

**New England Fishery Management Council**  
**Groundfish Committee Report**  
 June Council Meeting - by Webinar  
 June 25, 2020

**Meeting Motions**

**COVID-19 Commercial Fishery Impacts**

**Motion 1:** [*Groundfish Committee motion carried by unanimous consent, without objection.*]

The Council requests GARFO initiate an Emergency Action for the groundfish fishery in light of COVID-19 measures to include:

- 1) Allow sectors to carryover more than 10% of their unused FY2019 into FY2020 for GOM haddock, GB haddock, American plaice, and witch flounder, consistent with GARFO memo to Council on June 3, 2020.
- 2) Request GARFO evaluate the *de minimis* carryover provision to enable sectors to allow *de minimis* carryover of FY2019 ACE to be more than 1% of the FY2020 sector sub-ACL of stocks without fear of triggering a pound for pound payback in FY2021. This analysis should look at all stocks with carryover.
- 3) Upon conclusion of the FY2019 reconciliation process, allow sectors who do not have the maximum allowed carryover of the stocks above to trade with sectors who do in order to allow all sectors the chance of replenishing their carryover in light of COVID-19 (within the same trading window).

**Framework Adjustment 61/Specifications**

**Motion 2:** [*Groundfish Committee motion carried unanimously 9/0/0.*]

The Council initiates Framework Adjustment 61 to include:

- 2021 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder.
- 2021-2023 specifications for roughly half of the groundfish stocks:
  - Winter flounders (GB, GOM, and SNE/MA), redfish, halibut, windowpane flounders (northern and southern), ocean pout, and wolffish.
- Other measures:
  - address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data, and
  - investigate ways to increase GB haddock utilization, including modification of gear requirements