



**PROPOSAL FOR THE 8TH NATIONAL WORKSHOP OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE (SCS8)***
May 24, 2023

The Scientific Coordination Subcommittee proposes to convene its 8th workshop (SCS8). The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) is willing to host this meeting. The proposal is for a three-day workshop to be held during the early fall of 2024 (tentatively the last week of August or first week of September 2024). The NEFMC proposes to hold the workshop in New England, depending on the availability and cost of suitable event facilities. The Scientific Coordination Subcommittee reached consensus on the proposed theme after seeking input from all the Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC) and now looks forward to coordinating this workshop.

PROPOSED THEME FOR SCS8:

Applying ABC control rules in a changing environment

A core function of a Council's SSC is to provide recommendations for setting acceptable biological catch (ABC) consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the ABC control rules established in fishery management plans. However, applying ABC control rules in a manner that reliably achieves management goals such as preventing overfishing or rebuilding a stock is difficult with the degree of environmental change and scientific uncertainty that Council regions are experiencing. During the SCS8 workshop, strategies will be explored for how to adapt ABC control rules given the highly variable and changing dynamics of climate, recruitment, and productivity. Each Council region is challenged with managing catch under data limitations and scientific uncertainty, though to varying degrees. Use of alternative reference points and indicators in the absence of analytical assessments will be discussed as well as how stock status determination criteria and rebuilding plans may need to be adapted in the face of directional changes in stock productivity and/or distribution. Importantly, social science can provide critical insight to the SSCs and Councils on the potential for control rules to achieve management goals and how fisheries and communities can adapt to dynamic conditions. The SCS8 workshop will explore how SSCs can better use their expertise in the social sciences and how to consider social and economic information in the setting of catch recommendations.

The Scientific Coordination Subcommittee thinks that this theme is of interest to all Councils and is an appropriate follow-up to the 7th SCS workshop on *Adapting Fisheries Management to a Changing Ecosystem*. This theme will provide actionable guidance for SSCs on how to best support Councils in the management of fisheries given the non-stationarity of systems.

*This proposal was approved by the CCC in May 2023.