



New England Fishery Management Council

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 John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2017
TO: Groundfish Advisory Panel
FROM: Terry Stockwell, Groundfish Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: **Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2017**

There will be a Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, Maine on Wednesday, January 18, starting at 8:30 am.

Purpose. The purpose of the GAP meeting is to discuss: (1) recommendations to the Groundfish Committee for FY 2017- FY 2019 witch flounder specifications, (2) the Council's 2017 priorities, (3) 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 (witch flounder specifications only)
 - a. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re witch flounder specifications (Jan. 11, 2017)
 - b. PDT memo to the SSC re witch flounder OFLs/ABCs (Jan. 13, 2017)
 - c. Presentation: PDT summary report (*to be provided*)
 - d. Witch flounder assessment documents and other materials reviewed by the SSC, located at: <http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/jan.-17-2017-ssc-meeting>
4. Presentation: Council Priorities for 2017
5. Correspondence

Drafting Motions. 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: Witch Flounder Specifications for FY 2017- FY 2019

Next Steps. On Jan. 18, Council staff will provide an overview the recent benchmark assessment, Plan Development Team analysis, and Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations for witch flounder (Doc. 3a- 3d).

The GAP may wish to develop recommendations to the Groundfish Committee regarding witch flounder specifications for FY 2017- FY 2019.

- The Groundfish Committee is meeting on Jan. 19 to recommend witch flounder specifications for FY 2017 to FY 2019 and consider any GAP discussion and motions.
- The Council is scheduled to discuss these issues at its January 2017 meeting and take final action on Framework Adjustment 56.

Council's 2017 Groundfish Priorities

Next Steps: On Jan. 18, Council staff will provide an overview of the Council's 2017 groundfish priorities (Doc. 4). The GAP may discuss the Council's groundfish priorities for 2017 including Atlantic halibut management, the groundfish monitoring amendment, and others. The GAP may then wish make recommendations to the Groundfish Committee, as appropriate.