



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Sept. 2, 2016
TO: Groundfish Committee
FROM: Terry Alexander, Acting Groundfish Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: Groundfish Committee meeting on Sept. 12, 2016

There will be a Groundfish Committee meeting at the Fairfield Inn and Suites, New Bedford, MA on Monday, Sept. 12, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Purpose. The purpose of the Committee meeting is to discuss 1) development of Framework Adjustment 56 (FW 56) – specifications and management measures, 2) the groundfish monitoring action, 3) possible priorities for 2017 and initial recommendations to the Council, and 4) 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 56
 - a. Draft action plan for FW 56 version 1, July 22, 2016
 - b. Draft FW 56 alternatives for consideration, September 6, 2016
 - c. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re development of alternatives for FW 56, September 7, 2016
 - d. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re directed Atlantic halibut fishery in the State of Maine, September 7, 2016
 - e. Assessments
 1. Eastern Georges Bank Cod, Status Report, TRAC, 2016/01
 2. Eastern Georges Bank Haddock Update, Status Report, TRAC, 2016/02
 3. Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder, Status Report, TRAC, 2016/03

4. Groundfish PDT memo to the SSC re GB yellowtail flounder ABCs for FY 2017- FY 2018, corrected version, August 5, 2016 (includes a memo from the Scallop PDT to the Groundfish PDT)
5. SSC memo to T. Nies re GB yellowtail flounder ABCs 2017-2018, August 23, 2016
- f. Market and Fishery Information
 1. Risk Policy Matrix for Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder, August 5, 2016
 2. Council/SSC Correspondence from Industry on Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder, August 2015 –August 2016
- g. Presentation: PDT report regarding FW 56, Council staff (*to be provided*)
- h. Presentation: Draft TMGC report (*to be provided*)
- i. Draft letter to the Secretary of Commerce/State of Maine on the halibut issue, Council staff, September 9, 2016
4. Groundfish monitoring action
 - a. White paper on monitoring strategies, draft outline from the PDT, July 21, 2016
 - b. Draft PDT report on dockside monitoring programs, July 6, 2016
 - c. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re progress report on the white paper, September 7, 2016
 - d. Presentation: PDT report regarding the groundfish monitoring action, Council Staff
5. Past meeting summaries
 - a. Recreational Advisory Panel, meeting summary, August 2, 2016
 - b. Groundfish Advisory Panel, meeting summary, August 30, 2016
 - c. Groundfish Committee, meeting summary, June 9, 2016
 - d. Groundfish Committee, meeting summary, August 3, 2016
6. Correspondence

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

Framework Adjustment 56

Recent Activity: The TRAC met on July 12-14 to discuss the assessments of US/Canada stocks - Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder. The PDT met on Aug. 16, Aug. 31, and Sept. 6 and developed analysis for FW 56 (Docs. 3a-3d, 3e4). The SSC met on Aug. 10, 2016 and made recommendations regarding the FY 2017-FY 2018 ABCs/OFLs for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder (3e5). The RAP met on Aug. 2, 2016 and provided recommendations (5a). The GAP met on Aug. 30, 2016 and provided recommendations and market and fishery information (Doc. 5a, 3f1-3f2). The TMGC/SC will meet on Sept. 7-9 to discuss quota recommendations for US/CA stocks (Doc. 3h).

Next Steps: On Sept. 12, Council staff will present an overview of work on Atlantic halibut and a draft letter regarding the halibut issue for consideration by the Committee (3i), then an

update on progress on the action (3g) followed by a draft report from the TMGC (3h). After reviewing the information provided, the Committee may wish to develop recommendations regarding FW 56 to the Council.

The Council is scheduled to approve the range of alternatives for FW 56 at its September 2016 meeting.

Groundfish Monitoring Action

Recent activity. The PDT met on Aug. 16 and 31. Since the June 2016 Committee meeting, the PDT completed a draft outline for the white paper on monitoring strategies (Doc. 4a) and a draft report on dockside monitoring programs (Doc. 4b) to be included in the white paper, and provided a report on progress (Doc. 4c). Additional analyses for the white paper are in progress at this time. The GAP met on Aug. 30 and discussed perspectives on the 2010-2011 dockside monitoring program (5b).

Next Steps. On Sept. 12, Council staff will provide an overview of progress on the white paper. The Committee will potentially develop recommendations regarding the action to the Council.

The Council is scheduled to receive an update on the development of this action at its September 2016 meeting.

Council Priorities for 2017

Recent Activity. The Advisors discussed recommendations to the Groundfish Committee for 2017 Council priorities (Docs. 5a and 5b).

Next Steps. On Sept. 12, the Committee will have an initial discussion of priorities and make recommendations to the Council.

The Council is scheduled to have an initial discussion of priorities at its September 2016 meeting, with the final discussion occurring at its November 2016 meeting.