

Recreational Advisory Panel Meeting

Danvers, MA

November 17, 2015

DRAFT Meeting Motions

Framework Adjustment 55

Motion 1: Paquette/DePersia

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee Option 2 (Change in authority to modify GOM recreational possession limits) in Section 4.3.3 (Modification to the GOM cod protection measures).

Rationale: With an increasing GOM cod ACL, the flexibility and ability to adjust measures within the same year is important.

Motion 1 carried 10/0/1.

Motion 2: Colby/Swanson

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the GOM winter flounder FY 2016- FY 2018 ABCs remain at the quota specified for FY 2015 which is 510 mt.

Rationale: The RAP feels that there are no compelling reasons to increase to the quota, especially given that the overfished status of the stock is unknown and low quota utilization. Given the experience in the recreational fleet, especially around the Boston area, there was been a lack of increase in the availability of GOM winter flounder. The stock appeared to be increasing a few years prior, but the RAP feels that recent declines are evident. This stock is important to the recreational fleet and the RAP is concerned about this stock, as it is one of the few available to recreational anglers in the Gulf of Maine. The RAP notes that total catches have been well below the quota in recent years (see Fig 13 in Doc 3d- *PDT memo to SSC and CC the Groundfish Committee re Groundfish ABCs and OFLs for FY 2016- FY 2018, October 9, 2015*).

Motion 2 carried 11/0/0.

Motion 3: Twombly/Colby

The RAP recommends that the Groundfish Committee select the revised GOM cod and GOM haddock ACLs for FY 2016-FY2018 (Option 2/ Section 4.1.2.2 Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications in Section 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits).

Rationale: FY 2015 management measures negatively impacted the GOM fisheries. The RAP feels that any increase in these Gulf of Maine sub-ACLs will help restore and provide relief for GOM recreational fisheries.

Motion 3 carried 10/0/1.

FY 2016 Management Measures

Motion 4: Sterrit/Swanson

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the FY 2016 GOM haddock bag limit be 15 fish, with all seasons open (except in wave 2 in which only Apr 15-30 would be open), and a 17 in minimize size.

Rationale: The RAP reviewed viable options for GOM haddock that would allow for no limit on possession and project that under all scenarios the GOM haddock sub-ACL is not expected to be achieved. However, the RAP feels that placing a bag limit on GOM haddock would be important for the recreational fishery because it would allow for increased access to the stock, while reducing the likelihood of the sub-ACL being exceeded if fishing effort increases in FY 2016. The RAP reviewed the range of options provided to develop this option.

Motion 4 carried 6/5/0.

Motion 5: Paquette/Tower

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that all of wave 2 (March- April) be open for GOM haddock if possible.

Rationale: The RAP would like to see as much of wave 2 open as possible for GOM haddock. The RAP would like to see this as an option, but the data going into the model does not include March and April 1-15. The RAP also expressed some concern that without the analysis they do not know if the sub-ACLs would be exceeded for GOM haddock and GOM cod.

Motion 5 failed 4/4/3.

Motion 6: Tower/Sterrit

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee for FY 2016 GOM cod that the bag limit be one cod, with a size limit of 24 inches, and waves 5 (September-October) and 6 (November-December) open.

Rationale: Early months are spawning time for GOM cod. Wave 3 is more uncertain and could exceed the ACL.

Motion 6 carried 5/4/2.

Motion 7: Paquette/Sosik

The RAP would like to see an analysis for options for GOM cod to see if 2 or more fish could be kept with a size limit of 24 inches, and waves 5 (September-October) and 6 (November-December) open.

Rationale: The analysis presented did not include these options, but the RAP would like to see them sent to the Council.

Motion 7 failed 1/6/4.

Motion 8: Gawne/Paquette

To reconsider **Motion 6**

Motion 8 to reconsider carried 7/4/0.

Motion 9: Gawne/Colby

To amend **Motion 6** as the RAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee the FY 2016 GOM cod bag limit be one cod, with a size limit of 24 inches, and wave 4 (July - August) open.

Rationale: Keeping one cod in the summer is what recreational anglers think is important.

Motion to amend: 7/3/1

Motion 10: The main motion as amended:

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee the FY 2016 GOM cod bag limit be one cod, with a size limit of 24 inches, and wave 4 (July - August) open.

Rationale: This would provide some protection for spawning fish and be a better conservation alternative than opening wave 3.

Motion 10 carried 10/0/0

Priorities

Motion 11: Tower/Sterritt

The RAP requests that the Groundfish Committee recommend to the Council for 2016 priorities that the allocation of GOM cod and haddock be revisited.

Rationale: Recreational discards were not considered in the allocation of GOM cod and haddock. Discard mortality estimates are being used in recreational catch projections to determine potential accountability measures (AMs). The RAP recommends that this concern be considered when implementing AMs. See Amendment 16 for how the allocation was determined, based on recreational landings (not discards).

Motion 11 carried 10/0/0.

Motion 12: DePersia/Twombly

The RAP requests that the Groundfish Committee recommend to the Council for 2016 priorities that limited access for party/charter be considered.

Rationale: The RAP has raised this issue for several years and is interested in exploring the concept.

Motion 12 carried 7/3/0.

Motion 13: Paquette/Pierdnock

The RAP continues to protest the method in which the sub-ACL is calculated, that began with the 2014 assessments and had no NEPA process.

Rationale: The RAP is concerned about how the ACL is being monitored relative to how the sub-ACL was established. The monitoring calculation is the issue.

Motion 13 carried 9/0/0.