

**New England Fishery Management Council**

**Groundfish Committee Meeting  
Boston, MA**

October 3, 2016

Motions and Consensus Statements

**Framework Adjustment 56**

**Motion 1:** Etrie/T. Alexander

To Modify 4.1.2.2.3 (Sub-Option 3: Exception to the scallop fishery AM implementation policy for the GB yellowtail flounder stock) to include a 2 year sunset provision.

Motion 1 carried (7/4/0).

**Motion 2:** Etrie/ T. Alexander

Motion to have the PDT analyze dropping FY 2014 from the evaluation of the fixed percentage for the sub-options for northern windowpane flounder sub-ACL to the scallop fishery.

Motion 2 carried by consensus and without objection.

**Consensus Statement 1:**

By consensus in 4.1.2.2.2 (Sub Option 2: Increase the Midwater Trawl Atlantic Herring Fishery Sub-ACL for Georges Bank Haddock), the review of the sub-ACL would include a range of 1% (status quo) up to 2% of the U.S. ABC.

**2017 Priorities**

**Consensus Statement 2:**

The Groundfish Committee recommends the following list of priorities for 2017 (in ranked order of importance):

1. Set specifications for all stocks and adjust rebuilding plans as required
2. Monitoring Amendment
3. Revise Atlantic halibut management measures
4. Establish a process for review of groundfish catches in other fisheries (e.g., exempted fisheries and non-groundfish fisheries) OR (i.e., other sub-component)[*forward to Executive Committee for further discussion*]

5. Adjust exemption areas as necessary (GenCat sea scallop, whiting, etc.; may be better addressed by other Committees)
6. Develop limited access program for the party/charter recreational fishery and potential revised control date

### **Other Business**

#### **Consensus Statement 3:**

The Groundfish Committee requests that the Council send a letter to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and to NMFS regarding the proposed control date, June 15, 2016, for consideration in an Amendment to establish federal for-hire recreational sector permit limited entry in the Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Snapper, Grouper, Dolphin, and Wahoo fisheries. If possible, the letter should be submitted in time to meet the comment period deadline for the proposed rule (October 27, 2016) for the establishment of the control date. The letter should recognize the fishery for dolphin and wahoo in Southern New England and request that either the control date be revised or limited entry options be developed that consider New England interests in the recreational for-hire fishery.