



New England Fishery Management Council

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Eric Reid, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 5, 2021
TO: Skate Advisory Panel and Committee
FROM: Scott Olszewski, Skate Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Charge for November 16, 2021, meeting**

There will be a joint webinar meeting of the Skate Advisory Panel (AP) and Committee on **Tuesday, November 16 starting at 9:00 AM**. Please join the webinar ten minutes prior to test audio and to help the meeting start on-time.

PURPOSE. The purpose of this meeting is to: 1) develop Framework Adjustment 9 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan (FMP) on the topics of updating Skate FMP objectives and potential revisions to skate federal permit conditions; and 2) make final recommendations for Council work priorities for 2022 regarding skates.

MEETING MATERIALS. To make the most of our meeting time, please familiarize yourself with the documents beforehand and come ready to make any recommendations. As documents become available, they will be posted on the Council webpage for this meeting:

<https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/nov-16-2021-skate-joint-advisory-panel-and-committee-webinar>

WEBINAR REGISTRATION. To be able to view a webinar, listen and talk during it, you must: 1) register for the webinar in advance and 2) join the webinar on the day of the meeting (you can then select phone or computer for your audio connection). If you just call in using the phone number provided on the meeting notice, you will be in listen-only mode and will not be able to speak during the meeting.

QUESTIONS/TECHNICAL SUPPORT. If you have any questions about the meeting documents, agenda, or how to participate, please contact Rachel Feeney (rfeeney@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 x110). A [Public Participation Guide](#) is available with tips on joining Council webinars. Staff would be happy to set up a practice webinar for you ahead of the meeting if that would be helpful. For technical support during the meeting, please email helpdesk@nefmc.org or call 978-465-0492 x111.

Framework Adjustment 9

RECENT ACTIVITY. In September 2021, the Skate Committee accepted the AP recommendations to not include alternatives in Amendment 5 for making intermediate possession limits or changing/increasing at-sea monitoring programs (Document 4a and 4b). In fact, the Committee recommended to the Council that work on Amendment 5 cease and to take up the remaining issues through a framework adjustment action (considering updates to FMP objectives and revising skate federal permit conditions). The Council accepted this recommendation and initiated Framework Adjustment 9. The PDT met on October 4 to develop this framework and plan the impacts analysis (Document 4c).

ON NOVEMBER 16. On November 16, the AP and Committee will be developing this newly initiated action. We will look at the Amendment 5 problem statement and goals and identify which of these ideas should be carried forward for Framework 9 (listed in Section 3.0 of the Framework 9 discussion document, Document 2a). A worksheet (Document 2b) is provided for you to jot notes if that is helpful (optional, will not be “turned in”), like the Committee used to develop the Amendment 5 problem statement and goals in August 2020. We will also review the alternatives in Framework 9, consider information provided by the Plan Development Team (PDT) to better understand the potential impacts of the alternatives, and provide any further input to shape this action. In the Framework 9 discussion document (Document 2a), there are text boxes with notes and lists of specific questions where our input would be helpful. The questions are also listed here:

Discussion questions and notes (see Document 2a for details):

- **Section 3.0: Introduction**
 - Because FW9 is a follow-on action regarding a subset of issues, the Amendment 5 problem statement and goals are likely not all relevant for FW9. What revisions to these statements do the AP and Committee recommend?
 - As Framework 9 contemplates updates to the Skate FMP goal and objectives, it would be helpful to include language in the problem statement/goals to that end.
- **Section 5.0: Alternatives**
 - The PDT has a few comments on the rationale for the alternatives. Please review and provide any clarifications.
 - Are there any modifications or new alternatives to recommend regarding the federal skate permit?
- **Section 6.0: Preliminary Impacts Analysis**
 - After reviewing the information in this section, what other information could the PDT provide that could clarify the impacts of the alternatives and help in making final recommendations for preferred alternatives?

FUTURE STEPS. A Skate Committee report is not on the December Council meeting agenda, but the Council is expected to take final action on Framework 9 at its early February 2022 meeting. Our November meeting is a key opportunity for input and guidance as the PDT prepares this action and the full impact analysis. There will be AP and Committee meetings in January to review the impact analysis and make recommendations on final preferred alternatives.

2022 Council Management Priorities

RECENT ACTIVITY. In September, the Council included the recommendations of the Skate Committee on its draft list of 2022 Council management priorities (Document 4b). The PDT met on October 4 and developed feedback to the Committee on its recommendations (Document 3a).

ON NOVEMBER 16. On November 16, the AP and Skate Committee can make final recommendations on what the Council should work on in 2022 regarding skates, including any ranking of priorities.

FUTURE STEPS. In December, the Council will finalize its list of management priorities for 2022.