

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Cape Codder, Hyannis, MA
September 30-October 2, 2014

MOTIONS

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

ELECTIONS

Chairman, Mr. Stockwell
Vice chair, Dr. John Quinn
Exec committee: Mr. Kendall, Mr. Grout, Dr. Pierce

TMGC

US/CA TACs

1. Mr. Stockwell moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:
to support the TMGC recommendation that the TAC for Eastern Georges Bank Cod for
FY 2015 be 650 mt.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (14/3/0).

2. Mr. Stockwell moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:
that the Council support the TMGC recommendation that the TAC for Eastern Georges
Bank haddock for FY 2015 be 37,000 mt.

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

3. Mr. Stockwell moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:
that the Council support the TMGC recommendation that the TAC for Georges Bank
yellowtail flounder for FY 2015 be 354 mt.

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

SCALLOPS

Development of Framework 26 Alternatives

4. Ms. Tooley moved on behalf of the committee:
to develop an alternative in Framework 26 that would extend the boundary of the scallop
access area in Closed Area II. Clarify that Framework 26 only include the option that
extends to the Hague Line and the area should be closed until the next specification
action that will set allocations for FY2016.
(*This motion supports Advisory Panel Motion 1*)

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (17/0/0).

5. Ms. Tooley moved on behalf of the committee:
to develop an alternative in Framework 26 that would close an area to the east of Nantucket Lightship (Option2). The area should remain closed until the next framework action that will set allocations.
(This motion supports Advisory Panel motion 2)

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

6. Ms. Tooley moved on behalf of the committee:
to develop an alternative in Framework 26 that would close an area in the northwest corner of Elephant Trunk (the option that is 7 ten minute squares in size).
(This motion supports Advisory Panel motion 3)

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

7. Ms. Tooley moved on behalf of the committee:
remove the two potential closure alternatives within the Hudson Canyon access area for further consideration in Framework 26.
(This motion supports Advisory Panel motions 4 and 5)

*The motion **carried** on a show of hands (16/1/0).*

8. Ms. Tooley moved on behalf of the committee:
to develop a measure in Framework 26 that would provide maximum flexibility for allocating Mid-Atlantic access area trips, but maintain a possession limit.
(This motion supports Advisory Panel motion 6 and 7)

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

9. Ms. Tooley moved on behalf of the committee:
to develop a measure in Framework 26 that would restrict the number of crew members in Mid-Atlantic access areas as a potential measure to reduce mortality on small scallops. The other alternatives described in Section 2.2 in document #3 should not be developed further (prohibit RSA compensation fishing in Mid-Atlantic access areas, or seasonal restrictions, or gear modifications to reduce impacts on small scallops).

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (14/2/1).

10. Ms. Tooley moved on behalf of the committee:
to develop a measure in Framework 26 that would consider modifying regulations related to the flaring bar provision for the turtle deflector dredge (Section 2.8 in Framework 26 in document #4).
(This motion supports Advisory Panel motion 9)

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

11. Mr. Dempsey moved and Mr. Preble seconded:
to analyze an alternative in the Framework that would increase LAGC catch from Mid-Atlantic access areas up to two million pounds for FY2015. This allocation would be in addition to the allocation that would be set for Limited Access vessels. It would increase fishing mortality in Mid-Atlantic access areas in 2015 to support a maximum removal of two million pounds from the LAGC fishery, that may be reduced later to a lower amount, rather than a removal equivalent to 5.5% of the total removals to the LAGC fishery.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (11/4/2).

12. Ms. Tooley moved and Dr. John Quinn seconded:
By consensus the committee prioritized work items in Framework 26 if the PDT is not able to complete all the analyses for November. The Council made a slight modification and split out proactive and reactive accountability measures, and agrees with the overall prioritization of items.
 1. Specifications including modifications to scallop access areas
 2. Revise TDD regulations related to flaring bar
 3. NGOM and state water fishery issue
 4. Making turtle regulations consistent
 5. Develop proactive AMs for bycatch sub-ACLs
 6. Measures to allow Limited Access FT DAS off the clock on return to port
 7. Develop reactive AMs for Northern Window Pane flounder and revise reactive AMs for Georges Bank and SNE/MA Yellowtail flounder sub-ACLs

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

GROUND FISH

Emergency Action Gulf of Maine Cod

1. Mr. Blount moved on behalf of the committee:
to recommend the Council request the Secretary of Commerce take emergency action in response to the updated Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod stock assessment, including:
 - 1) close the following blocks to all commercial and recreational fishing vessels:
 - November-January: 124-125
 - March-April: 124, 125, 132, 133
 - And prohibit recreational fishing in the Western Gulf of Maine closure area.
 - 2) reconsider all existing sector exemptions in the GOM to determine whether they remain appropriate in light of the new GOM cod stock information;
 - 3) prohibit commercial groundfish vessels without observers from fishing in other broad stock areas on trips that fish in the GOM west of 70° west longitude; and
 - 4) request the NEFSC review and summarize all existing information on the patterns,

extent and mortality associated with cod bycatch in the lobster fishery in the GOM (state and federal waters), and estimate current cod removals to inform potential management measures in upcoming actions.

- 1a. Dr. Pierce moved to substitute and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded: that the Council request the Secretary of Commerce take the following emergency actions in response to the updated Gulf of Maine cod stock assessment to further reduce fishing effort and fishing mortality on GOM cod including seasonal protection of winter and spring/summer spawning aggregations in the Western GOM:
- (1) Prohibit commercial and recreational fishing from:
 - A. November through January in 30-minute squares 125 and 124 bounded on the east by 70°15' west longitude; and
 - B. April through July in 30-minute squares 125 and 133
 - (2) Prohibit recreational fishing in the Western Gulf of Maine closure area.
 - (3) Reconsider all existing sector exemptions in the GOM to determine if they are still appropriate in light of updated stock assessment information.
 - (4) Prohibit commercial groundfish vessels without observers from fishing in other broad stock areas on trips that fishing in the GOM west of 70° 15' west longitude.
- 1b. Mr. Terry Alexander moved to amend the substitute motion and Ms. Tooley seconded: to rename all spawning closures to emergency action closures.

The motion to amend the substitute motion **carried** on a show of hands (13/4/0).

- 1c. Dr. McKenzie moved to further amend and Mr. Mark Alexander seconded: To modify paragraph (1) to read: to close areas west of 70° west longitude to all gears capable of taking cod.

The motion to amend **failed** on a show of hands (1/15/1).

- 1d. Mr. Grout moved amend and Ms. Goethel seconded: to change (1) B. in the substituted motion to April 1 through April 30 in 30-minute squares 125 and 133.

The motion to amend **failed** on a show of hands (4/11/2).

- 1e. The motion to substitute as amended:
That the council request the Secretary of Commerce take the following emergency actions in response to the updated Gulf of Maine cod stock assessment to further reduce fishing effort and fishing mortality on GOM cod..
- (1) Prohibit commercial and recreational fishing from:
 - A. November through January in 30-minute squares 125 and 124 bounded on the east by 70°15'; and
 - B. April through July in 30-minute squares 125 and 133

- (2) Prohibit recreational fishing in the Western Gulf of Maine closure area.
- (3) Reconsider all existing sector exemptions in the GOM to determine if they are still appropriate in light of updated stock assessment information.
- (4) Prohibit commercial groundfish vessels without observers from fishing in other broad stock areas on trips that fishing in the GOM west of 70°15'.

Yes - T. Alexander, Balzano, Blount, Bullard, Grout, Pierce, Quinn, Etrie, Tooley.

No - M. Alexander, Dempsey, Gibson, Goethel, Kendall, McKenzie, Preble, Sissenwine.

Abstention(s) -

The motion to substitute **carried** on a roll call vote (9/8/0).

- 1f. Mr. Grout moved to amend to substitute 1 & 2 of the emergency action request: that the council request the secretary of commerce take the following emergency actions in response to the updated Gulf of Maine cod stock assessment to further reduce fishing effort and fishing mortality on GOM cod.

- (1) Prohibit the harvest/landing GOM cod for the remainder of FY2014 (discard only).
- (2) Closure of the Mass. Bay cod spawning protection area identified in the draft OHA2 (Section 2.2.1.3, Alternative 3) from 11/1/14 through 1/31/15 to all commercial and recreational gear capable of catching groundfish. (Intent is that prohibited gear and other measures would be similar to that in place for the Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Area.)
- (3) Reconsider all existing sector exemptions in the GOM to determine if they are still appropriate in light of updated stock assessment information.
- (4) Prohibit commercial groundfish vessels without observers from fishing in other broad stock areas on trips that fishing in the GOM west of 70°15' west longitude.

This motion to amend was ruled out of order by the Chair.

- 1g. Mr. Preble moved and Ms. Goethel seconded: to suspend Roberts Rules of Order in order to dispense with Mr. Grout's motion to amend

The motion **failed** on a show of hands (9/7/0).

- 1h. Mr. Grout moved to amend the substituted motion and Ms. Tooley seconded: to add the following items to the emergency action request:
- 5. Prohibiting the harvest/landing GOM cod for the remainder of FY2014 (discard only).
 - 6. Closure of the Mass. Bay cod spawning protection area identified in the draft OHA2 (Section 2.2.1.3, Alternative 3) from 11/1/14 through 1/31/15 to all commercial and recreational gear capable of catching groundfish. (*Intent is that prohibited gear and other measures would be similar to that in place for the Western Gulf of Maine cod spawning protection area.*)

The motion to amend **failed** on a show of hands (3/13/1).

- 1i. Ms. Goethel moved amend and Mr. Grout seconded:
to add to the emergency action an item (5) a zero retention of cod for the recreational fishery within the WGOM closed area. *Recreational fishermen would be allowed in WGOM Closed Area with zero retention of cod.*

The motion **failed** on a show of hands (5/12/0).

- 1j. The main motion as substituted was perfected to read:
that the Council request the Secretary of Commerce take the following emergency actions in response to the updated Gulf of Maine cod stock assessment to further reduce fishing effort and fishing mortality on GOM cod.
- (1) Prohibit commercial and recreational fishing from:
 - A. November through January in 30-minute squares 125 and 124 bounded on the east by 70°15'; and
 - B. April through July in 30-minute squares 125 and 133
 - (2) Prohibit recreational fishing in the Western Gulf of Maine closure area.
 - (3) Reconsider all existing sector exemptions in the GOM to determine if they are still appropriate in light of updated stock assessment information.
 - (4) Prohibit commercial groundfish vessels without observers from fishing in other broad stock areas on trips that fishing in the GOM west of 70°15'.

Yes – T. Alexander, Balzano, Blount, Bullard, Dempsey, Kendall, McKenzie, Pierce.
No – M. Alexander, Gibson, Goethel, Grout, Preble, Quinn, Etrie, Sissenwine, Tooley.
Abstention(s) –

The main motion as substituted and amended **failed** on a roll call vote (8/9/0).

2. Mr. Grout moved and Mr. Preble seconded:
to request an emergency action to reduce mortality on GOM cod in FY2014.

Yes – M. Alexander, T. Alexander, Blount, Bullard, Dempsey, Gibson, Grout, Kendal, McKenzie, Pierce, Preble, Quinn, Sissenwine, Tooley.
No – Balzano, Goethel, Etrie
Abstention(s)

The motion **carried** on a roll call vote (14/3/0).

3. Mr. Sissenwine moved and Mr. Preble seconded:
That the terms of reference for the next SSC meeting should direct the SSC to give advice on appropriate spawning stock biomass reference points (i.e, SSBmsy), F rebuild and projections of catches and SSBs, that are consistent with the 2014 GOM cod stock assessment update for the Mramp model with m=0.4 continuing indefinitely.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (16/1/0).

Specifications

4. Mr. Blount moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:
to support the ABCs for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder as recommended by the SSC
for FY2015-FY2016.

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

5. Mr. Blount moved and Mr. Grout seconded:
to support the ABCs for GOM haddock as recommended by the SSC for FY2015-
FY2017.

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

6. Mr. Blount moved and Mr. John Bullard seconded:
to provisionally support the ABCs for GOM cod as recommended by the SSC for
FY2015-FY2017.

- 6a. Ms. Tooley moved to table this motion until a time certain (October 2, 2014).

The motion to table **carried** on a show of hands (14/3/0).

Thursday, October 2, 2014

GROUND FISH CONTINUED

1. Ms. Tooley moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:
To bring back the tabled motion from yesterday (Motion 6A)

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

- 1a. Tabled motion was discussed:
to provisionally support the ABCs for GOM cod as recommended by the SSC for
FY2015-FY2017.
*To include alternative in Framework 53 for ABCs for GOM cod as recommended by the
SSC for FY2015-FY2017.*

- 1b. Ms. Tooley moved to amend and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:
for the purposes of providing guidance to the SSC for its upcoming October 2014
meeting, request the PDT to recalculate the rebuilding f stream and trajectory for the
existing GOM cod rebuilding plan adopted in Framework 51 as follows:

Consistent with the methodology used by the PDT to recalculate the rebuilding F streams
set forth in table 4 (page 6) of the September 11, 2014, memorandum from the PDT to
the SSC, set a three year constant catch of 500mt for each of years 2015, 2016 and 2017
and to recalculate the rebuilding F rate stream for the remainder of the rebuilding period
through 2024.

Yes –Goethel, Kendall, Etrie, Tooley, T. Alexander, V. Balzano
No – M. Alexander, Blount, Dempsey, Gibson, Grout, McKenzie, Pierce, Preble, Quinn, .
Bullard, Sissenwine.
Abstentions(s) -

The motion **failed** on a roll call vote (6/11/0).

- 1c. The original tabled motion:
to provisionally support the ABCs for GOM cod as recommended by the SSC for
FY2015-FY2017.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (14/3/0).

2. Mr. Terry Alexander moved and Ms. Tooley seconded:
to include an option in Framework 53 to have the PDT analyze zero possession in the
GOM cod fishery. In the commercial fishery the GOM cod allocation will be retained to
account for unavoidable bycatch.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (13/4/0).

Framework Adjustment 53

Windowpane Flounder sub-ACLs and AMs

3. Mr. Blount moved on behalf of the committee:
to include an alternative in Framework 53 that would split the existing groundfish sub-
ACLs for the Northern and Southern Windowpane stocks, creating separate groundfish
sub-ACLs for the sector and common pool for each of these stocks.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (16/0/0).

4. Mr. Blount moved on behalf of the committee:
that the Council include an alternative in Framework 53 for Northern Windowpane
Flounder (NWP) "bycatch limit" for each sector based on the following formulas: 1) the
percent of the GB winter flounder ACLs; and 2) the percent of the three winter flounder
ACLs (GB, GOM and SNE stocks) allocated to a sector. A percent NWP bycatch limit
would be assigned to any sector without winter flounder ACL. The NWP bycatch limit
would be tradable between sectors. If/when a sector exceeds its NWP bycatch limit, the
gear restricted am would apply to that sector.

The motion was ruled out of order by the Chair on the recommendation by NOAA
General Counsel that this can't be done in a framework.

5. Mr. Blount moved on behalf of the committee:

to direct the PDT to look a broader range of sub-allocation options for the scallop sub-ACL for the Northern Windowpane Flounder stock, including options similar to those analyzed in Framework 48 for Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder (mean, median, and 90th percentile of scallop catches) and include alternatives in Framework 53 for these.

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

6. Mr. Dempsey moved and Mr. Kendall seconded:
that the Council include an alternative in Framework 53 in which the Southern windowpane flounder groundfish common pool sub-ACL would be divided based on historical catch (FY2001-2010) into two time periods: May 1 – Oct. 31 and Nov 1 – April 30.

The motion **failed** on a show of hands (6/7/4).

Specifications Rollover

7. Mr. Blount moved on behalf of the committee:
to include an alternative in Framework 53 in which 80% of the ABCs and ACLs of the current year's specifications be rolled over, and would remain in place until new specifications are implemented.
- 7a. Ms. Tooley moved to amend and Ms. Goethel seconded:
that the Council include an alternative in Framework 53 in which 80% of the ABCs and ACLs of the current year's specifications be rolled over, and would remain in place until new specifications are implemented unless those specifications exceed ABC recommendations by the SSC.

The motion to amend **carried** on a show of hands (13/3/1).

- 7c. Mr. Dempsey moved to further amend and Mr. Blount seconded:
to take the 80% out and replace with a relatively small (10-35%) percentage.

The motion to amend **carried** on a show of hands (12/4/1).

- 7d. Main motion as amended:
that the Council include an alternative in Framework 53 in which a relatively small percentage (10-35%) of the ABCs and ACLs of the current year's specifications be rolled over, and would remain in place until new specifications are implemented unless those specifications exceed the ABC recommendations by SSC.

The main motion as amended **carried** on a show of hands (11/5/1).

Sector Ace Carryover

8. Mr. Blount moved on behalf of the committee:

to include an alternative in Framework 53 that caps the maximum available unused sector ace carried over from the previous fishing year (e.g., FY2014) not to exceed the ABC level minus the ACL for the fishing year in which the carryover will be landed (e.g., FY 2015). In addition, this alternative includes the previously used accountability measure criteria developed for the June 2014 emergency action. Under this, sectors will be required to pay back carried over catch used only when both the sector sub-ACL and total stock ACL are exceeded.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (16/1/0).

Spawning Closures for Gulf of Maine Cod

9. Frank Blount moved on behalf of the committee:
that the committee recommend to the council to include as an alternative in FW 53 that the following blocks would be closed to all commercial and recreational fishing vessels:
May: 124, 125, 132, 133, 139, 140
June: 132, 133, 139, 140, 147
November-January: 124-125
March-April: 124, 125, 132, 133
and prohibit recreational fishing in the Western GOM Closed Area.

- 9a. Dr. Pierce moved to amend and Dr. John Quinn seconded:
As another set of blocks to be closed to all commercial and recreational vessels:
May - 125, 133,
June - 133
Nov – Jan - 124, 125
March – April - 125, 133

Additionally spawning closure options including area 124 be modified to use 70° 15' west longitude instead of 70° west longitude as the eastern boundary of block 124 and prohibits recreational fishing in the Western Gulf of Maine Closed Area.

- 9b. Mr. Grout moved and Mr. Balzano to table until the first motion is voted one.

The motion to table **carried** on a show of hands (16/0/0).

- 9c. Mr. Grout moved to amend and Ms. Goethel seconded:
to include as an alternative in Framework 53 that the following blocks would be closed to all commercial and recreational fishing vessels:
May: 124, 125, 132, 133, 139, 140
June: 132, 133, 139, 140, 147

November-January: 124-125

April: 124, 125, 132, 133

And prohibit recreational fishing in the Western Gulf of Maine Closed Area (April – June only).

The motion to amend **failed** on a show of hands (6/9/2).

- 9d. That the committee recommend to the council to include as an alternative in Framework 53 that the following blocks would be closed to all commercial and recreational fishing vessels:

May: 124, 125, 132, 133, 139, 140

June: 132, 133, 139, 140, 147

November-January: 124-125

March-April: 124, 125, 132, 133

And prohibit recreational fishing in the Western Gulf Maine Closed.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (11/4/2).

- 9e. Dr. Pierce moved to bring back the tabled motion

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Tabled motion:

As another set of blocks to be closed to all commercial and recreational vessels:

May: 125, 133

June: 133

Nov – Jan: 124, 125

March – April: 125, 133

Additionally spawning closure options including area 124 be modified to use 70° 15' west longitude instead of 70° west longitude as the eastern boundary of block 124 and prohibits recreational fishing in the Western Gulf of Maine Closed Area.

- 9f. Mr. Grout moved to amend and Dr. McKenzie seconded:

As another set of blocks to be closed to all commercial and recreational vessels:

May: 125, 133

June: 133

Nov – January: 124, 125

March – April: 125, 133

Additionally spawning closure options including area 124 be modified to use 70 degrees 15' west longitude instead of 70° west longitude as the eastern boundary of 124 and prohibits recreational fishing in Western Gulf of Maine Closed Area in closed blocks.

The motion to amend **carried** on a show of hands (15/0/2).

The main motion as amended **carried** on a show of hands (14/2/1).

Additional measures for GOM Cod

10. Mr. Blount moved on behalf of the committee:
that the Council include an alternative in Framework 53 that would prohibit commercial groundfish vessels without observers from fishing in other broad stock areas on trips that fish in the GOM west of 70° west longitude line.

- 10a. Mr. Terry Alexander moved to amend and Mr. Dempsey seconded:
that the Council to include an alternative in Framework 53 that would prohibit commercial groundfish vessels without observers from fishing in other broad stock areas on trips that fish in the GOM west of 70° 15' west longitude line.

The motion to amend **carried** on a show of hands (16/1/0).

- 10b. Mr. Sissenwine moved and Mr. John Bullard seconded:
to further amend to remove “without observers”.

The motion to amend **failed** on a show of hands (2/14/1).

Main motion as amended:

- 10c. That the council include an alternative in Framework 53 that would prohibit commercial groundfish vessels without observers from fishing in other broad stock areas on trips that fish in the GOM west of 70° 15' west longitude line.

The main motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

11. Mr. Blount moved and Mr. Dempsey seconded:
to approve for analysis the range of alternatives for Framework 53 as amended today.

- 11a. Ms. Goethel moved to table and Mr. Grout seconded:

The motion to table **carried** on a show of hands (15/2/0).

- 11b. Ms. Goethel and Mr. Grout seconded:
to include in Framework 53 the rebuilding period for GOM cod to T-min plus 1 mean generation time.

Ms Goethel withdraws her motion in favor of sending a letter to the Regional Admin.

- 11d. Ms. Goethel moved and Mr. Balzano seconded:
to return the previous the committee motion

The motion to table **carried** on a show of hands.

- 11e. The main motion to approve for analysis the range of alternatives for Framework 53 as amended today.

The motion **carried** unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

12. Mr. Sissenwine moved and Ms. Goethel seconded:
that the Council request the Regional Administrator examine the eligibility of extending the rebuilding period for GOM cod beyond the ten years according to the criteria in National Standard 1 guidelines

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (16/0/1).

13. Mr. Dempsey moved and Mr. Preble seconded:
to send a letter to the NMFS requesting them to support at least the same number of observed trips on directed groundfish trips in the Gulf of Maine OM in FY2015 as there were on groundfish trips fishing in that broad stock area in FY2014.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (16/0/1).

14. Mr. Grout moved and Ms. Goethel seconded:
that the Council Chair send a letter to Regional Administrator requesting that, if emergency action is taken that includes measures that apply to recreational anglers, the regional administrator mail a Greater Atlantic Region bulletin describing the measures to all licensed saltwater anglers in, at a minimum, ME, NH, and MA using address information from the National Saltwater Angler Registry.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (16/0/1).

15. Mr. Blount moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:
that the Council accept the committee's motions on Amendment 18 and approve the range of alternatives for this action.

- 15a. Mr. Grout moved and Dr. John Quinn seconded:
to postpone until a time certain (November Council meeting).

The motion to postpone **carried** on a show of hands (15/2/0).

16. Mr. Dempsey moved and Dr. McKenzie seconded:
to request the NEFSC review, summarize and communicate as quickly as possible the most recent updated information on GB cod (including available survey indices, catch and recruitment indicators).

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (13/1/4).

By consensus: The Council agreed to include in the letter above a request for an update on the

potential funding of at-sea monitoring for 2015.

WHITING

17. Mr. Balzano on behalf of the Whiting Committee:
that the Council accept the SSC's recommendations for proposed 2015-2017 specifications, as described in Table 1 of the Executive Summary of the draft SAFE report for Fishing Year 2013, and direct the PDT to calculate the appropriate TALs following the methods specified in the FMP.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (15/0/0).

18. Mr. Balzano on behalf of the Whiting Committee:
to include in the specifications document for analysis an adjustment to measures with a tiered northern red hake possession limit starting the fishing year at 3,000 lbs., (instead of 5,000 lbs status quo), declining to 1,500 lbs. When landings reach 45% of the TAL and then decline to 400 lbs. When landings reach 65% of the TAL (or when required by the corrected post-season AM).

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (16/0/0).

19. Mr. Balzano on behalf of the Whiting Committee:
to also include in the specifications document for analysis a northern red hake possession limit alternative starting out at 5,000 lbs., reduced to 400 lbs. when landings reach 65% of the TAL (or when required by the corrected post-season AM).

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (16/0/0).

20. Whiting Committee consensus:
to have the Council request that the NRCC consider scheduling a red hake benchmark assessment to address red hake stock structure (mixing and stock separation) and the effect of fixed gear and fishing activity interference on survey catchability (of red and silver hake).

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (15/0/1).

REPORTS

21. Mr. Stockwell moved to combine the following three motions and Mr. Preble seconded:
that the New England Fishery Management Council recommends that the management of Atlantic Bluefin tuna be based upon the linkage of quotas between the western stock area and the eastern stock area to allow for the effects of migration and the difference in productivity and stock size between the two.

that the New England Fishery Management Council recommends that research priority be given to refining our understanding of Atlantic Bluefin tuna migration patterns, spatial structure and mixing, and recruitment among the various stocks and sub stocks.

that the New England Fishery Management Council recommends that the U.S. delegation to the 2014 annual meeting of ICCAT continue to place the highest priority on maintaining the U.S. Quota share of the northern stock of Atlantic swordfish at 29.00% of the total quota.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (15/0/1).

EBFM

22. Mr. Dempsey moved and Mr. Preble seconded:
to send a letter to NEFSC expressing the Council's strong support for the ongoing development and incorporation of standard ecosystem terms of reference for future stock assessments. The Council requests that this process be expedited to the extent possible and that the council be given an opportunity to provide input on the draft language when prepared.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (15/0/1).

PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

23. Mr. Kendall moved on behalf of the Scallop committee:
recommend the Council consider two items for 2015 priorities: potential modifications to GB scallop access areas based on EFH action and specifications for 2016 only (2017 default).
- 23a. Mr. Dempsey moved to amend and Mr. Preble seconded:
Add to the list of scallop priorities: measures to address localized depletion of inshore areas and to mitigate impacts on the LAGC IFQ fishery.
- 23b. Dr. McKenzie moved and Mr. Preble seconded:
To postpone this motion as well as the committee motion to a time certain (November Council Meeting discussion on management priorities).

The motion to postpone **carried** on a show of hands (16/0/0).

OTHER BUSINESS

24. Mr. Mark Alexander on behalf of the Research Steering Committee moved:
that the Council request that NMFS consider the results of component 3 of the Project Rednet analysis in considering sector exemptions that request codend mesh sizes of less than 6.5 inches in the redfish fishery.

The motion **carried** on a show of hands (14/0/2).