

**NEFMC Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) Meeting
Portland, ME
September 16, 2014**

DRAFT Meeting Motions

Framework Adjustment 53

1 - Motion: Parker/Canastra

That the GAP recommend to the Committee that the Committee recommend that NMFS make the resources available to get stock assessments (as vetted and determined by the NRCC) done on-time, so that specifications can be in place on-time.

Motion carries 10/0/0.

2 - Motion: Soule/Odell

That the GAP recommend to the Committee that the Committee recommend in the event that specifications do not get in place on-time, that the last year's specifications remain in place until new measures are implemented. The GAP does not support the PDT's suggestion (for a default percentage approach) and is concerned that some sectors, which concentrate their fishing in the summertime, could find their allocations improperly restricted.

Motion carries 8/0/2.

3 - Motion: Odell/Raymond

The GAP recommends to the Committee the development of a Northern windowpane flounder (NWP) "bycatch limit" for each sector based on the following formula is recommended to be considered: the percent of the three winter flounder ACLs (GB, GOM and SNE stocks) to a sector would be the percent NWP bycatch limit. A percent NWP bycatch limit would be assigned to any sector without winter flounder ACL. The NWP bycatch limit would be tradeable between sectors. If/when a sector exceeds its NWP bycatch limit, the gear restricted AM would apply to that sector. The GAP would support a sunset clause to his measure.

Motion carries 5/1/4.

4 - Motion: Odell/Soule

The GAP recommends to the Committee that a rebuilding plan review be initiated based upon new scientific information made available by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center on GOM cod, with the intent of reviewing biological and fishery considerations and possibly extending the rebuilding time period.

Motion carries 6/1/3.

5 - Motion: Soule/Brown

The GAP recommends to the Committee several proposed measures to be analyzed for the purpose of eliminating the directed GOM cod fishery and reducing bycatch:

1. Trawlers would be required to use a 6.5" square mesh codend when fishing west of 70° 15';
2. Gillnets would have an increased mesh size to 7 or 7.5" or a limit on a number of gillnets that may be fished west of 70° 15';
3. Limit on stand-up gillnets, either the number of nets being used or the season that they can be used in, west of 70° 15';
4. No hook gear allowed fishing for groundfish west of 70-15 (incl. longlines and tub trawls);
5. Develop the CATT spawning closure alternatives;
6. No recreational fishing allowed in any of the closed areas (CATT areas and WGOMAC);
7. No lobster gear allowed in the CATT areas or WGOMAC areas; and
8. Revoke the lobster gear exempted status.

5a - Motion to amend: Dority/Parker

To include no trawl and gillnet gear, similar to #4 above as #10 and 11 on this list.

Motion fails 2/7/1.

5b – Perfected motion: Soule/Brown

The GAP recommends to the Committee several proposed measures to be **analyzed** for the purpose of eliminating the directed GOM cod fishery, reducing bycatch, while allowing for harvest of other stocks. (Measures are intended to last 1 year.) The GAP recommends the following:

1. Trawlers would be required to use a 6.5" square mesh codend when fishing west of 70°15';
2. Gillnets would have an increased mesh size to 7 or 7.5" or a limit on a number of gillnets that may be fished west of 70°15';
3. Limit on stand-up gillnets, either the number of nets being used or the season that they can be used in, west of 70°15';
4. Trawlers would be required to use selective fishing gears (eg separator trawl, raised footrope trawls etc.) fishing west of 70°15'.
5. Develop the CATT spawning closure area alternatives;
6. No recreational fishing allowed in any of the closed areas (CATT areas and WGOMAC);
7. No lobster gear allowed in the CATT areas or WGOMAC areas;
8. Zero retention of GOM cod for recreational and commercial fleets

5c - Motion to split: Parker/

To split # 8 off for separate consideration.

Motion was accepted as a friendly amendment.

5d – Motion as friendly amended: Soule/Brown

The GAP recommends to the Committee several proposed measures to be **analyzed** for the purpose of eliminating the directed GOM cod fishery, reducing bycatch, while allowing for harvest of other stocks. (Measures are intended to last 1 year.) The GAP recommends the following:

1. Trawlers would be required to use a 6.5” square mesh codend when fishing west of 70°15’;
2. Gillnets would have an increased mesh size to 7 or 7.5” or a limit on a number of gillnets that may be fished west of 70°15’;
3. Limit on stand-up gillnets, either the number of nets being used or the season that they can be used in, west of 70°15’;
4. Trawlers would be required to use selective fishing gears (eg separator trawl, raised footrope trawls etc.) fishing west of 70°15’.
5. Develop the CATT spawning closure area alternatives;
6. No recreational fishing allowed in any of the closed areas (CATT areas and WGOMAC);
7. No lobster gear allowed in the CATT areas or WGOMAC areas;

5e – Motion to amend: Dority/

To strike #6 and 7.

Motion fails for lack of second.

5d - Main motion

Main motion as perfected and friendly amended carries 7/1/2.

6 – Split Motion: Soule/Brown

The GAP recommends to the Committee that zero retention of GOM cod for the recreational and commercial fleets be analyzed (this would be a one-year measure).

Motion fails 0/3/7.

7 – Motion: Parker/Martens

The GAP recommends to the Committee to support the intent of sector management and the opportunity for innovative fishermen to harvest their own groundfish by:

1. 100% observer coverage (or electronic monitoring);
2. Fishing in a single stock broad stock area on a given trip, without monitoring; and
3. Increased penalties for misreporting stock area or fishing with illegal gear.

Motion fails 5/5/0.

8 - Motion: Odell/Soule

The GAP supports small focused areas to protect spawning. These areas should be discrete and dynamic, not static, due to the unpredictability of timing and precise area to ensure real protection. Such areas should be based on science and monitored closely, validating spawning activity. The goal of spawning areas should be to enhance the reproductive success of the fish while being the least disruptive and costly to the fishery.

Motion carries 6/0/3.

9 – Motion: Canastra/Parker

That the GAP not have half-day meetings.

Motion carries 8/0/1.

10 – Motion: Canastra/Odell

The GAP recommends that the Committee reject the recent operational assessment for GOM cod based on the following rationale provided by *Obama’s Memorandum on Scientific Integrity* (March 9, 2009):

“The public must be able to trust the science and scientific process informing public policy decisions. There should be transparency in the preparation, identification and use of scientific and technological information in policymaking. Each agency should have appropriate rules and procedures to ensure the integrity of the scientific process within the agency. When scientific or technological information is considered in policy decisions, the information should be subject to well-established scientific processes, including peer review where appropriate...”

The Gulf of Maine cod updated assessment did not adhere to those principles, nor does it adhere to National Standard 2 Guidelines.

Motion carries 4/3/1.

Amendment 18

11 – Motion: Odell/Bouchard

That the GAP recommends to the Committee that the option for splitting the GOM cod ACL into inshore and offshore sub-ACLs be considered but rejected.

Motion carries 4/3/0.