

NEFMC Report
For the February 19-20, 2014 CCC Meeting

Top four priorities

- Complete the NEFMC Omnibus EFH amendment, where existing groundfish closed areas, habitat closed areas, and scallop rotational management areas require optimization to minimize adverse effects of fishing to the extent practicable.
- Complete an amendment to consider measures to address accumulation limits and fleet diversity in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.
- Develop management actions to improve catch information for the Atlantic herring fishery, including river herring/shad bycatch, and to revisit measures that were disapproved in a recent amendment to the herring FMP.
- Pursue other management actions, such as an Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Plan, coordinating with adjacent management bodies to facilitate a consistent approach, a limited entry program for the whiting fishery, and measures to address at-sea monitoring issues.

Problems/concerns/other issues

- Reliability and timing of stocks assessments for setting catch advice
- Increasing the profitability of the northeast multispecies fishery in the face of reduced quotas
- Outstanding questions about standardized bycatch reporting methodologies, industry funding of at-sea monitoring, electronic monitoring, and discard estimation.
- FY 2015 budget uncertainty