

NEFMC Council Meeting

Priorities
Discussion Materials

for

Thursday, November 20

DRAFT 2009 Priorities and Management Action Plan (Nov 14, 2008)

<u>Cmte/FMP</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Skates	1. Cont. Amendment 3, specs 2009, 2010	1. Prepare specs 2011, 2012		Andy
Multispecies	1. Cont. Amendment 16 including process for ACLs, AMs, measures for 2010. 2. Prepare ACL specs for 2010 and 2011	1. Prepare Amendment 17	1. Cont. Amendment 17 2. Prepare ACL specs for 2012 and 2013	Tom & Anne
Scallops	1. Cont. Amendment 15 including ACLs, AMs, capacity reduction, DAS leasing, transfers for LA fleet overfishing definition (IFQs, and open area trips). 2. Prepare FW 21 for 2010 measures.	1. Cont. Amendment 15 2. Prepare FW 22 for 2011 and 2012 measures		Dee and Sarah
Monkfish	1. Prepare Amendment 4 for ACLs, AMs. Specs for 2011, 2012 and 2013	1. Cont. Amendment 4		Phil
Red Crab	1. Prepare specs for 2009 and 2010	1. Amendment 2 including ACLs, AMs. (no LAPPs)		Phil: Specs Contractor
Whiting	1. Prepare Amendment 15, Limited Entry, ACLs, AMs for 2011, 2012, 2013	1. Cont. Amendment 15		Andy
Herring	1. Cont. Amendment 2 monitoring, ACLs, AMs & specs for 2011 - 2013. 2. Prepare specs for 2010 only	1. Cont. Amendment 2 with specs for 2011 -2013		Lori
Habitat	1. Cont Omnibus Amendment.	1. Cont. Ecosystem FMP 2. Prepare Ecosystem FMP		Chad & new
RSC	Continue to steer research to best support NEFMC management plans.			P. Fiorelli

#3



November 3, 2008

John Pappalardo, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Integrated development of a process for applying Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of Ocean Conservancy and Oceana, we wish to commend the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) for its work, to date, in development of alternatives for applying annual catch limits in Multispecies Fishery Management Plan Amendment 16 DEIS, consistent with new provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA). It is noteworthy that the Council has embarked on this effort well in advance of publication of a final rule for National Standard 1 guidelines. We believe that in light of the extended development schedule required for management actions in the region that the Council should continue developing annual catch limits (ACL) and accountability measures (AM) based on the guidance provided in the NS1 proposed rule until such time as a Final rule is promulgated. Clearly, with several fishery management plans in need of revision, this Council must be purposeful and focused to meet its statutory obligations by the 2010/2011 deadlines.

Over the last several months, the Groundfish Committee and PDT have mapped out a level of policy detail for an ACL process, with accompanying accountability measures. Additionally, the Council's Herring and Scallop PDTs have begun to explore how these mechanisms may be applied in those respective FMPs. However, we are concerned that the NEFMC, by approaching ACL/AM development one FMP at a time, will be faced with inconsistencies among plans that may result in revision and delay in implementation.

Therefore, we strongly suggest as a priority for 2009 that the Council convene a working group to formulate a uniform policy for implementing ACL/AM across all of the specie management plans in its jurisdiction; primarily the plans that have significant fishery interactions (i.e., groundfish, scallop, monkfish, whiting, skates, dogfish and herring). The approach developed for the Multispecies Amendment 16 serves as a starting point from which to build.

Our concern, as well, is that the NEFMC may not be anticipating the sheer number of fishery interactions that need to be addressed with specific ACLs around which to structure accountability measures. Under the MSRA and proposed rule, ACL/AM must be established for all stocks in the fishery¹.

A comprehensive ACL process structure should identify or consider:

- All species that will require Status Determination Criteria that are caught in fisheries with interactions in NEFMC managed plans;
- A means to assign ACL or account for catch of target stocks, non-target/retained species, and non-target/not retained species (those requiring SDC) in managed fisheries;
- A means to account for component catch in state-managed or ASMFC managed fisheries; and
- An understanding with the MAFMC of how stocks managed by the Mid-Atlantic will be handled as component catch in NEFMC managed fisheries.

These are fundamental policy decisions that, once made, will simplify and integrate plan development for the full range of species.

Appended is a graphic example of the level of detail that we anticipate an "omnibus" planning effort might address. Populating the cells of this matrix with allocations to each Fishery Management Plan is a necessary first step to fully satisfying the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act and controlling overall mortality in an effort to end overfishing.

We look forward to participating in the development of ACL/AM and thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



John Williamson
New England Fish Conservation Manager
Ocean Conservancy



Gilbert Brogan
New England Campaign Projects Manager
Oceana

¹ "Stocks in the fishery" would include target stocks (i.e., stocks that fishers seek to catch for sale or personal use, including "economic discards" as defined under MSA section 3(9)), non-target stocks that are retained for sale or personal use, and non-target stocks that are not retained for sale or personal use and that are either determined to be subject to overfishing, approaching overfished, or overfished, or could become so, according to the best scientific information available, without conservation and management measures (See Figure 1 and § 600.310(d)(2) of this proposed action). **Stocks and stock complexes in the fishery should have quantitative SDC, MSY, ABC, ACL, and ACT** (collectively called "reference points" throughout this section)

		Fishery Management Plan													
		NEFMC						MAFMC						Total % Allocation	
		NE Multispecies	Scallops	Herring	Monkfish	Small Mesh Multispecies	Red Crab	Skates	SMB	Bluefish	Dogfish	Fluke, BSB, Scup	Surfclam/Ocean Quahog	Tilefish	
Stock	Georges Bank Cod	TARGET													100
	Georges Bank Haddock	TARGET													100
	Georges Bank YT	TARGET													100
	SNE/MA YT	TARGET													100
	CC/Gulf of Maine YT	TARGET													100
	Gulf of Maine Cod	TARGET													100
	Witch Flounder	TARGET													100
	Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank/Paice	TARGET													100
	Gulf of Maine Winter	TARGET													100
	SNE/MA Winter	TARGET													100
	Georges Bank Winter	TARGET													100
	Georges Bank/Gulf of Maine White Hake	TARGET													100
	Pollock	TARGET													100
	Redfish	TARGET													100
	Ocean Pout	TARGET													100
	Northern Windowpane	TARGET													100
	Southern Windowpane	TARGET													100
	Gulf of Maine Haddock	TARGET													100
	Halibut	TARGET													100
	Scallop		TARGET												100
	Herring			TARGET											100
	Monkfish				TARGET										100
	Red Hake					TARGET									100
	Silver Hake (Whiting)					TARGET									100
	Winter Skate								TARGET						100
	Barndoor Skate								TARGET						100
	Thorny skate								TARGET						100
	Smooth skate								TARGET						100
	little skate								TARGET						100
	clearnose skate								TARGET						100
	rosette skate								TARGET						100
	Red Crab							TARGET							100
	Atlantic Mackerel								TARGET						100
	Butterfish								TARGET						100
	Illex								TARGET						100
Loligo								TARGET						100	
Bluefish									TARGET					100	
Spiny dogfish										TARGET				100	
Scup											TARGET			100	
Black Sea Bass											TARGET			100	
Summer Flounder											TARGET			100	
Tilefish												TARGET		100	
Surf Clam													TARGET	100	
Ocean Quahog													TARGET	100	

Courtesy G. Brogan

#5

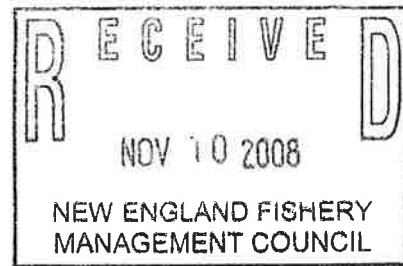
ASSOCIATED FISHERIES OF MAINE

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November 10, 2008

Mr. John Pappalardo, Chair
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950



Dear John:

It is our understanding that the NEFMC will take action in 2009 to amend the monkfish FMP to be in compliance with the annual catch limits and accountability measures required of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

We want to strongly urge the NEFMC to take this opportunity to amend the monkfish plan to include an option to manage the fishery through individual transferable quotas (ITQ).

Our members harvest monkfish as a component of the groundfish fishery, and we believe that an ITQ system for monkfish would be consistent with the plans to manage groundfish under the sector management system, as well as consistent with the recent affirmation by the NEFMC to move all fisheries towards quota-based management. We are vested in a sustainable monkfish resource, and would not want to see a monkfish quota management system that would result in a derby fishery.

As always we appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

M. Raymond

Maggie Raymond

Associated Fisheries of Maine is a trade association of fishing and fishing dependent businesses. Membership includes harvesters, processors, fuel/gear/ice dealers, marine insurers and lenders, and other public and private individuals and businesses with an interest in commercial fishing.