

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)**

**I. STATUS**

Meetings:

The SSC met on October 12-14 in Providence, RI. The committee received reports on the Operational Stock Assessments for Groundfish (NE Multispecies), and assessment updates for Atlantic scallops and red hake as well as plan development team analyses about ABC alternatives for these stocks. The committee developed OFL and ABC recommendations for groundfish stocks for fishing years 2016-2018, for Atlantic scallops for fishing years 2016 and 2017 (default) and for red hake for fishing years 2016 and 2017.

**II. COUNCIL ACTION**

No action is required as a part of this agenda item, but the Council will consider the SSC's recommendations in selecting a preferred alternative for OFLs ABCs for groundfish and scallops under separate agenda items. (The Council already identified a preferred alternative for the OFL and ABC for red hake at the September meeting contingent upon SSC agreement.)

**III. INFORMATION**

1. Background documents considered by the SSC are available from the Council's website at <http://www.nefmc.org/committees/scientific-and-statistical-committee> under the details and documents for the October 12-13, 2015 SSC meeting.
2. SSC Memo to Tom Nies re Overfishing levels (OFLs) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for groundfish stocks for fishing years 2016-2018 (Nov. 17, 2015)
3. SSC Memo to Tom Nies re Overfishing levels (OFLs) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Atlantic sea scallops for fishing years 2016 and 2017 (*to be distributed*)
4. SSC Memo to Tom Nies re Overfishing levels (OFLs) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for red hake for fishing years 2016 and 2017 (*to be distributed*)
5. SSC comments on Draft NOAA Fisheries EBFM Policy (*to be communicated at Council meeting*)