



## New England Fishery Management Council

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E.F. "Terry" Stockwell, Chairman | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 8, 2014  
**TO:** Groundfish Oversight Committee (OSC)  
**FROM:** Frank Blount, Groundfish Oversight Committee Chairman  
**SUBJECT:** OSC meeting on Wednesday, September 17 and Thursday, September 18, 2014

There will be a Groundfish Oversight Committee (OSC) meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton, South Portland, ME on **Wednesday, September 17 and Thursday, September 18, 2014 starting at 9:00 AM both days.**

**Purpose.** On Wednesday, the OSC will receive reports on FY2013 groundfish fishery catches, a summary of the status of GOM cod, and input from the Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) and Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) prior to developing Framework Adjustment 53 (FW53), an action to set specifications and adjust management measures. On Thursday, the OSC will continue development of Amendment 18 (A18) to the Northeast Multispecies fishery management plan (FMP), an amendment to address fleet diversity and accumulation limits in the commercial groundfish fishery.

**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](http://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](mailto:jcournane@nefmc.org); 978-465-0492 ext. 103) or Rachel Feeney ([rfeeney@nefmc.org](mailto:rfeeney@nefmc.org); 978-465-0492 ext. 110).

1. Meeting memo (this document)
2. Agenda
3. A18 Action Plan, July 28, 2014
4. PDT memo to OSC re A18, September 5, 2014
5. A18 Discussion Document, September 5, 2014
6. A18 Discussion Guide, September 5, 2014
7. A18 Presentation (to be provided)
8. FW53 Action Plan, September 12, 2014
9. PDT work regarding FW 53
  - a. PDT memo to OSC re FW 53, September 12, 2014
  - b. PDT white paper: Development of Rollover Provisions in the Groundfish Fishery, September 4, 2014

10. PDT memo to SSC CC GF OSC re Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and Gulf of Maine haddock ABCs, August 14, 2014
11. PDT memo to SSC CC GF OSC re Gulf of Maine cod ABCs, September 11, 2014
12. 2014 Groundfish Stock Assessment Summaries
  - a. 2014 Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) Status Report for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Report Number 2014/01
  - b. 2014 TRAC Status Report for Eastern Georges Bank haddock, Report Number 2014/02
  - c. 2014 TRAC Status Report for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, Report Number 2014/03
  - d. SAW 59 Assessment Summary Report for 2014 GOM haddock benchmark assessment, NEFSC, August 2014, located here: <http://nefsc.noaa.gov/publications/crd/crd1407/>
  - e. 2014 GOM cod update, NEFSC, dated September 3, 2014
13. FW 53 Presentation (to be provided)
14. Draft RAP motions, September 16, 2014 (to be provided)
15. Draft GAP motions, September 16, 2014 (to be provided)
16. GF OSC meeting summary, August 4, 2014
17. Final FY2013 Groundfish Catch Report, GARFO
18. Correspondence

### **Framework Adjustment 53**

**Recent Activity.** FW53 was initiated at the June 2014 Council meeting. The Committee met in August and briefly discussed FW 53. Since the August Committee meeting, the PDT met on August 7<sup>th</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup> to further develop analyses for the Committee to consider when drafting alternatives for FW 53. The primary purpose of FW53 is to set specifications for several groundfish stocks (Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder stocks, pollock, GOM haddock, and TRAC stocks: GB yellowtail flounder, Eastern Georges Bank (EGB) cod, and EGB haddock). The Council developed a list, in priority order of potential adjustments to management measures:

- Allocate the windowpane flounder ACL to sub-components and develop AMs (applies to both stocks)
- Expand GOM cod inshore spawning closure
- Create a roll-over provision for specifications
- Revise the sector ACE carryover provisions
- Address enforcement concerns of undersized fish through changes in gear regulations
- Recreational management measures process (placeholder)

The Council also provided the PDT with the discretion to work through this list in priority order and to stop working on items in the list of lower priority, based on time and resource constraints.

**Next Steps.** On September 17, we will receive a summary of input from the RAP and GAP by their respective Chairs. After a Council staff overview of recent PDT discussion and groundfish stock assessments, the Committee will continue developing draft measures for FW53. To make the most of our meeting time on **September 17<sup>th</sup>**, you are encouraged to prepare motions in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Jamie Cournane ([jcournane@nefmc.org](mailto:jcournane@nefmc.org)).

The Council is scheduled to select the range of alternatives for this action at its September meeting.

## Amendment 18

**Recent activity.** The Committee met in August and discussed the draft alternatives in A18 (Document 5), particularly those that the Council remanded back to the Committee for further consideration, with the expectation that the remaining A18 alternatives will be approved at the September-October Council meeting. Since the August Committee meeting, the PDT met on August 7<sup>th</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup> to further develop some of the draft alternatives for A18. Additionally, a few Committee members expressed the need for the Committee to be better prepared for meetings and to spend meeting time more efficiently. In response, the PDT has provided a discussion guide for our next meeting. Please let me know if this aids your preparation.

**Next steps.** On September 17, we will receive a summary of input from the RAP and GAP by their respective Chairs. On September 18, after a Council staff overview of recent PDT discussion, the Committee will continue developing draft measures for A18. To make the most of our meeting time on **September 18<sup>th</sup>**, you are encouraged to prepare motions in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Rachel Feeney ([rfeeney@nefmc.org](mailto:rfeeney@nefmc.org)).

For the remaining alternatives, the Council is scheduled to select the range of alternatives for this action at its September meeting.

### Upcoming Groundfish Related Meetings

Dates	Group	Location	Action/ Priority	Possible Outcomes
09/23/2014	PDT	Conference call	FW53/A18	FW53 – Discuss Range of Alternatives A18 – Discuss outcomes of OSC mtg
09/30/2014- 10/02/2014	Council	Hyannis, MA	FW53/A18	FW53 – Approve Range of Alternatives A18 – Approve Range of Alternatives