



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 9, 2018  
**TO:** Groundfish Committee  
**FROM:** Terry Stockwell, Groundfish Committee Chairman  
**SUBJECT:** Groundfish Committee meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2018

There will be a **Groundfish Committee** meeting at the **DoubleTree by Hilton, Danvers, MA** on **Thursday, January 25, starting at 9 am.**

**Purpose.** The purpose of the Committee meeting is to discuss: (1) recreational measures for fishing year 2018 for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock, and possibly Georges Bank cod, (2) the control date for the charter/party fishery, (3) the Council's Groundfish priorities for 2018, (4) discuss progress on Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring, 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 and agenda (this memo)
2. Presentation: Council staff
3. Recreational measures for fishing year 2018 discussion documents, NEFSC staff
4. Meeting Summaries
  - a. Recreational Advisory Panel Motions/draft meeting summary, Nov. 14, 2017
  - b. Groundfish Committee Motions/draft meeting summary, Nov. 29, 2017
  - c. Groundfish Advisory Panel Motions/draft meeting summary, Nov. 28, 2017
  - d. Draft Recreational Advisory Panel Motions, Jan. 24, 2018
5. Amendment 23 – Groundfish Monitoring – updated date outline prepared by the PDT of the likely range of alternatives
6. Correspondence

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

### **Recreational Management Measures for Fishing Year 2018**

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

- Council staff will answer questions from the Committee on recent recreational catch and effort data and results from the bioeconomic model (Docs. 2 and 3)
- The Committee will consider recommendations from the Recreational Advisory Panel on the recreational management measures for fishing year 2018 for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock, and possibly Georges Bank cod (Doc 4d), and make recommendations to the Council.

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

The Council is scheduled to make recommendations to GARFO on January 31 at its meeting in Portsmouth, NH.

### **Control Date for the Charter/Party Fishery**

Briefly, the current “control date” is March 30, 2006 and may be used for establishing eligibility criteria for determining levels of future access to the charter/party fishery subject to Federal authority. An excerpt from the Federal Register notice summarizing the “control date” is below and the full notice can be accessed here: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2006-03-30/pdf/E6-4665.pdf>

The control date is intended to discourage speculative entry into the charter/party NE multispecies fishery while controlled access restrictions are considered by the Council. The control date will help to distinguish established participants from speculative entrants to the fishery. Although entering the fishery after the control date will not ensure fishing vessels of future access to the NE multispecies resource on the grounds of previous participation, additional and/or other qualifying criteria may be applied. The Council may choose different and variably weighted measures to qualify participants based on the type and length of participation in the charter/party NE multispecies fishery. This notification establishes March 30, 2006 as the control date for potential use in determining historical or traditional participation in the NE multispecies charter/party fishery. Consideration of a control date does not commit the Council or NMFS to develop any particular management system or criteria for participation in this fishery. The Council may choose a different control date, or may choose a management program that does not make use of such a date. Fishers are not guaranteed future participation in the fishery, regardless of their entry dates or level of participation in this fishery before or after the control date. The Council may choose to give variably weighted consideration to fishers active in the fishery before and after the control date. The Council may also choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the fishery, in which case the control date may be rescinded. Any action by the Council will be taken pursuant to the requirements for the development of FMP amendments established under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This notification also gives the public notice that interested participants should locate and preserve records that substantiate and verify their participation in the NE multispecies charter/party fishery in Federal waters.

At the January 2018 Council meeting, the Council will consider recommending a new control date for the charter/party fishery.

**At the Meeting:**

- Council staff will provide an overview of the current control date for the charter/party fishery (Doc. 2).
- The Committee will consider recommendations from the Recreational Advisory Panel on a new control date for the charter/party fishery (Doc 4d), and make recommendations to the Council.

**After the Meeting:**

The Council is scheduled to discuss this topic on January 31 at its meeting in Portsmouth, NH.

**Priorities for 2018**

**At the Meeting:**

Council staff will provide an overview of the Council's 2018 priorities for groundfish (Doc. 2) and the Committee will discuss the priorities.

**Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring**

**At the Meeting:**

- Council staff will provide an update on progress on Amendment 23 (Docs. 2 and 5).
- The Committee will consider recommendations from the Groundfish Advisory Panel on Amendment 23 (Doc. 4c).
- The Committee will discuss progress and make recommendations to the Council.

**After the Meeting:**

The Council is scheduled to discuss this topic on January 31 at its meeting in Portsmouth, NH.

**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](mailto:jcournane@nefmc.org)).



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### AGENDA

#### GROUND FISH COMMITTEE JANUARY 25, 2018

**Doubletree by Hilton**  
**50 Ferncroft Road**  
**Danvers, MA 01950**  
**Phone: (978) 777-2500**

- 9:00 am Opening remarks and agenda review.....(*Stockwell*)
- 9:10 am Recreational Advisory Panel report..... (*Blount*)
- 10:00 am Recreational measures for fishing year 2018..... (*Stockwell/Cournane*)
- Review the recommendations of the Recreational Advisory Panel, and
  - Provide recommendations to the Council on fishing year 2018 recreational measures for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock, and possibly Georges Bank cod
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm Control date ..... (*Stockwell/Cournane*)
- Review the recommendations of the Recreational Advisory Panel, and
  - Consider providing a recommendation to the Council for a new control date for the charter/party fishery.
- 2:15 pm Priorities for 2018 ..... (*Stockwell/Cournane*)  
Receive an overview of the Council's priorities for 2018.
- 3:30 pm Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring .....(*Stockwell/Frede/Cournane*)
- Review the recommendations of the Groundfish Advisory Panel,
  - Discuss progress on the action, and
  - Make recommendations to the Council.
- 5:00 pm Other business.....(*Stockwell*)
- 5:30 pm Adjourn