



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: April 4, 2016
TO: Groundfish Committee
FROM: Frank Blount, Groundfish Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: Groundfish Committee meeting on April 7, 2016

There will be a Groundfish Committee meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn, Boston, MA on Thursday, April 7, starting at 9:00 AM.

Purpose. The purpose of the Committee meeting is to 1) receive an update from the Plan Development Team (PDT) on analysis of the groundfish monitoring program; 2) discuss the draft Council staff white paper on windowpane flounder management alternatives; 3) discuss the draft Council staff white paper on the recreational management measures process; and 4) discuss 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. Groundfish monitoring program
 - a. Draft PDT memo the Groundfish Committee re groundfish monitoring program, version 1 (April 5, 2016)
 - b. Presentation: PDT report on the groundfish monitoring program (to be provided)
4. Windowpane flounder management alternatives
 - a. Draft windowpane flounder discussion paper, version 1, Council Staff (April 1, 2016)
 - b. Presentation: Overview of Council Staff windowpane flounder discussion paper (to be provided)
5. Recreational management measures process
 - a. Draft outline for a Council Staff white paper on the recreational measure process (March 31, 2016)
6. Groundfish Committee meeting summary, January 14, 2016
7. Enforcement Priorities for Northeast Division, 2012-2017, NOAA OLE
8. Correspondence

Groundfish Monitoring Program

Recent activity. The Committee and Council met in January 2016 to develop a problem statement for a groundfish monitoring action and tasked the PDT with additional analysis of the groundfish monitoring program.

Since the Council meeting, the PDT has been working on an analysis for the Committee to consider at its upcoming meeting on April 7th (Docs. 3a and 3b).

Next Steps. On April 7th, Council staff will provide an overview of the PDT's work (Doc. 3b). The Committee will discuss the analysis and potentially develop recommendations to the Council on possible alternatives for a monitoring action.

To make the most of our meeting time on April 7th, 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 receive an update from the Committee at its April 2016 meeting.

Windowpane Flounder Management Alternatives

Recent Activity: Council staff have prepared a draft windowpane flounder discussion paper in response to Council Priorities for 2015 and 2016 (Doc. 4a). This paper is the culmination of work completed throughout 2015 and early 2016.

Next Steps: On April 7th, Council staff will provide an overview of the windowpane discussion paper (Doc. 4b). After reviewing the discussion paper, the Committee may wish to develop recommendations for next steps. If this is the case, specific feedback is requested on the following sections: *2.0 Draft Problem Statement, 5.0 Draft Objectives, and 6.0 Potential Approaches.*

The Council is scheduled to receive an update from the Committee at its April 2016 meeting.

Recreational Management Measures Process

Recent Activity: Council staff prepared a draft outline for a recreational management measures process white paper.

Next Steps: On April 7th, Council staff will provide an overview of the outline (Doc 5a). After reviewing the outline, the Committee may wish to develop recommendations for next steps.

The Council is scheduled to receive an update from the Committee at its April 2016 meeting.