



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2013
TO: Groundfish Oversight Committee (OSC)
FROM: Terry Stockwell, Groundfish Oversight Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: Committee meeting on Wednesday August 14, 2013

There will be a Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting at the Holiday Inn in Peabody, MA on Wednesday August 14, 2013 **starting at 8:00 AM.**

Purpose. The main purpose of the meeting is to continue development of Framework 51 (FW51) and Amendment 18 (A18) to the Northeast Multispecies FMP.

Meeting Materials. Paper copies of the documents listed below will be provided at the meeting. A PDF of each document is posted to www.nefmc.org. Staff will provide copies of any additional meeting materials that are not included in this package. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org ; 978-465-0492 ext. 103) or Rachel Feeney (rfeeney@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 110).

1. Meeting memo (this document)
2. Agenda
3. PDT memo to OSC re PDT conference call, July 26, 2013
4. PDT memo to OSC re PDT conference call, July 29, 2013
5. PDT memo to OSC re PDT meeting, August 6, 2013
6. PDT memo to OSC re FW51, August 7, 2013
7. PDT memo to OSC re A18, August 7, 2013
8. Groundfish OSC meeting summary, June 12, 2013
9. Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting summary, June 10, 2013
10. Correspondence

Framework 51

Recent activity. At the June 2013 Council meeting, the Council initiated FW 51. At that time, the PDT was tasked with providing advice to the Groundfish OSC on which measures to include in this framework. Items with regulatory requirements include: 1) revise the GOM cod rebuilding plan, 2) revise the American plaice rebuilding plan, 3) specifications for white hake, and 4) US/CA TACs. A summary

of PDT work to date on these and other groundfish issues are contained in three memos to the OSC dated July 26, July 29, and August 6, 2013 (Documents 3-5). Questions from the PDT for the Committee to consider are contained in the August 7 memo specific to Framework 51 (Document 6). Please review these documents before the upcoming meeting.

Next steps. Following the PDT report on Framework 51, the Committee will discuss potential measures for inclusion in the draft document. Selection of the specific measures to include in Framework 51 is scheduled for the September Council meeting, with final action on Framework 51 scheduled for the November Council meeting. Please note the extremely compressed timeline.

Amendment 18

Recent activity. In June 2013, the Committee and NEFMC passed several motions relative to Amendment 18. The existing goals and objectives of this action were struck and replaced with a new set of goals. Also, the Committee and/or the Council tasked the PDT to consider potential measures. The new goals, specific PDT tasks, a summary of PDT work/feedback to date, and questions for the Committee to consider are contained in the August 7 PDT memo specific to Amendment 18 (Document 7). Please review this document before the upcoming meeting.

Next steps. Following the PDT report on Amendment 18, the Committee will discuss potential measures that could be developed to achieve the new goals. The Committee will also respond to the PDT's questions. Depending upon the Committee's progress, staff may be able to prepare a discussion document of potential measures for our next meeting on September 17, 2013.

2014 Groundfish Priorities

Recent activity. The PDT discussed potential priorities for 2014 that the Groundfish OSC might want to consider proposing to the Council (see PDT memo from August 6). Those potential priorities with a regulatory requirement include: ABCs for the three winter flounder stocks, pollock, and US/CA stocks (Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Eastern Georges Bank cod). The PDT suggested continuing work on Amendment 18. On May 30, 2012, the Council was notified that Gulf of Maine haddock is approaching an overfished condition; this may become a regulatory requirement pending a future stock status update.

Next steps. The Committee will also have an initial discussion of potential priorities for 2014 and another opportunity to discuss at the September Committee meeting. The Council will then have an initial priorities discussion at the September meeting and set the 2014 priorities at the November meeting.

Groundfish Meeting Schedule

Here is the upcoming meeting schedule, through the next Council meeting.

Dates	Group	Location	Action	Possible Outcomes
8/14/2013	GF OSC	Peabody, MA	FW51/A18/ Priorities	Potential measures to include in FW51 and A18; initial 2014 potential priorities discussion
8/20/2013- 8/21/2013	SSC	Boston, MA	FW51	GB yellowtail flounder ABC, white hake ABC, review of GOM cod/American place rebuilding plan options, haddock spillover discussion
8/26/2013	PDT	Mansfield, MA	FW51/A18/ Priorities	Potential measures to include in FW51 and A18; continue 2014 priorities discussion
9/10/13- 9/12/13	TMGC	Halifax, NS	FW51	Quota setting for GB YTF, EGB cod, and EGB haddock; discuss quota trading
9/13/2013	PDT	Conference Call	FW51/A18	Follow-up from TMGC; update on analyses
9/16/2013	GAP	Portsmouth, NH	FW51/A18	Discussion of measures
9/17/2013	GF OSC	Portsmouth, NH	FW51/A18	Discussion of measures; 2014 priorities
9/24/2013- 9/26/2013	Council	Hyannis, MA	FW51/A18	Select measures to include in FW51; A18 update; 2014 priorities