

# Liaison Report from the April 12<sup>th</sup> thru April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 NEFMC Meeting in Mystic, CT – Hybrid

## **Honoring Lou Goodreau who is retiring:**

The New England Fishery Management Council opened the first day of its April meeting in Mystic, CT by paying tribute to Lou Goodreau, an economist and information technology specialist who is retiring in May following a dedicated 45-year career on the Council's staff. Lou began working for the Council in March of 1977 and is third longest serving staff member among the nation's eight regional fishery management councils.

Additional information can be found here: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Council-Honors-Lou-Goodreau-for-45-Year-Career-on-Staff.pdf>

## **Monkfish Committee Report:**

The NEFMC initiated Framework Adjustment 13 to the federal Monkfish FMP which will include:

- Specifications for the 2023-2025 monkfish fishing years and consider the development of alternatives for:
- Revising days-at-sea allocations and possession limits, including the incidental possession limit;
- Management measures to reduce monkfish discards in the Southern Fishery Management Area;
- Require 12" mesh for monkfish gillnets; and
- Require vessel monitoring systems (VMSs) across the monkfish fishery

Additional information can be found here: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Council-Initiates-Monkfish-Framework-13-with-Fishing-Year-2023-2025-Specifications-and-Other-Management-Measures.pdf>

## **Habitat Committee Report:**

We received updates on:

- The Southern New England Habitat Area of Particular Concern Framework. The Council deliberated a motion in regards to Cod spawning in the HAPC but decided to postpone action to a time certain (June 2022)
- Approved a comment letter to NMFS and BOEM regarding the Draft Federal Survey Mitigation Strategy
- Approved a comment letter regarding Maines Offshore Wind Roadmap draft initial working group recommendations
- Approved a comment letter to the USCG regarding Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts Port Access Rout Study (PARS)

### **Scallop Committee Report:**

- The Council approved the Limited Access Scoping Document for public comment.
- The Council also approved holding seven in-person scoping meetings and two webinars over the next two months (April 27<sup>th</sup>-June 24<sup>th</sup>) to solicit public input on whether a leasing program is warranted in the limited access component of the Atlantic sea scallop fishery

Additional information can be found here: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-Approves-Scallop-Leasing-Scoping-Documents-Readies-for-Seven-In-Person-Meetings-and-Two-Webinars.pdf>

### **Groundfish Committee Report:**

- The Council Initiated Framework Adjustment 65 including, Specifications, Rebuilding Plans, and Management Measures
- The Council's Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) and Groundfish Committee, with input from the Groundfish Advisory Panel and Recreational Advisory Panel, will work on Framework 65 throughout the year. The Council will take final action on the framework during its December 2022 meeting.

Extensive additional information can be found here: <https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Groundfish-NEFMC-Initiates-Framework-Adjustment-65-with-Specifications-Rebuilding-Plans-and-Management-Measures.pdf>

### **Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM):**

- The Council approved their prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Planning document

Additional information regarding outreach, infographics, brochures and a 5 minute video can be found here: <https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/EBFM-Outreach-Ramping-Up-%E2%80%93-Watch-the-Five-Minute-Video-View-the-Infographics-Check-out-the-Brochures.pdf>

### **Herring and Industry Funded Monitoring (IFM):**

- The Council received a presentation from GARFO and the NEMFC in regards to the status of Industry Funded Monitoring in the Herring Fishery

The presentation slide deck can be found here: [https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/1\\_NOAA-Fisheries-IFM-presentation-slides.pdf](https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/1_NOAA-Fisheries-IFM-presentation-slides.pdf)