

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Committee and the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) met jointly on Mar. 31, 2026. The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) met on Mar. 16, 2026. All meetings were held by webinar.
- B. Framework Adjustment 69/Specifications and Management Measures: The final rule published, approving the framework, and became effective on Mar. 9, 2026.
- C. Recreational Management Measures: Changes to recreational measures for Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock were published in the final rule for Framework Adjustment 69, and those became effective on Mar. 9, 2026. On Apr. 1, 2026, GARFO sent a letter to the Council announcing the recreational measures for GOM cod would remain unchanged.
- D. Revised Amendment 25: Council staff sent the final submission to GARFO on Mar. 5, 2026, and GARFO worked with Council staff to address an editorial correction to NEPA certification language in the final submission, sent on Mar. 24, 2026. GARFO published a proposed rule on Mar. 18, 2026. The public comment period runs through Apr. 17, 2026. The decision date for the amendment is Apr. 13, 2026.
- E. Framework Adjustment 72/Specifications and Management Measures: Council staff sent the preliminary submission on Mar. 3, 2026.
- F. Redfish Sector Exemption Review: Staff will present an overview of the PDT's report on the review.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Redfish Sector Exemption Review – Review and discussion of the PDT's report on the review.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Presentation, Council Staff
- 2. Council's Groundfish Priorities Quarterly Outlook for 2026
- 3. Groundfish Committee Motions
- 4. Redfish Sector Exemption Review: Draft PDT Report
- 5. Meeting Motions or Summary: Joint Groundfish Committee and Groundfish Advisory Panel, Mar. 31, 2026
- 6. Correspondence