



New England Fishery Management Council

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Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 22, 2022
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)
FROM: Tom Nies, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Terms of Reference – (1) SSC Planning for 2022 and Review of SSC roles and responsibilities; (2) Review of NEFSC 2022 State of the Ecosystem Report**

1. SSC Planning and Review of Roles and Responsibilities

Terms of Reference

Review 2022 work priorities and timelines. Consider SSC assignments and tentative meeting schedule for 2022. Review SSC roles and responsibilities including an opportunity to ask questions and discuss how the SSC fits in the overall Council process. Discuss potential ideas to further support SSC work related to ABC recommendations.

Background

SSC leadership has recently changed; Dr. Lisa Kerr has been appointed SSC Chair and Dr. Catherine O’Keefe has been appointed Vice Chair. In addition, 2022-2024 SSC appointments have recently been made extending many SSC members and adding one additional member. This is a good opportunity to review SSC roles and responsibilities to clarify how SSC work supports the Council. NEFMC staff will review the national and regional requirements and guidance prepared over the years related to a range of topics relevant to SSC deliberations. SSC members will have an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas about specific tools or analyses to further support SSC work.

Information

1. SSC Planning
 - 1a. 2022 SSC membership
 - 1b. 2022 SSC priorities and timelines
 - 1c. 2022 SSC reviewers and meeting leads (DRAFT)
 - 1d. NEFMC Staff presentation
2. SSC Roles and Responsibilities
 - 2a. MSA – SSC related sections only, <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/msa-amended-2007.pdf>
 - 2b. National Standard 1 Guidelines, <https://www.ecfr.gov/on/2022-03-10/title-50/chapter-VI/part-600/subpart-D/section-600.310>
 - 2c. National Standard 2 Guidelines, <https://www.ecfr.gov/on/2022-03-10/title-50/chapter-VI/part-600/subpart-D/section-600.315>

- 2d. NOAA Fisheries Framework for Determining that Stock Status Determinations and Catch Specifications are based on the Best Scientific Information Available, NOAA Procedural Directive 01-101-10, <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/01-101-10.pdf>
- 2e. Procedural Guidance for Changing Assessed Stock Status from Known to Unknown, NOAA Procedural Directive 01-101-11, <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-01/01-101-11.pdf?null>
- 2f. NEFMC Operations Handbook - SSC and PDT sections only
- 2g. Description of the Stock Assessment Process for the New England and Mid-Atlantic Region, https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NRCC_Assessment_Process_Version-18Feb2022_508.pdf
- 3. NEFMC Risk Policy
- 4. NEFMC Risk Policy Matrix Template and Example (Atlantic herring)
- 5. NEFMC “ABC tracker” (DRAFT)
- 6. NEFMC SSC report template (DRAFT)

2. 2022 State of the Ecosystem Report

Terms of Reference

The SSC will receive a presentation on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center’s (NEFSC) State of the Ecosystem (SOE) Report and provide the Council any recommendations about possible revisions to the report for the next year.

Background

Since 2017 the NEFSC has prepared an annual State of the Ecosystem Report that provides the status of the Northeast Shelf marine ecosystems - Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine, and the Mid-Atlantic Bight. These reports are developed for both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils, information on the ecological, social and economic state of this ecosystem.

Information

- 7. 2022 State of the Ecosystem (SOE) Report
 - 7a. 2022 SOE Report (DRAFT)
 - 7b. State of the Ecosystem Report 2021: New England. NOAA/NEFSC. Available at: <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/29279>
 - 7c. SSC Report to NEFMC on 2021 SOE Report
 - 7d. 2022 SOE Request Tracking Memo
 - 7e. NEFSC Staff Presentation