



## New England Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 14, 2017  
**TO:** Groundfish Committee  
**FROM:** Terry Stockwell, Groundfish Committee Chairman  
**SUBJECT:** **Groundfish Committee meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017**

There will be a **Groundfish Committee** meeting at the **Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, New Bedford, MA** on **Thursday, September 21, starting at 8:30 am.**

**Purpose.** The purpose of the Committee meeting is to discuss and make recommendations to the Council on: (1) Framework Adjustment 57- specifications and management measures (2) Amendment 23- groundfish monitoring, (3) 2018 priorities, (4) regulatory streamlining in response to recent Executive Orders, 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](http://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](mailto:jcournane@nefmc.org) ; 978-465-0492 ext. 103).

1. Meeting memo (this memo)
2. Agenda
3. TRAC/TMGC
  - a. Background Presentation: TRAC 2017 Summary (US TRAC Co-Chair/NEFSC)
  - b. Eastern Georges Bank Cod, Status Report, TRAC, 2017/01
  - c. Eastern Georges Bank Haddock Update, Status Report, TRAC, 2017/02
  - d. Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder, Status Report, TRAC, 2017/03
  - e. Presentation: TMGC 2017 Summary (US TMGC Co-Chair/*to be provided*)
  - f. DRAFT TMGC Guidance Document (*if available*)
4. Framework Adjustment 57
  - a. PDT memo to the SSC re GB yellowtail flounder ABCs for FY 2018 and FY 2019 with Scallop PDT memo attached (Aug. 4, 2017)
  - b. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re gear research large-mesh belly panel to reduce southern windowpane flounder in the scup fishery (Aug. 25, 2017)
  - c. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re common pool trimester TACs (Sept. 14, 2017)

- d. Refer to previous PDT work on Atlantic halibut, windowpane flounder, and the recreational fishery (Documents 4a-4d) here: <http://www.nefmc.org/library/june-2017-groundfish>
- e. Presentation: PDT Report on FW 57
5. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring
  - a. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re draft outline of the likely range of alternatives (Sept. 14, 2017)
  - b. Refer to 2017 June Council Meeting Motions (Motions 9 and 9a), regarding an industry workshop here: <http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Final.Motions-to-Council-June-2017.pdf>
  - c. Presentation: PDT Report on A23
6. Meeting Summaries
  - a. Recreational Advisory Panel meeting summary, June 12, 2017
  - b. Groundfish Committee meeting summary, June 15, 2017
7. Correspondence

**Meetings Topics.** The following section outlines the meeting expected outcomes and future related meetings by discussion topic.

### **Framework Adjustment 57**

This action, initiated at the June 2017 Council meeting, will incorporate any status changes for groundfish stocks and set specifications for all groundfish stocks for FY 2018 to FY 2020, set specifications for FY 2018 for US/Canada stocks (Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder), evaluate the common pool trimester total allowable catches (TACs), modify Atlantic halibut management, modify the Southern windowpane flounder accountability measures for the large-mesh non-groundfish fisheries (e.g., scup and summer flounder), and revise the recreational management measures process.

*Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) /Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC):* The TRAC met July 11-14, 2017 in St. Andrews, NB, Canada to conduct assessments for Eastern Georges Bank (EGB) cod, EGB haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. The TMGC met on Sept. 6-7, 2017 and the Steering Committee met on Sept. 8, 2017 in Halifax, NS, Canada to discuss quotas for US/Canada stocks and other management issues.

#### **At the Meeting:**

- US TMGC Co-Chair will provide a summary of the 2017 TMGC recommendations for US/CA stocks for 2018 quotas (3a-3f).
- Council staff will provide a summary of PDT work to date (4a-4e).
- The Groundfish Committee may wish to develop recommendations to the Council on the range of alternatives for Framework Adjustment 57.

#### **After the Meeting:**

The Council is scheduled to receive an update and discuss the range of alternatives for Framework Adjustment 57 at its September 2017 meeting.

### **Amendment 23: Groundfish Monitoring**

The Council discussed A23 at its June 2017 meeting. The purpose of A23 is to improve reliability and accountability of catch reporting and to ensure a precise and accurate representation of catch (landings and discards).

#### **At the Meeting:**

- Council staff will provide a summary of PDT work to date (5a and 5c).
- The Groundfish Committee will discuss a draft outline of the range of alternatives (5a) and revisit a motion made at the June Council meeting that was recommitted to the Committee for further discussion (5b and see below).

#### *June 2017 Council Motions*

Ms. Etrie moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:

to develop/hold a workshop that improves managers and industry reps understanding of the distinction between accuracy and precision. Additionally, this workshop should be used to identify or develop methods for using monitoring data in stock assessments that can clearly illustrate how ASM data could have the capacity to rescale a stock biomass.

Mr. Pappalardo moved and Mr. Grout seconded:

to recommit this motion back to the Committee.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands carried on a show of hands (15/0/0).

#### **After the Meeting:**

The Council is scheduled to receive an update on Amendment 23 at its September 2017 meeting.

### **Priorities for 2018**

#### **At the Meeting:**

The Committee may wish to develop initial recommendations to the Council regarding priorities for 2018.

#### **After the Meeting:**

The Council is scheduled to hold an initial discussion of 2018 priorities at the September meeting. The Council plans to have a full discussion of 2018 priorities at its December meeting.

### **Regulatory streamlining in response to recent Executive Orders**

Several recent Executive Orders have been issued about streamlining current regulations, and NOAA is seeking public input on the efficiency and effectiveness of current regulations and whether they can be improved.

#### **At the Meeting:**

The Committee will discuss whether there are any regulations in the Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) fishery management plan that could be eliminated, improved, or streamlined.

#### **After the Meeting:**

Recommendations to NOAA from the Committee will be summarized and provided to the Council.

**Drafting Motions.** You are encouraged to prepare motions in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Jamie Cournane at [jcournane@nefmc.org](mailto:jcournane@nefmc.org)