NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

A. Meetings: The Groundfish Committee held a hybrid meeting on Sept. 15, 2022 in Boston, MA. The Groundfish Advisory Panel and Recreational Advisory Panel met on Aug. 31, 2022. The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) met on July 11, July 25, and Aug. 15, 2022. The Advisory Panel and PDT meetings were held by webinar.

B. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring: GARFO sent a decision letter to the Council on Apr. 12, 2022, approving the amendment. The final rule is pending.

C. Framework Adjustment 63 (specifications and management measures): The final rule published, approving the framework, and became effective on July 15, 2022.

D. Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC)/Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC): The TRAC met July 12-14, 2022, by webinar to conduct assessments for Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder. The TMGC held a hybrid meeting on Sept. 12-13, 2022, in Boston, MA to discuss quotas for US/Canada stocks and other management issues. At its September meeting, first, the Council will receive a briefing on the TMGC, and the process used for managing shared U.S./Canada resources on Georges Bank. Then, the Council will receive an overview of the assessments from the U.S. TRAC chair, followed by an overview of the discussion and recommendations on quotas for fishing year 2023 from the U.S. TMGC chair.

E. Framework Adjustment 65 (specifications and management measures): The Council initiated this action in April and received an update in June to include: (1) revise status determination criteria, as appropriate, (2) revise rebuilding plans for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) winter flounder, (3) set FY2023-FY2024 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern GB cod and Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock, (4) set FY2023-FY2024 specifications for GB yellowtail flounder and GB cod, including a catch target for the recreational fishery, (5) set FY2023-FY2025 specifications for GB haddock, GOM haddock, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, white hake, Atlantic halibut, ocean pout, and Atlantic wolfish, (6) adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding for GOM cod, SNE/MA winter flounder, and GB cod, and (7) revise acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules, in consultation with the SSC.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

A. Framework Adjustment 65 – receive an update and approve recommendations from the TMGC and SSC.

III. INFORMATION

1. Groundfish Committee Motions
2. Presentation, Council staff
3. Framework Adjustment 65/Specifications and Management Measures
a. Draft alternatives outline
b. Groundfish PDT memos to the SSC, including: (1) GB and GOM cod, (2) GOM cod rebuilding, (3) additional relevant information on GB cod, (4) SNE/MA winter flounder, and (5) GB yellowtail flounder
c. Risk policy matrices including: (1) GOM cod, (2) GB cod, (3) SNE/MA winter flounder, and (4) GB yellowtail flounder

4. Meeting Summaries
   a. Groundfish Advisory Panel, Aug. 31, 2022, draft or final
   b. Recreational Advisory Panel, Aug. 31, 2022, draft or final
   c. Groundfish Committee, Sept. 15, 2022, draft summary or motions

5. Correspondence