

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Committee met on Sept. 18, 2018 to discuss two management actions, Framework Adjustment 58 and Amendment 23, and an initial list of 2019 priorities. At the meeting, the Committee reviewed the work of the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) and recommendations from the Advisors on the draft management actions and developed recommendations for the Council to consider. The Groundfish Advisory Panel met on Sept. 18, 2018 in the morning before the Committee convened in the afternoon. The Groundfish PDT met on July 31, Aug. 7, and Aug. 22, 2018. The Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group met on June 25, Aug. 6, and Sept. 7, 2018.
- B. Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) /Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC): The TRAC met July 10-12, 2018 in Woods Hole, MA to conduct assessments for Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder. The TMGC met on Sept. 11-12, 2018 and the Steering Committee met on Sept. 12-13, 2018 in Boston, MA to discuss quotas for US/Canada stocks and other management issues. The Council will receive an overview of the assessments from the U.S. TRAC chair and an overview of the discussion and recommendations on quotas for fishing year 2019 from the U.S. TMGC chair.
- C. Framework Adjustment 58 (specifications/management measures): This action was initiated at the June Council meeting. It would revise/establish rebuilding plans for several stocks (ocean pout, GB winter flounder, witch flounder, Gulf of Maine (GOM)/GB Northern windowpane flounder, and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder), set specifications for FY2019 for US/Canada stocks, exempt vessels fishing in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) waters from the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and provide additional guidance on sector overages.
- D. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring: Staff will provide a progress update on development of the range of alternatives to the Council and an update from the Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Framework Adjustment 58: (1) Consider for approval the TMGC's recommendations for FY2019 quotas for Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, and (2) approve the range of alternatives for the action
- B. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring: Receive an update on progress

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Groundfish Committee meeting motions for Council meeting
- 2. Presentation: Groundfish Committee Report (Council Staff, *to be provided*)
- 3. TRAC/TMGC

- a. Presentation: TRAC 2018 Summary (U.S. TRAC Co-Chair/NEFSC)
 - b. Eastern Georges Bank Cod, Status Report, TRAC, 2018/01
 - c. Eastern Georges Bank Haddock, Status Report, TRAC, 2018/02
 - d. Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder, Status Report, TRAC, 2018/03
 - e. Presentation: TMGC 2018 Summary (U.S. TMGC Co-Chair/*to be provided*)
 - f. DRAFT TMGC 2018 Guidance Document (*if available*)
4. Framework Adjustment 58/Specifications and Management Measures
 - a. Draft alternatives under development, with Groundfish Committee recommendations from Sept. 18, 2018 meeting incorporated (*to be provided*)
 - b. Memo from Groundfish PDT to SSC re GB yellowtail flounder ABC, including a memo from the Scallop PDT (Aug. 9, 2018)
 - c. Memo from Groundfish PDT to SSC re Rebuilding strategies for several groundfish stocks (Aug. 13, 2018)
 - d. Memo from Groundfish PDT to Committee re development of alternatives for Framework Adjustment 58 (Sept. 14, 2018)
 5. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring – Memo from the Groundfish PDT to the Committee re progress report on Amendment 23 (Sept. 10, 2018)
 6. Meeting Summaries
 - a. Groundfish Committee meeting summary, June 1, 2018
 - b. Fishery Data for Stock Assessments Working Group meeting summaries from June 25, Aug. 6, and Sept. 7, 2018, located here:
<https://www.nefmc.org/committees/fishery-data-for-stock-assessment-working-group>
 - c. Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting Motions, Sept. 18, 2018 (*to be provided*)
 - d. Groundfish Committee Meeting Motions, Set. 18, 2018 (*to be provided*)
 7. Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery, Final Year-End Results for FY 2017, NMFS/GARFO (*if available*)
 8. Correspondence