

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Recreational Advisory Panel met on Aug. 17, 2020. The Groundfish Advisory Panel met on Aug. 18 and Sep. 20, 2020. The Groundfish Committee met on Aug. 19 and Sep. 21, 2020. The Groundfish Plan Development Team met on Jun. 30, Aug. 13, Aug. 20, and Sep. 3, 2020. All meetings were held by webinar.
- B. Framework Adjustment 59 (specifications/management measures): GARFO published the final rule for this action on Jul. 30, 2020, with an effective date of Jul. 28, 2020.
- C. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring: The public comment period closed on Aug. 31, 2020, with six additional public hearings held since the June Council meeting. Five public hearings occurred by webinar on Jul. 16, Jul. 29, Jul. 30, Aug. 6, and Aug. 10, 2020 and one in-person public hearing occurred outside in a tent in Wakefield, MA on Aug. 26, 2020. A sub-panel of the SSC reviewed the Kerr et al. report on Aug. 21, 2020 by webinar.
- D. Petition for Rulemaking on Atlantic Cod: The Committee received input from the advisory panels to follow-up with the Council on GARFO's request to consult with the Council on issues raised in a petition for rulemaking on Atlantic cod.
- E. Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC)/ Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC): The TRAC met July 7-9, 2020 by webinar to conduct assessments for Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder. The TMGC met on Sept. 1-2, 2020 and the Steering Committee met on Sept. 2, 2020, by webinar 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 2021 from the U.S. TMGC chair.
- F. Framework Adjustment 61 (specifications and management measures): The Council initiated this action in June to include (1) 2021 total allowable catches for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, (2) 2021-2023 specifications for roughly half of the groundfish stocks, (3) white hake rebuilding, and (3) other management measures.
- G. Groundfish Catch Share Program Review: The Final Draft Report was presented to the Council in April 2020. Over the summer the Groundfish PDT and a sub-panel of the SSC reviewed the report and their findings were considered during priorities discussions by the Groundfish Committee.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. **Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring** – receive an overview of public comments and take final action.
- B. **Petition for Rulemaking on Atlantic Cod** – discuss how to address issues that may have merit
- C. **Framework Adjustment 61** – receive an update and approve recommendations from the TMGC and SSC.

III. INFORMATION

1. Groundfish Committee motions for Council meeting (*to be provided*)
2. Presentation: Council staff (*to be provided*)
3. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring:
 - a. Presentation: Council Staff
 - b. Draft Amendment 23 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - c. Draft Amendment 23, Volume II - Appendices
 - d. Amendment 23 Public Hearing Document with Fishery Profiles
 - e. Summary of Public Comments
 1. Public Hearing Meeting Summaries
 2. Written Public Comments
 - f. Draft report "Evaluating the Impact of Inaccurate Catch Information on New England Groundfish Management" (Kerr et al) and Sub-Panel SSC peer review report
 - g. Council Decision Document (*to be provided*)
4. Petition for Rulemaking on Atlantic Cod
 - a. CLF Petition for Rulemaking to End Overfishing and Rebuild Cod
 - b. Supplement to CLF Cod Petition
 - c. Correspondence: GARFO to NEFMC re CLF Petition
 - d. Second Supplement to CLF Cod Petition
 - e. Draft letter for review, Council Staff (*to be provided*)
5. Framework Adjustment 61/Specifications and Management Measures
 - a. Memo from Groundfish PDT to SSC re Georges Bank yellowtail flounder ABCs, including a memo from the Scallop PDT, Aug. 21, 2020
 - b. Memo from Groundfish PDT to SSC re developing a white hake rebuilding plan, Aug. 21, 2020
 - c. TRAC Status Report 2020 – Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder
 - d. TRAC Status Report 2020 – Eastern Georges Bank Cod
 - e. TRAC Status Report 2020 – Eastern Georges Bank Haddock
 - f. Presentation: TRAC 2020 Summary (U.S. TRAC Co-Chair/NEFSC) (*to be provided*)
 - g. Presentation: TMGC 2020 Summary (U.S. TMGC Co-Chair)
6. Groundfish Catch Share Review
 - a. Northeast Multispecies Catch Share Review-Final Draft, completed by working group
 - b. Groundfish PDT meeting summary, May 6, 2020
 - c. Sub-Panel of the SSC review report, Sep. 16, 2020
7. Meeting Summaries
 - a. Groundfish Advisory Panel, meeting motions, Aug. 18, 2020
 - b. Groundfish Committee, meeting motions, Aug. 19, 2020
 - c. Groundfish Advisory Panel, meeting motions, Sep. 21, 2020 (*to be provided*)
 - d. Groundfish Committee, meeting motions, Sep. 22, 2020 (*to be provided*)
8. Correspondence