

Liaison Report from the September 28 thru September 30, 2021 NEFMC Meeting – Webinar

Election of Officers:

The NEFMC elected Eric Reid as chairman and Rick Bellavance as vice chairman to lead the Council in the year ahead. Both are from Rhode Island. They also welcomed 4 incoming council members, 2 from Maine, 1 from Mass and 1 from CT.

Additional information can be found here: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-Elects-Eric-Reid-as-Chair-Rick-Bellavance-as-Vice-Chair.pdf>

Herring:

The Council took final action on Framework Adjustment 9 which addresses:

- (1) a rebuilding plan to address the overfished status of Atlantic herring; and
- (2) adjustment of herring accountability measures such as payback provisions. FW 9 will now be submitted to the Agency as approved by the Council.

Scallops:

For Sea Scallops we received an update on FW 34, a summary of 2021 scallop survey results which possibly show most of the 2022 Access Area trips will take place out in the CAII area and an update on recruitment which shows an area in the North Western Hudson Canyon Area which overlays with one of the WEA's. There was no action taken and this was an update to the Council.

Groundfish:

We received an update on FW 63 that includes:

- (1) 2022 TACs for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank (GB),
- (2) 2022-2023 specifications for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder,
- (3) 2022- 2024 specifications for Georges Bank cod and Gulf of Maine cod,
- (4) Possible adjustment of 2022 specs for Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine haddock,
- (5) Adjustment of 2022 specs for white hake based on rebuilding plan,
- (6) Measures to promote stock rebuilding, and
- (7) Alternatives for setting groundfish default specifications;

The summary of motions and press release have not yet been posted.

Monkfish:

We received a report on discard estimation methods and the Council by unanimous consent voted to request that the NRCC and the NEFSC maintain their timeline and complete a 2022 monkfish stock assessment.

Skates:

The Council took final action on the 2022-2023 Skate specifications and chose Alternative 2 which sets a 37,236 mt fishery. This action has now been submitted to the agency.

Whiting:

The Council took action based on the PDT and AP recommendations in the Annual Monitoring Report, that the Council should advise the Regional Administrator to not make the automatic adjustment to the southern red hake TAL trigger because of 2020 catch overages. This would leave the 40.4% TAL trigger in place and allow for additional data collection for fishing year 2021.

2022 Council Priorities

The Council also had their Initial discussion on 2022 Council Priorities for all fishery management plans and other Council responsibilities. They will take final action on their priorities at their December Council Meeting.

And this concludes my Liaison Report.