

Groundfish Committee Report

Update on 2016 Priorities:

Monitoring, windowpane flounder management, and recreational fisheries management process

Jamie M. Cournane, PhD
NEFMC Staff
Groundfish Plan Coordinator

NEFMC
Meeting
April 21, 2016



Groundfish Monitoring Program



Development of Framework Adjustment 55

Council Prioritized List of Management Measures 10/1/2015

(monitoring measures only)

1 Groundfish Monitoring Program

1.1 Remove ASM requirement for ELM trips

1.2 Performance criteria for when stocks necessary to meet CV standard

1.3 Sector-specific coverage requirements*

1.4 CV standard as a target*

1.5 Sector-specific monitoring buffers or discard rates*

**These measures will likely not be developed in FW 55, in order for any changes to the groundfish monitoring program to be implemented in time for May 1, 2016. NMFS could develop 1.3 under its existing authority. 1.4 and 1.5 may require additional time and further may be more suitable within an amendment, depending on the specifics of the alternatives. Therefore, the PDT will focus on 1.1 and 1.2 only within FW 55.*



Framework Adjustment 55: Monitoring Alternatives

Alternative	No Action and Council's Preferred Alternatives	Total 2016 coverage level (NEFOP + ASM) %	Driving Stock
4.3.1.1	No Action	41%	Redfish
4.3.1.3.1	Clarify that coverage levels be set only using realized stock level CVs (Preferred Alternative)	37%	Redfish
4.3.1.4.1	Remove ASM coverage requirement for extra-large mesh gillnet trips (Preferred Alternative)	37%	Redfish
4.3.1.3.2	Multi-year approach to setting sector coverage (Preferred Alternative)	17%	Redfish
4.3.1.5	Fishery Performance Criteria for Predicting the target ASM coverage level (Preferred Alternative)	14%	SNE/MA yellowtail flounder



January 2016 Council Motion

Problem statement:

When Industry-Funded ASM requirements were established in Amendment 16, the expectation was that increased catch limits – as a result of rebuilding – would enable the industry to afford the cost of monitoring. Since 2010, ACLs for many stocks have declined sharply, along with groundfish revenues, and the size of the fleet. The affordability of the ASM program for groundfish sectors is in question. The current configuration of the ASM program may lead to significant economic impacts (i.e., economic losses) to the groundfish fishery and negative social impacts (i.e., those that reduce resiliency and increase vulnerabilities of fishing communities).



January 2016 Council Motion

Therefore, the Council requests analysis of the following by the PDT prior to the April Council meeting to assess whether:

- 1) The CV requirements and methodologies are the most appropriate to verify area fished, catch and discards by species and gear type for the sector system.
- 2) ASM provides the sector fishery, recognizing heterogeneity within the fleet (e.g., trip length, homeport, etc.), the maximum flexibility to meet ASM goals and objectives.

Motion carried 17/0/0.



PDT Discussion

1) The CV requirements and methodologies are the most appropriate to verify area fished, catch and discards by species and gear type for the sector system.

Discussion:

- Current system and,
- Other approaches to verify area fished, landings by species and gear type, discards by species and gear type

2) ASM provides the sector fishery, recognizing heterogeneity within the fleet (e.g., trip length, homeport, etc.), the maximum flexibility to meet ASM goals and objectives.

Discussion:

- Monitoring approach for landings accuracy, discard accuracy, and discard precision.
- Analysis that could be completed to examine these issues.



PDT Discussion: draft alternatives for consideration

PDT developed draft objectives for consideration by the Committee and potential tasking for the PDT to address the various objectives.

Draft objectives for Sector Catch Monitoring and Accounting (tasking in italics):

- **Verify up to 100% of the landings to confirm accurate data for removals to ensure fairness and equity for all fishery participants**
 - *Evaluate the effectiveness of portside sampling, EM, and other strategies*
- **Improve the cost effectiveness of discard monitoring**
 - *Evaluate establishing monitoring rates based on a pre-determined risk tolerance for discards by stock*
- **Account for bias in discard estimation**
 - *Evaluate and build on prior work by the PDT and Center on discard accuracy*



Groundfish Committee Discussion 4/7/2016

Monitoring

Several tasking motions of the PDT:

- Develop additional analysis to help managers and the public understand the benefits and risks of changing the CV standard
- Draft a white paper on monitoring strategies that would primarily contribute to accuracy and secondarily precision of groundfish catch reporting

Additional motion:

- Request the Council asks NMFS for information on compliance with groundfish catch reporting



Windowpane Flounder Management



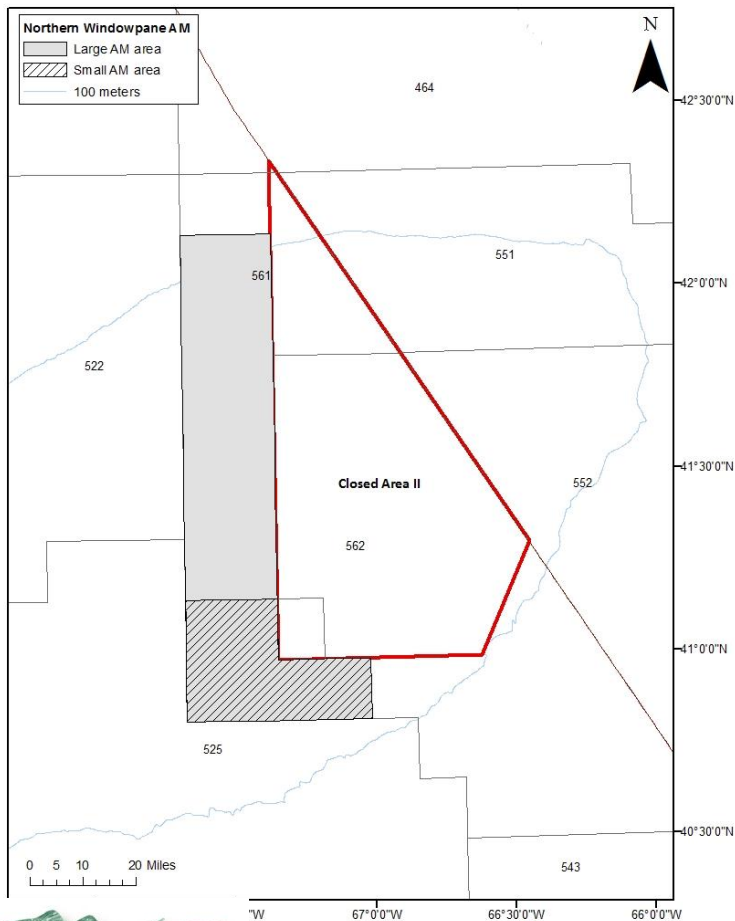
Section 2.0 DRAFT Problem Statement

- When triggered, accountability measures restrict the ability of each impacted fishery to target and catch marketable species, resulting in adverse economic impacts to a range of fleets.
- Southern Windowpane overages in FY2012 and FY2013
 - AM in place for most of FY 2014
- Northern Windowpane overages in FY 2012, FY 2013, FY 2014
 - AM in place FY 2014 & FY 2015

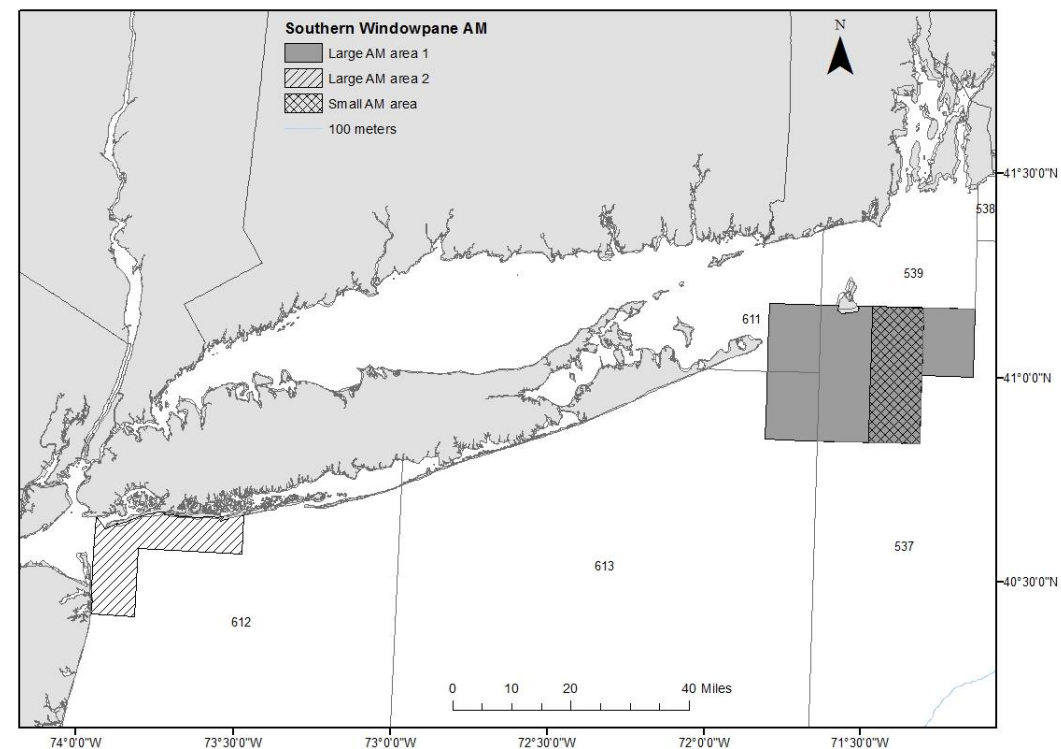


Windowpane AM areas

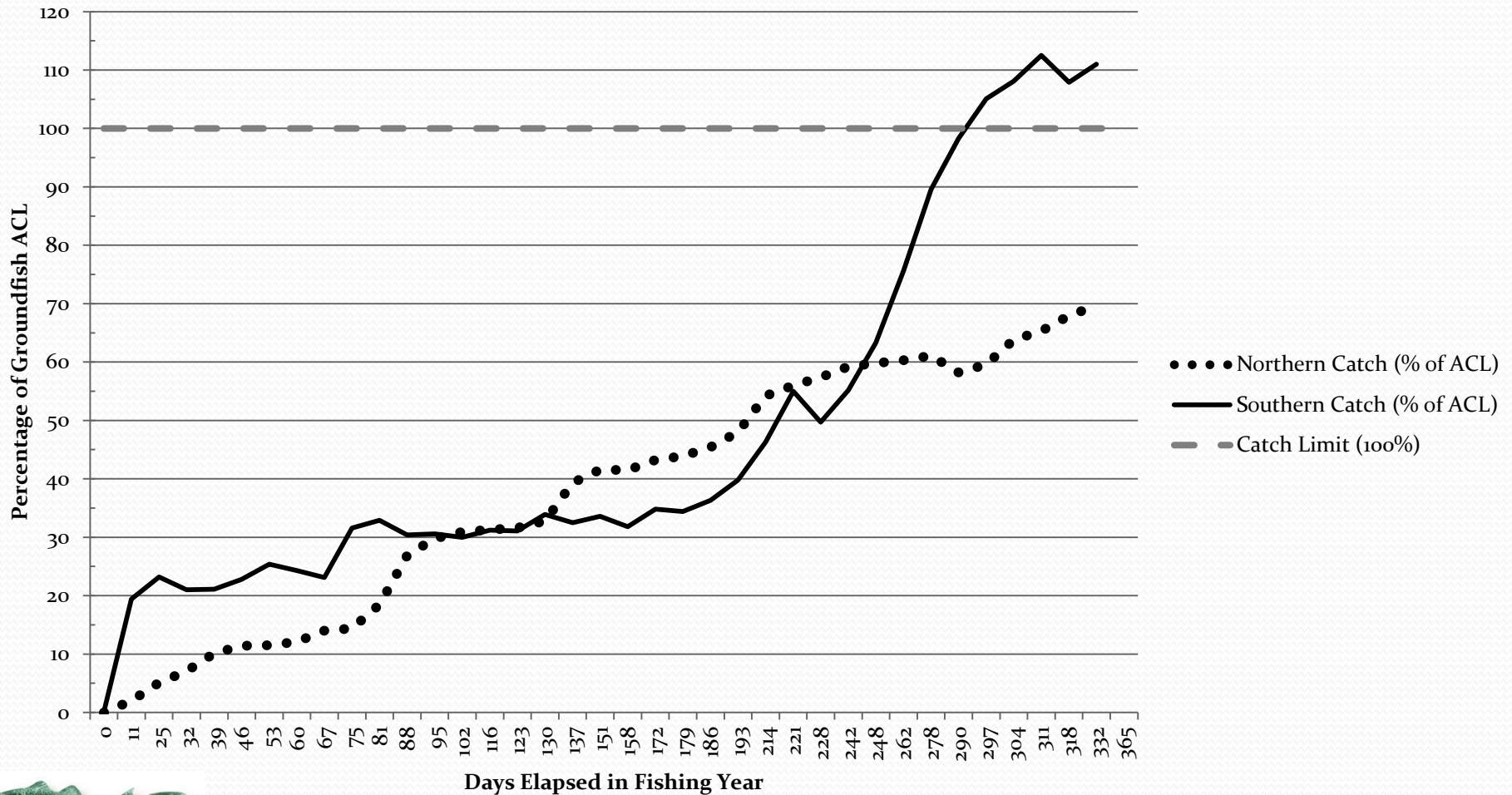
Northern (GOM/GB)



Southern (SNE/MA)



FY 2015 Preliminary Groundfish Fishery Catch Estimates



Section 6.0 Potential Approaches

p.31

Developed for discussion purposes at the Committee Meeting

- 6.1 – No Action/Status Quo
- 6.2 – Allocate the stock
 - The Committee made two (2) PDT Tasking Motions:
 - 1) Develop approaches to allocate northern windowpane to sectors
 - 2) Develop approaches to establish a northern windowpane sub-ACL for other fisheries (Atlantic sea scallop)
- 6.3 – Evaluate the performance of existing AM areas
- 6.4 – Evaluate as candidate for ecosystem component



Recreational Measures Management Process



Council Staff White Paper

Abbreviated Outline

1. Council priority and problem statement
2. Overview of current recreational measures process
3. Perspectives on the process
4. Approaches to addressing concerns
5. Appendices:
 - I. Comparison of recent timing on measures
 - II. RAP information
 - III. History of recreational measures
 - IV. Overview of the bioeconomic model
 - V. Correspondence



Thank you.

Any questions?

