFSC Science Director chair the meetings.

Among other functions, the NRCC annually reviews lists of proposed priority actions of the Councils and the ASMFC for the coming year, schedules stock assessments (under the new assessment process under development, the NRCC would approve the annual schedule of Operational Assessments and topics for the Research Track), and helps assess and balance the resources (especially staff resources) needed to complete those actions. In considering Council priorities, the NRCC will review Council Action Plans, which will be used to consider current and future staffing and priority setting.

Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC)

Members:

Terry Stockwell, Chair
Terry Alexander
John Quinn
Libby Etrie

Description:

Several fish stocks on Georges Bank are transboundary and to be effectively managed require coordinated action between the U.S. and Canada. Since the international maritime boundary line between the two countries was drawn in 1984, both nations have worked closely to sustainably manage their shared resources, collaborate on stock assessments, and coordinate their research and enforcement efforts.

That coordination was formalized when the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee was established in 2000. Developed as an advisory process, the TMGC addresses how catches of transboundary stocks of Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder should be allocated to each country within a defined geographic region. Council members, NOAA Fisheries representatives, and Canadian officials who serve on the TMGC negotiate the allocations annually based on the historic proportions of fishery landings caught by U.S. and Canadian fishermen, and resource distribution.

Detailed information about the history and operations of the TMGC

<http://www.bio.gc.ca/info/intercol/tmgc-cogst/index-en.php>

Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC) documents and meetings

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/saw/trac/>

Working Groups

Working Groups (WGs) meet on an ad-hoc basis to explore and address specific issues that are forwarded to the Council for approval.

Risk Policy Working Group (Fiona Hogan)

Members:

David Pierce (Vice-Chair)
Mike Sissenwine
Jonathan Deroba (NEFSC)
Sarah Heil (GARFO)
Moiria Kelly (GARFO)
Dan Georgianna (SSC)
Jason McNamee (SSC)
Steve Cadrin (SSC)
Patricia Pinto Da Silva (SSC)

Description:

The Council at its June 2016 meeting voted unanimously to accept the Risk Policy Road Map. The work of this group has now been concluded and there are no plans to meet again in the near future.