

New England Fishery Management Council

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EBFM Outreach Ramping Up: Watch the Five-Minute Video, View the Infographics, Check out the Brochures

The New England Fishery Management Council is preparing to conduct public information workshops in six different fishing ports to help fishermen and other stakeholders better understand what ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) is all about. These workshops, which are under development, are expected to be held later this summer or early fall.

In the meantime, the Council is encouraging people to become familiar with the extensive array of outreach materials posted on the EBFM public information outreach webpage. Here are some highlights.

- Watch the <u>five-minute introductory video</u> (see below).
- Click on the Stakeholder Brochures and Presentations on the EBFM <u>outreach webpage</u>.
- Check out the EBFM Glossary of Terms.



What is EBFM? Find Out HERE!

Listen to What People are Saying About EBFM



How Do I Watch the Video?

The video is available by webinar. Follow these three easy steps.

- 1. Click HERE.
- 2. Fill out your name and email address.
- 3. Click on "Join Webinar" and the video will begin.

The Council, in concert with several stakeholders and contracted support from <u>Green Fin Studio</u>, produced a <u>five-minute introductory video</u> to give viewers a glimpse into what people are saying about EBFM. The video touches on the potential benefits of EBFM and gives stakeholders a chance to raise questions and concerns about the challenges and unknowns. Speakers also talk about possible trade offs between single-species management versus ecosystem management. The video provides a simple overview of this complex topic.



New England Fishery Management Council

The Council has been exploring ecosystem-based fishery management for several years now. The upcoming public information workshops are intended to help inform fishermen and other stakeholders about EBFM and its potential application to a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit. The Council has been referring to this approach as an example Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Georges Bank, which often is simply called the eFEP.

Here is a guide to the eFEP for Georges Bank.

During its <u>April 2022</u> meeting, the Council received a progress report on the latest EBFM outreach efforts and workshop planning. Another update is planned for the June 2022 meeting.

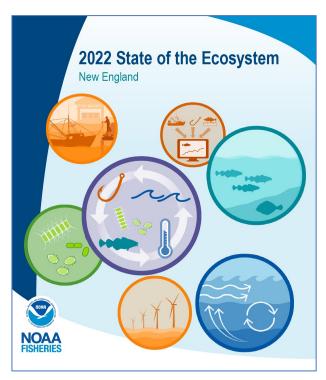
The Council also received an update on work being done to develop a simplified, prototype management strategy evaluation (pMSE) for EBFM. This trial, dry-run prototype is intended to demonstrate how a larger-scale MSE eventually could be used to evaluate EBFM management strategies for a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit with all stakeholders involved. The Council approved the planning document for this initiative.

The <u>presentation</u> and other meeting materials related to the April EBFM discussion are available here.

Questions? Contact Andrew Applegate, the Council's EBFM coordinator, at (978)465-0492, ext. 114, aapplegate@nefmc.org.

How Does EBFM Work? In EBFM, management objectives and multiple factors of ecosystem health are considered before management decisions are made. Scientists analyze these factors and provide advice to managers who then make decisions about catch ceilings. Factors analyzed include: Climate & Weather, Fishing Fleet Information (size and gear type). Energy Flow, Predator and Prey relationships, Habitat Quality, and the needs of Fishermen, Coastal Communities, and the Economy. Fishermen, Coastal Communities, and the Economy. Fishermen, Coastal Communities, and the Economy and the result of multiple stakeholders of multiple stakeholders. Fleet Information Number of boats and types of gear Predator & Prey A balanced food web contributes to a resilient ecosystem. Habitat Healthy fish stocks need healthy habitat

The above diagram is from the infographic titled <u>"What is EBFM?"</u>
A second infographic titled <u>"Georges Bank Ecosystem Production</u>
<u>Unit"</u> also is available on the <u>outreach webpage</u>.



During its April meeting, the Council received a presentation from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center on the 2022 State of the Ecosystem for New England.

The Council's
Scientific and
Statistical
Committee
provided
feedback on the
report.