

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Groundfish Committee**

**I. STATUS**

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Committee met on Sept. 21, 2017 to discuss two management actions, Framework Adjustment 57 and Amendment 23, and an initial list of 2018 priorities. At the meeting, the Committee reviewed the work of the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) on the draft management actions and developed recommendations for the Council. The Groundfish PDT met on Aug. 3 and Aug. 31.
- B. Framework Adjustment 56 (specifications/management measures): The action was partially approved and effective on Aug. 1, 2017.
- C. Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) /Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC): The TRAC met July 11-14, 2017 in St. Andrews, NB, Canada to conduct assessments for Eastern Georges Bank (EGB) cod, EGB haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. The TMGC met on Sept. 6-7, 2017 and the Steering Committee met on Sept. 8, 2017 in Halifax, NS, Canada to discuss quotas for US/Canada stocks and other management issues. The Council will receive overview of the assessments from the US TRAC chair and an overview of the discussion and recommendations on quotas for fishing year 2018 from the US TMGC chair.
- D. Framework Adjustment 57 (specifications/management measures): This action was initiated at the June Council meeting. It will incorporate any status changes for groundfish stocks and set specifications for all groundfish stocks for FY 2018 to FY 2020, set specifications for FY 2018 for US/Canada stocks (Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder), evaluate the common pool trimester total allowable catches (TACs), modify Atlantic halibut management, modify the Southern windowpane flounder accountability measures for the large-mesh non-groundfish fisheries (e.g., scup and summer flounder), and revise the recreational management measures process.
- E. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring Action: The Council discussed A23 at its June meeting. The purpose of A23 is to improve reliability and accountability of catch reporting and to ensure a precise and accurate representation of catch (landings and discards).

**II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. Framework Adjustment 57: (1) Consider for approval the TMGC's recommendations for FY 2018 quotas for EGB cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, and (2) approve the range of alternatives
- B. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring Action: (1) Review a draft outline of the likely range of alternatives, and (2) discuss the possibility of an industry workshop

### III. INFORMATION

1. Groundfish Committee meeting motions, Sept. 21, 2017
2. Presentation: Groundfish Committee Report (Council Staff, *to be provided*)
3. TRAC/TMGC
  - a. Presentation: TRAC 2017 Summary (US TRAC Co-Chair/NEFSC)
  - b. Eastern Georges Bank Cod, Status Report, TRAC, 2017/01
  - c. Eastern Georges Bank Haddock, Status Report, TRAC, 2017/02
  - d. Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder, Status Report, TRAC, 2017/03
  - e. Presentation: TMGC 2017 Summary (US TMGC Co-Chair/*to be provided*)
  - f. DRAFT TMGC Guidance Document (*if available*)
4. Framework Adjustment 57
  - a. PDT memo to the SSC re GB yellowtail flounder ABCs for FY 2018 and FY 2019 with Scallop PDT memo attached (Aug. 4, 2017)
  - b. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re gear research large-mesh belly panel to reduce southern windowpane flounder in the scup fishery (Aug. 25, 2017)
  - c. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re common pool trimester TACs (Sept. 14, 2017)
  - d. Refer to previous PDT work on Atlantic halibut, windowpane flounder, and the recreational fishery (Documents 4a-4d) here: <http://www.nefmc.org/library/june-2017-groundfish>
5. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring
  - a. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re draft outline of the likely range of alternatives (Sept. 14, 2017)
  - b. Refer to 2017 June Council Meeting Motions (Motions 9 and 9a), regarding an industry workshop here: <http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Final.Motions-to-Council-June-2017.pdf>
6. Meeting Summaries
  - a. Recreational Advisory Panel meeting summary, June 12, 2017
  - b. Groundfish Committee meeting summary, June 15, 2017
7. Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery, Final Year-End Results for FY 2016, NMFS/GARFO (*if available*)
8. Correspondence