

## **NEFMC Report For Feb 20-21, 2013 CCC Meeting**

### **Top three priorities**

- Setting ABCs and ACLs with several underlying retrospective patterns in stock assessments, making required adjustments to Council FMPs more difficult.
- Completing the NEFMC omnibus EFH amendment, where existing groundfish closed areas, habitat closed areas and scallop rotational areas require optimization to minimize adverse impacts to the extent practicable.
- Addressing other priority management actions that have been delayed because of demands on Council time (such as possible ownership limits and maintaining fleet diversity in the groundfish FMP, EBFM, visioning and limited entry for our whiting and skate FMPs)

### **New species status designations, rebuilding plans, or management approaches**

- Rebuilding plans established for 10 stocks within the 20 stock Multispecies Plan, adjustments continue to be made in order to remain on the rebuilding timeframes
- Listing of Atlantic Sturgeon distinct population segments as threatened or endangered
- Developing a risk policy for setting ABCs
- Developing catch caps for Atlantic river herring, a species managed by ASMFC
- Developing sectors or ITQs for monkfish

### **Problems/concerns/other issues**

- Reliability and timing of stock assessments for setting ABCs or making projections
- Industry unrest about shared monitoring costs paid for by groundfish vessels and/NMFS, when fishery is undergoing drastic catch reductions
- Increasing demands on the Council, with budget outlook not too promising
- Adequate and timely scientific support and data support to manage with ACLs
- Managing stocks under the US/Canada Transboundary Resource Sharing Understanding, no built in review to assess how well the Understanding is working