



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Sept. 26, 2016
TO: Groundfish Committee
FROM: Terry Alexander, Acting Groundfish Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: Groundfish Committee meeting on Oct.3, 2016

There will be a Groundfish Committee meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn – Boston Logan Airport, Boston, MA on Monday, Oct. 3, starting at 9:30 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) rank possible priorities for 2017, 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 2, Sept. 26, 2016
 - b. Draft FW 56 alternatives for consideration, Sept. 29, 2016
 - c. Draft PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re development of alternatives for FW 56, version 1, Sept. 30, 2016
 - d. Nies to Council re Scallop Fishery Accountability Measures for GB YT Flounder, Sept. 18, 2016
 - e. Presentation: PDT report regarding FW 56, Council staff (*to be provided*)
4. Groundfish monitoring action
 - a. Example Federal Register Notice of Intent for Scoping – A18, Dec. 21, 2011
 - b. Presentation: PDT report regarding Groundfish Monitoring Action (*to be provided*)

5. Draft list of possible groundfish priorities for 2017 (*to be provided*)
6. Past meeting summaries
 - a. Draft Groundfish Committee, meeting summary, Sept. 12, 2016
7. Correspondence

To make the most of our meeting time on Oct. 3, 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 PDT met on Sept. 27, 2016 to continue the development of draft alternatives for this action, following the Council's recommendations from its September 2016 meeting.

Next Steps: On Oct. 3, Council staff will present an overview of PDT work to date and other relevant information (Docs. 3a-3e). After reviewing the information provided, the Committee may wish to develop recommendations regarding FW 56 to the Council.

The Committee and Council will convene in November 2016 to select preferred alternatives for this action. Final action is scheduled for November 2016 (most of the action) and January 2017 (witch flounder specifications).

Groundfish Monitoring Action

Recent activity. The PDT met on Sept. 27, 2016 to discuss the content for a draft Federal Register Notice of Intent (NOI) of Scoping for this action (Docs. 4a-4b), at the direction of the Council at its September meeting.

Next Steps. On Oct. 3, Council staff will provide an overview the PDT's discussion (Doc. 4b). The Committee will provide feedback on the content of the draft NOI.

The Committee and Council will convene in November to review the completed draft NOI.

Council Priorities for 2017

Recent Activity. The Council had an initial discussion of priorities for 2017 and developed a draft list for consideration based on feedback from Committees and the public (Doc. 5)

Next Steps. On Oct. 3, the Committee will rank the list of possible 2017 groundfish priorities and make recommendations to the Council.

The Council is scheduled to have a final discussion of priorities for 2017 at its November 2016 meeting.