



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: September 5, 2019
TO: Groundfish Committee and Advisory Panel
FROM: Terry Stockwell, Groundfish Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: **Groundfish Advisory Panel and Committee meetings on September 16-17**

The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) will meet at the Hilton Garden Inn Logan Airport, Boston, MA on Monday, September 16, starting at 9:00 am. The Groundfish Committee (Committee) will convene the following day on Tuesday, September 17 at the same location, also starting at 9:00 am.

Purpose. The GAP and Committee will discuss and make recommendations to the Committee or Council, as appropriate, on: (1) Amendment 23: Groundfish Monitoring, (2) Framework Adjustment 59: Specifications, (3) possible Council priorities for 2020, (4) Omnibus Framework: Commercial Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting (eVTR) and (5) other business as necessary.

Meeting Materials. Council staff distributes electronic documents in advance of the meeting and also posts copies to www.nefmc.org. If you prefer paper copies, please request a packet in advance of the meeting. If you have questions about the documents, please contact Dr. Jamie Courneau (jcourneau@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 103).

1. Meeting memo and agenda (this memo)
2. Presentation: Council staff (*to be provided*)
3. Framework Adjustment 59: Specifications
 - a. Memo from Groundfish PDT to SSC re Georges Bank yellowtail flounder ABCs, including a memo from the Scallop PDT, Aug. 15, 2019
 - b. Memo from Groundfish PDT to Groundfish Committee re development of alternatives for Framework Adjustment 59: Specifications, Sept. 4. 2019
4. Amendment 23: Groundfish Monitoring – Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - a. PART 1 – Sections 1-6 (Introduction, Background, Alternatives, Affected Environment)
 - b. PART 2 – Section 7 (Impacts Analysis) (*to be provided*)
 - c. PART 3 – Appendices (Supporting Analysis)
5. Meeting Summaries
 - a. GAP and Groundfish Committee, meeting motions, Aug. 6, 2019
 - b. GAP draft meeting motions, Sept. 16, 2019 (*to be provided to Committee*)
 - c. Enforcement Committee and AP meeting summary, July 25, 2019
6. Correspondence
7. Omnibus Framework: Commercial eVTR

- a. Staff Presentation
- b. Frequently Asked Questions Related to eVTR
- c. eVTR Framework Discussion Document

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

1. Amendment 23: Groundfish Monitoring

Council staff will provide an overview of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (Docs. 2 and 4a-4c). The Advisors and Committee may wish to select preliminary preferred alternatives.

2. Framework Adjustment 59: Specifications

Council staff will provide update on the development of the action (Docs. 2 and 3a-3b), focusing on 1) 2020 total allowable catches for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder and 2) revisions to the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation to the Closed Area I (CAI) Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP). The Advisors and Committee may wish to make recommendations on the draft alternatives.

3. Possible Council Priorities for 2020

The Advisors and Committee may wish to make recommendations on possible groundfish priorities for 2020.

4. Omnibus Framework: Commercial eVTR

Council staff will provide an update on the Commercial Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting (eVTR) Omnibus Framework, which proposes to implement electronic VTRs for all vessels with commercial permits for species managed by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils (Docs. 7a-7c).

Next Steps. At the Council meeting on Wednesday, September 25, the Council is expected to address the following:

- Framework Adjustment 59
 - Approve TMGC recommendations for 2020 TACs for EGB cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, and
 - Receive an update on draft alternatives.
- Amendment 23
 - Approve DEIS for public hearings, and
 - Select preliminary preferred alternatives.

Drafting Motions and Rationale. You are encouraged to prepare motions and rationale in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Dr. Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org).



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AGENDA

**GROUND FISH ADVISORY PANEL
September 16, 2019**

**Hilton Garden Inn Logan Airport
100 Boardman Street
Boston, MA 02129
Phone: (617) 561-0798**

- 9:00 am Opening remarks and agenda review (Martens)
- 9:15 am Framework Adjustment 59-Specifications (Martens/Cournane)
 - Discuss draft alternatives focusing on: 1) 2020 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, and 2) Revisions to the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC and to remove the allocation to the Closed Area I (CAI) Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP)
 - Provide recommendations to the Committee, as appropriate.
- 10:30 am Omnibus Framework-Commercial Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting (eVTR) . (Martens/Asci)
Receive an update on the Commercial eVTR Omnibus Framework, which proposes to implement electronic VTRs for all vessels with commercial permits for species managed by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils
- 11:15 am Amendment 23-Groundfish Monitoring(Martens/Frede/Cournane)
 - Receive an overview of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and
 - Agenda continued after lunch.
- 12:30 pm *Lunch*
- 1:45 pm *Continue* Amendment 23
 - Receive a presentation on the cost-efficiency analysis (*Demarest, NEFSC/SSB*), and
 - Provide recommendations to the Committee on selecting preliminary preferred alternatives.
- 4:45 pm Possible 2020 Council Priorities (Martens/Cournane)
 - Discuss a draft list of possible groundfish priorities for 2020, and
 - Develop recommendations to the Committee, as appropriate.
- 5:15 pm Other business (Martens)
- 5:30 pm *Adjourn*

Times listed next to agenda items are estimates and subject to change.



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AGENDA

**GROUND FISH COMMITTEE
September 17, 2019**

**Hilton Garden Inn Logan Airport
100 Boardman Street
Boston, MA 02129
Phone: (617) 561-0798**

The Groundfish Advisory Panel report will be provided under each agenda item.

- 9:00 am Opening remarks and agenda review (Stockwell)
- 9:15 am Framework Adjustment 59-Specifications (Stockwell/Cournane)
 - Discuss draft alternatives focusing on: 1) 2020 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, and 2) Revisions to the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC and to remove the allocation to the Closed Area I (CAI) Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP), and
 - Provide recommendations to the Council, as appropriate.
- 10:00 am Amendment 23-Groundfish Monitoring(Stockwell/Frede/Cournane)
 - Receive an overview of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS),
 - Receive a presentation on the cost-efficiency analysis (*Demarest, NEFSC/SSB*), and
 - Provide recommendations to the Council on selecting preliminary preferred alternatives.
- 12:30 pm *Lunch*
- 1:45 pm Continue Amendment 23
- 4:00 pm Omnibus Framework-Commercial Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting (eVTR) (Stockwell/Cournane)
 - Receive an update on the Commercial eVTR Omnibus Framework, which proposes to implement electronic VTRs for all vessels with commercial permits for species managed by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils
- 4:30 pm Possible 2020 Council Priorities (Stockwell/Cournane)
 - Discuss a draft list of possible groundfish priorities for 2020, and
 - Develop recommendations to the Council, as appropriate.
- 4:45 pm Other business (Stockwell)
- 5:00 pm *Adjourn*

Times listed next to agenda items are estimates and subject to change.