

**Workshop on
Ecosystem – based Fisheries Management
New England Scientific and Statistical Committee
26 – 27 August 2009
Marriot Hotel, Newport, Rhode Island**

Terms of Reference

Background

Over the past decade, there has been growing recognition within the international and national oceans community on the need to put fisheries into the broader context of an ecosystem approach to management. There are a number of initiatives underway both nationally and internationally which provide lessons on the implementation of ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM). It is timely for the SSC to consider recent developments on EBFM efforts of relevance to New England, given the desire of the NEFMC to draft an EBFM plan by the end of 2010. A report of the SSC's deliberations on EBFM will be provided to the Council at its September 2009 meeting.

Objectives

Consideration of EBFM Implementation Framework

While there is as yet no firm consensus within the oceans management community on an implementation framework for EBFM, a suite of best practices is starting to emerge (Rosenberg et al, 2009) which can form the basis of an EBFM plan by the NEFMC. The workshop is to consider the elements of the implementation of EBFM in New England based upon this emerging best practice.

Implementation Examples of EBFM

A number of EBFM initiatives are currently underway in the Northwest Atlantic which provide lessons on how best to implement an ecosystem approach in fisheries. The workshop is to consider these and highlight those elements which are most pertinent to the New England fisheries situation.

Steps towards Drafting of EBFM Plan

Given the best practices and lessons learned from case studies elsewhere, the workshop is to consider the tasks required for drafting of an EBFM plan for New England.

Participation

Participation of the full SCC is anticipated with additional representation from the Council and the PDTs as appropriate. External experts with experience in EBFM will also be invited. Overall, attendance in the order of 25 is planned.

References

Rosenberg, A., M. L. Mooney-Seus, I. Kiessling, C.B. Morgensen, R. O'Boyle and J.Peacey. 2009. Lessons from National-Level Implementation in North America and Beyond in. McLeod, K. and H. Leslie [Eds.]. Managing for resilience: New directions for marine ecosystem – based management. Island Press. US (in press).