



New England Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 20, 2016
TO: Executive Committee
FROM: Tom Nies, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **NEFMC and MAFMC Committee Representation**

This memorandum summarizes information on NEFMC and MAFMC representation on the major oversight committees in the Greater Atlantic Region. Membership of these Committees evolved over time and the rationale for composition not well documented. This memo compares membership to the distribution of landings and revenues for the period 2013-2015. While this is one way to evaluate whether Committee membership is representative of the fishery, it is not necessarily the best way. There may be other important factors. For example, it may be more important to make sure different gears or other components of a fishery are represented - an example might be making sure NGOM interests are represented on the Scallop Committee. A longer time series of landings might give a different result – particularly for species affected by climate change or changes in stock status (such as groundfish).

Enclosure (1) summarizes calendar year 2013 through 2015 commercial landings and value for species or species groupings managed by the NEFMC or the MAFMC. Data are summarized in two ways: by landing state and by homeport state of the landing vessel. States are grouped as members of the NEFMC, MAFMC, or other states (not reported here). In some cases – typically those species with substantial landings in state waters – the homeport state is not identified in the database. The distribution of landings and revenue are similar no matter how the data are attributed to a state with the exception of the surf clam/ocean quahog data. In that instance, the majority of landings are by vessels that claim a MAFMC homeport state, but many of these vessels land in New England states so the landings by state are more evenly distributed. Tilefish data is not reported – less than 1 percent of landings and revenues are attributed to NEFMC states.

Enclosure (2) summarizes the current membership of most of the NEFMC and MAFMC committees. GARFO representation is not reported.

If Committee membership is compared to the landings and revenue data, there are five committees where the membership does not seem consistent with the distribution of the fishery.

Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish: This MAFMC Committee has 12 MAFMC members and 2 NEFMC members. Even though the NEFMC has only 14 percent of the Committee seats,

over 60 percent of landings and revenues are attributed to NEFMC states (whether apportioned by landing state or homeport state).

Demersal Committee: This MAFMC Committee has 14 MAFMC members and 1 NEFMC member. While the NEFMC has 7 percent of the Committee seats, between 30 and 40 percent of the commercial pounds and revenue are attributed to NEFMC states. This is largely driven by scup landings; NEFMC states are attributed about 55 percent of scup landings and revenues, while NEFMC pounds and revenues for BSB and fluke are each about 26 percent. Note that the quotas for these species are allocated to individual states. NEFMC states accounted for about 40 percent of the recreational harvest (A+B1) from 2013 through 2015.

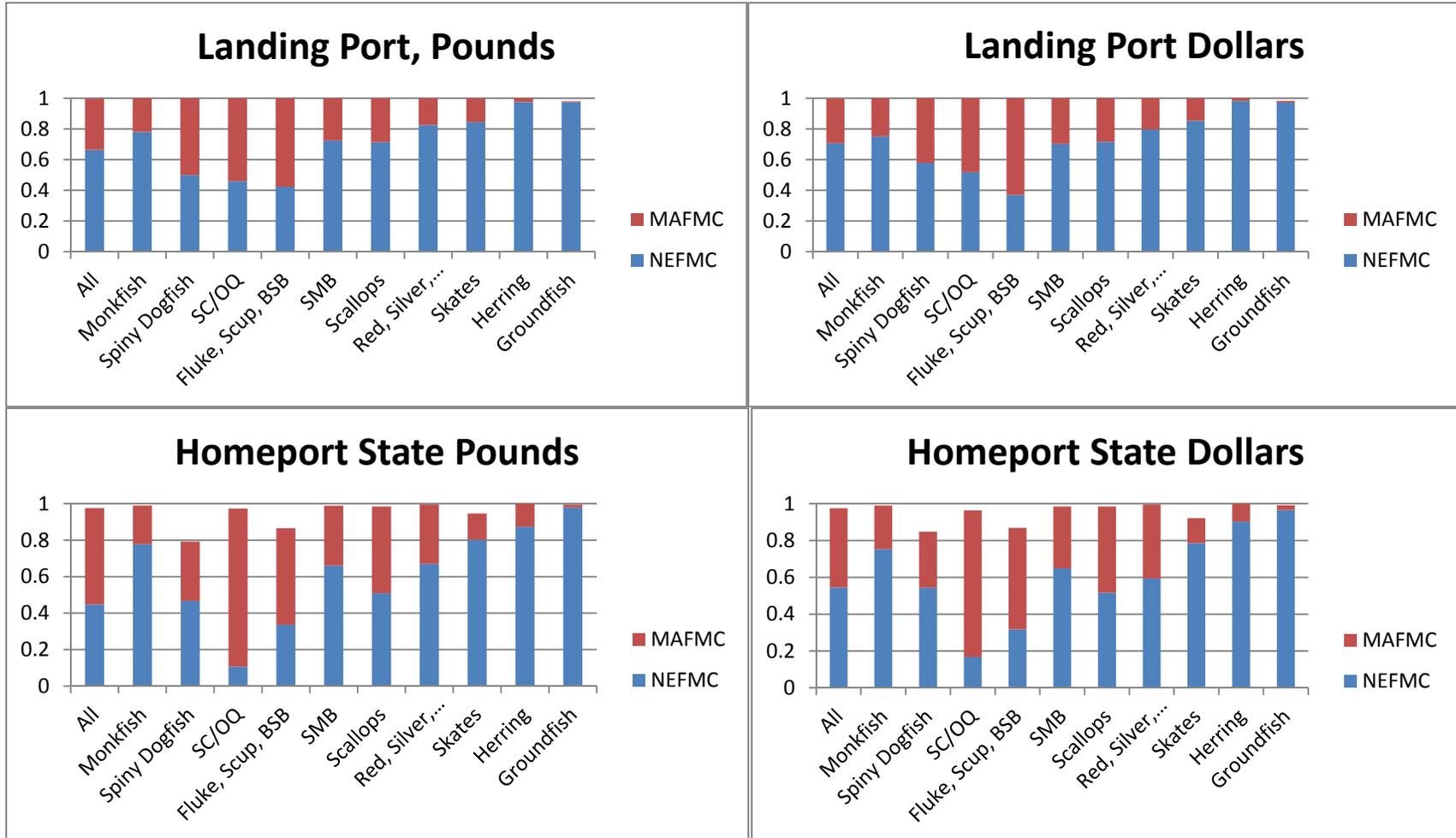
Spiny Dogfish: This joint Committee has 8 MAFMC members and 2 NEFMC members (one NEFMC seat remains vacant). Between 40 and 60 percent of landings and revenues are attributed to NEFMC states.

Monkfish: This joint Committee has 5 MAFMC members and 8 NEFMC members. While the MAFMC has just fewer than 40 percent of the seats, MAFMC states are attributed between 20 and 25 percent of landings and revenues.

Scallops: This NEFMC Committee has 8 NEFMC members and 2 MAFMC members. While about seventy percent of revenues and pounds are landed in NEFMC states, they are evenly split between NEFMC and MAFMC states when attributed by homeport state.

Little Atlantic herring or groundfish is attributed to MAFMC states. Both of these Committees have two MAFMC members, but two members might be the minimum necessary to ensure at least one representative is present at each Committee meeting.

Figure 1 – Calendar year 2013-2015 landings and revenue, by state of landing (top) or vessel homeport state (bottom). Source: NEFSC 20XXAA CFDETS.



Current NEFMC/MAFMC Committee Assignments

MAFMC Committees:

Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish: MAFMC: 12 NEFMC: 2

Demersal: MAMFC: 14 NEFMC: 1 ASMFC: 2

Surf Clam: MAFMC: 8 ASMFC: 1

River Herring/Shad: MAFMC: 13 NEFMC: 3 ASMFC: 1

Ecosystem and Ocean Planning: MAFMC: 12 NEFMC: 0 ASMFC: 2

Collaborative Research: MAFMC: 11 NEFMC: 0- ASMFC: 1

Joint Committees

Monkfish: MAFMC: 5 NEFMC: 8

Spiny Dogfish: MAFMC: 8 NEFMC: 2 (1 vacant) ASMFC: 1

NEFMC Committees

Atlantic Herring: NEFMC: 11 MAFMC: 2

Groundfish: NEFMC: 10 MAFMC: 2

Scallops: NEFMC: 8 MAFMC: 2

Small-Mesh: NEFMC: 6 MAFMC: 1

Skates: NEFMC: 7 MAFMC: 1

Habitat: NEMFC: 9 MAFMC: 2 ASMFC: 1

EBFM: NEFMC: 8 MAFMC: 2

Observer: NEFMC: 3 MAFMC: 0

Research Steering: NEFMC: 4 MAFMC: 0