

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting
Groundfish Committee Report

Newport, RI

December 4, 2019

Meeting Motions

Framework Adjustment 59/Specifications

CMTE Motion 1: [Committee motion *carried* 9/0/1.]

In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Council selects as its preferred alternative in Section 4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications, with the exception of Gulf of Maine cod, Gulf of Maine haddock, Georges Bank haddock, American plaice, and pollock.

CMTE Motion 2: [Committee motion *carried* 4/3/3.]

In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Council selects as its preferred alternative in Section 4.1.2.1 - Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target Option A2: Recreational fishery GB cod catch target.

CMTE Motion 3: [Committee motion *carried* 5/4/1.]

In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Council selects as its preferred alternative in Section 4.1.2.2 Option B – Allocation between Commercial and Recreational Fisheries for Gulf of Maine Cod and Gulf of Maine Haddock Option B2: Revise the allocation between commercial and recreational fisheries for GOM cod and GOM haddock.

CMTE Motion 4: [Committee motion *carried* 9/0/1.]

In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Council selects as its preferred alternative in Section 4.1.2.3 Option C – Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program Option C2: Revise the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation for the CAI HGH SAP.

CMTE Motion 5: [Committee motion carried 5/3/0 on 10/30/19]

The Council selects as its preferred alternative that the Georges Bank haddock sub-ACL for the Atlantic herring midwater trawl fishery be raised to 2% (from 1.5%) for the sub-ABC of the US ABC. [In Section 4.1.2.4 Option D– Midwater Trawl Atlantic Herring Fishery sub-ACL for Georges Bank Haddock, Option D2: Increase the MWT Atlantic herring fishery sub-ACL for GB haddock to 2 percent]

CMTE Motion 6: [Committee motion carried 9/0/1.]

In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Council selects as its preferred alternative in Section 4.1.2.5 Option E – Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder Option E2: Set the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder using 90% of projected scallop fishery catch and maintain at 2mt for FY2020-FY2022.

CMTE Motion 7: [Committee motion carried 8/0/0 on 10/30/19]

The Council selects as its preferred alternative to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021. [*In Section 2 - Action 2 – Recreational Fishery Measures for Georges Bank Cod, 4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Temporary Administrative Measure to Allow the Regional Administrator Authority to Adjust the Recreational Measures for Georges Bank Cod*]

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

CMTE Motion 8: [Committee motion carried 7/0/1.]

The Council recommends adding an alternative in Amendment 23 for vessel specific coverage levels, as drafted by Council staff (Doc 4d, pp. 2 provided today).

Council Staff Draft: Under this option the target ASM coverage level would be vessel specific, and each vessel within a sector would have the same target coverage for ASM. ASM coverage would be decoupled from NEFOP coverage. Under this alternative, the target monitoring coverage rate selected in Section 4.1.1 would be for ASM coverage only. NEFOP coverage would still take place on trips separate from, and in addition to, ASM, and NEFOP coverage would not count toward the coverage targets under this option. Currently, all other monitoring standard alternatives under consideration in Section 4.1.1 of A23 have ASM and NEFOP coverage combined to achieve a total coverage rate.

CMTE Motion 9: [Committee motion carried 7/0/1.]

The Groundfish Committee recommends for inclusion in A23, an EM review rate of 15% of trips or 15% hauls/sets as a base rate.