



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
E.F. "Terry" Stockwell, Chairman | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 13, 2015
TO: Groundfish Committee
FROM: Frank Blount, Groundfish Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: Groundfish Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2015

There will be a Groundfish Committee meeting at the Radisson Hotel Providence Airport, Warwick, RI on Wednesday, November 18, starting at 9:00 AM.

Purpose. The purpose of the Committee meeting is to discuss: (1) development of Framework Adjustment 55 (FW55), an action to set specifications for all stocks in the Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for FY 2016 – FY 2018 including US/CA stocks for FY 2016, changes to the At-Sea Monitoring (ASM) program, and other measures, (2) recommendations to the Council for FY 2016 Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock recreational measures, (3) recommendations to the Council for 2016 Council priorities, (4) develop recommendations to the Council on GARFO's Recreational Fisheries Regional Implementation Plan, and (5) other business as necessary.

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. Framework Adjustment 55
 - a. Draft Action Plan for FW 55, November 10, 2015
 - b. Draft Framework Adjustment 55 Alternatives, November 10, 2015
 - c. Stock Assessment Update of 20 Northeast Groundfish Stocks through 2014, including the peer review reports for each stock (NEFSC, October 2015)
 - d. PDT memo to SSC and CC the Groundfish Committee re Groundfish ABCs and OFLs for FY 2016- FY 2018, October 9, 2015
 - e. Scallop PDT to the Groundfish PDT re projections of bycatch in Scallop FW 27, dated November 9, 2015

- f. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee, re FW 55, November 16, 2015
- g. FW 55 Presentation (*to be provided*)
- 4. Recreational Measures in the Gulf of Maine for FY 2016
 - a. Recreational Catch Summary, NEFSC, November 2, 2015
 - b. FY 2016 Simulations, NEFSC, November 2, 2015
 - c. Recreational Measures Presentation , NEFSC, November 17, 2015
 - d. FY 2016 Gulf of Maine Recreational Management Measures Presentation (*to be provided*)
- 5. Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting summary, September 2, 2015
- 6. FY 2014 Final Year-End Groundfish Catch Report, GARFO
- 7. Recreational Fisheries Regional Implementation Plan
 - a. Letter from GARFO soliciting input, October 1, 2015
 - b. Regional Recreational Fisheries Action Agenda 2014-2015, March, 2014
- 8. Priorities: Presentation: Discussion of Possible Council Priorities for 2016 (*to be provided*)
- 9. Recreational Advisory Panel meeting summary, January 22, 2015
- 10. Final GAP meeting motions, November 12, 2015 (*to be provided*)
- 11. Draft RAP meeting motions, November 17, 2015 (*to be provided*)
- 12. SSC memo to the Council re FY 2016- FY 2018 Groundfish OFLs/ABCs (*to be provided, if available*)
- 13. Correspondence

Framework Adjustment 55

Recent activity. The scope of FW 55 is to incorporate any status changes for groundfish stocks and set specifications for all groundfish stocks in order to meet regulatory requirements to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the fishery. The action also aims to modify ASM and includes other management measures for the groundfish fishery.

The draft action plan for FW 55 (Doc. 3a) outlines the timeline for the action and expected PDT work schedule. PDT work on this action is underway and continues through to formal submission - expected for early 2016 (Doc. 3a, 3b, 3d, and 3f).

Earlier this fall, the NEFSC held a peer review of the groundfish assessments on September 14-18, 2015 in Woods Hole, MA. The Council's SSC discussed recommendations for FY 2016 - FY 2018 OFLs/ABCs on October 13-14, 2015 in Providence, RI. The draft stock assessment summaries with the peer review conclusions are included, along with the PDT's work on projections (Doc. 3c-3d). The SSC's report may be available in time for the Committee meeting (Doc. 12).

In addition, information on Scallop PDT projected scallop fishery bycatch estimates of groundfish stocks is provided (Doc. 3e).

The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) met on November 12th (Doc. 10) and the Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) will meet on November 17th (Doc. 11). Meeting summaries for advisory panel meetings held earlier this year are also provided (Doc. 5 and Doc. 9).

Next Steps. On November 18th, Council staff will provide an overview of the development of the action including a summary of the 2015 assessments, and other issues (Doc. 3g). After reviewing the recommendations from the PDT and advisory panels, the Committee may wish to develop recommendations to the Council regarding preferred alternatives in FW 55.

To make the most of our meeting time on **November 18th**, 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 55 at its December 2015 meeting.

Recreational Measures in the Gulf of Maine for FY 2016

Next Steps. On November 18th, Council staff will provide an overview of options for recreational fishery measures (i.e., bag limit, size limit, and season) for FY 2016 for Gulf of Maine recreational fisheries for cod and haddock (Doc. 4a-4d). After considering recommendations from the RAP, the Committee may wish to develop recommendations to the Council regarding Gulf of Maine recreational measures for FY 2016.

To make the most of our meeting time on **November 18th**, 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 discuss these issues at its December 2015 meeting and then make recommendations to NMFS.

Priorities

Next Steps: On November 18th, Council staff will provide an overview of the possible priorities for 2016 (Doc. 8). The Committee may wish to develop recommendations to the Council regarding possible groundfish priorities for 2016.

To make the most of our meeting time on **November 18th**, 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 select 2016 Council priorities at its December 2015 meeting.

Recreational Fisheries Regional Implementation Plan

Next Steps. On November 18th, GARFO staff will provide an overview the status of the plan (Doc. 7a and Doc. 7b). After reviewing recommendations from the RAP, the Committee may wish to develop recommendations to the Council regarding the plan (see list of question in Doc. 7a).

The Council is scheduled to discuss these issues at its December 2015 meeting and then forward any final recommendations to NMFS.