



New England Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 23, 2019
TO: **EBFM Committee**
FROM: Andrew Applegate, Staff
SUBJECT: **Proposed Draft Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) timeline**

The attached diagram presents a Gantt chart (or timeline) for developing and advancing a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Georges Bank. Staff derived this draft timeline from the proposed NEFSC proposed plan, but the timeline identifies a working relationship between the Center and the Council and identifies where the principle responsibility for each major task lies. Each task is identified as a unique color and has specific sub-tasks identified on each line. The timeline also includes the finalization and use of the example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) and Worked Example, as well as guidance by a Council-led steering committee convened to guide the MSE process.

More importantly, the timeline allows for overlapping and simultaneous work by the partners, shortening the period needed to conduct the MSE to about a year and a half. Additional time, up to six months will be required to finalize the report and present it to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Council. The timeline also includes a period when the Council would be developing a Final Fishery Ecosystem Plan (or Omnibus Amendment) through normal procedures and agency review. The latter part of the timeline is a very rough estimate and will depend on recommendations from the MSE process and how the Council reacts to it.

Figure 1.

