

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: On Jan. 20, 2026, the Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) met in the morning and the Groundfish Committee met in the afternoon. The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) met on Jan. 8, 2026. All meetings were held by webinar.
- B. Framework Adjustment 69/Specifications and Management Measures: Council staff sent the final submission to GARFO on Mar. 11, 2025. GARFO published a proposed rule on Dec. 8, 2025. The public comment period ended on Jan. 7, 2026.
- C. Revised Amendment 25: Council staff sent the revised preliminary submission to GARFO on Dec. 12, 2025. GARFO published a Notice of Availability (NOA) on Jan. 13, 2026. The public comment period ends on Mar. 16, 2026.
- D. Framework Adjustment 72/Specifications and Management Measures: The Council took final action at its December 2025 meeting. Following the Jan. 21, 2026, SSC meeting to consider the Council's request to revisit the white hake FY2026-FY2030 specifications, Council staff will complete the preliminary submission.
- E. Recreational Measures for 2026: Staff will provide an overview of possible recreational management measures for fishing year 2026 Western Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock. The Council will make recommendations to GARFO at this meeting.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Recommend recreational measures for fishing year 2026 for WGOM cod and GOM haddock for submission to GARFO.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Presentation, Council Staff
- 2. Council's Groundfish Priorities Quarterly Outlook for 2026
- 3. Groundfish Committee Motions
- 4. Recreational Fishery
 - a. Summary of recent catch and effort for GOM cod and GOM haddock
 - b. Summary of recent recreational regulations and catch performance for GOM cod and GOM haddock
 - c. Summary of updated Wave 5 catch and effort for GOM cod and GOM haddock
 - d. Staff memo re possible options for fishing year 2026 recreational measures
- 5. Meeting summaries
 - a. Recreational Advisory Panel, Nov. 17, 2025
 - b. Recreational Advisory Panel, Jan. 20, 2026
 - c. Groundfish Committee, Jan. 20, 2026
- 6. Correspondence