

# Liaison Report from the June 12-14 NEFMC Meeting in Portland, ME.

- Skates

In an effort to keep the skate wing fishery open as long as possible the NEFMC approved FW 6 to the Northeast Skate Complex FMP. The FW reduces – from 25% to 10% – the uncertainty Buffer. If implemented by NMFS, the action will result in an additional 2,631 mt increase in total allowable landings (TAL). By taking this action the council is hopeful a premature closure can be avoided.

- Herring

The Council voted to initiate a herring specifications package to set catch limits for the next three fishing years using updated information from the 2018 benchmark stock assessment. The new herring assessment ~~will be~~ was peer reviewed June 26-29, 2018 in Woods Hole, MA.

- River Herring/Shad

The Council voted to take “no action” on including River Herring/Shad as “stocks” in the Atlantic Herring FMP, thereby reaffirming that management of river herring and shad should continue on its current course.

- Groundfish

The Council voted to initiate Framework Adjustment 58, to include:

- A) To set specs for 2019 for US/Canada stocks (Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder),
- B) To revise/establish rebuilding plans for several stocks (ocean pout, GB winter flounder, witch flounder, Gulf of Maine/GB windowpane flounder, and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder),
- C) To address Status Determination Criteria issue when analytic assessments fail, and
- D) To provide additional guidance on sector overages.

- Scallop

The NEFMC voted to Initiate Framework 30 for the next specs cycle and the Council approved the 2019-2020 Scallop research set-aside priorities.

- Habitat

The NEFMC voted to remand its draft Clam Dredge FW Adjustment to the Habitat Committee for further development. The Council also issued a specific request to the Surfclam industry to propose additional alternatives for consideration and analysis.