



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 30, 2014
TO: Groundfish Committee
FROM: Frank Blount, Groundfish Oversight Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 12-Thursday, November 13, 2014

There will be a two-day Groundfish Committee meeting at the Four Points by Sheraton, Revere, MA on **Wednesday, November 12 and Thursday, November 13, starting at 9:00 AM both days.**

Purpose. The purpose of the Committee meeting is to continue development of Framework Adjustment 53 (FW 53), an action to set groundfish specifications and adjust management measures in the Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) fishery management plan (FMP). The Committee will also discuss potential groundfish priorities for 2015.

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).

1. Meeting memo (this document)
2. Agenda
3. FW 53 Action Plan, October 30, 2014
4. FW 53 Draft Alternatives, October 30, 2014
5. FW 53 Draft Environmental Impact Analysis, November 4, 2014
6. FW 53 Presentation (*to be provided*)
7. PDT Memo to the Committee re FW 53, September 26, 2014
8. PDT Memo to the Committee re FW 53, November 5, 2014
9. PDT Memo to the SSC CC GF Committee re Gulf of Maine cod ABCs, September 11, 2014
10. PDT Memo to the SSC CC GF Committee re pollock, GB and GOM winter flounder ABCs, October 14, 2014
11. PDT Memo to the SSC CC GF Committee re GOM cod bycatch, October 16, 2014
12. 2014 Groundfish Stock Assessment Summaries
 - a. 2014 GOM cod update, NEFSC, September 3, 2014
 - b. Peer Review Report for the 2014 GOM cod update, September 5, 2014
 - c. Operational Assessments of GB and GOM winter flounder and pollock, October 5, 2014

13. Groundfish Committee meeting summary, September 17-18, 2014 (*motions available; summary to be provided*)
14. Recreational Advisory Panel meeting summary, September 16, 2014 (*motions available; summary to be provided*)
15. Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting summary, September 16, 2014 (*motions available; summary to be provided*)
16. Final FY2013 Groundfish Catch Report, GARFO
17. FW 53 Groundfish Committee Decision Document, November 7, 2014
18. Potential Groundfish Priorities for 2015 Presentation (to be provided)
19. Correspondence

Framework Adjustment 53

Recent Activity. The Council selected the range of alternatives for this action at its September meeting. Since the Council meeting, the PDT has met on October 7, October 15, and October 28 to further develop analyses for the Committee to consider. 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 cod and TRAC stocks: GB yellowtail flounder, Eastern Georges Bank (EGB) cod, and EGB haddock). Additional management measures are also being considered in this action, including measures for GOM cod and windowpane flounder, sector ACE carryover, and roll-over of specifications.

Next Steps. The Committee will review the FW 53 Action Plan (Document 3). The Committee will then receive an update from the PDT on progress to date (Document 6). On Day 1, Council staff will provide an overview presentation to review PDT progress on analysis with respect to FW 53 including an examination of the draft alternatives (Document 4) and the draft environmental impacts analysis (Document 5). After opportunities for questions and feedback, the Committee will continue to discuss FW 53 on Day 1 and possibly make recommendations to the Council on preferred alternatives in FW 53 on Day 2. However, this agenda is subject to change. A decision document has also been provided (Document 17) to facilitate this discussion.

To make the most of our meeting time on **November 12 and 13th**, you are encouraged to prepare motions in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org).

The Council is scheduled to take final action on FW 53 at its November meeting.

Potential Groundfish Priorities for 2015

Next Steps. After receiving a Council staff presentation (Document 18), the Committee will discuss and possibly make recommendations to the Council on potential groundfish priorities for 2015.

The Council is scheduled to discuss priorities for 2015 at its November meeting.