

Groundfish Committee: *Report*

NEFMC Meeting
September 27, 2017



Framework Adjustment 57: *Specifications and Management Measures*

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Draft Framework Adjustment 57

DRAFT Scope:

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

DRAFT Objectives

To meet regulatory requirements to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the commercial and recreational groundfish fishery.



Likely Range of Alternatives

1. Updates to status determination criteria stock status and annual catch limits

- Revised status determination criteria
- Annual Catch Limits

2. Commercial and Recreational Fishery Management Measures

Commercial

- Revise common pool trimester TACs
- Modify Atlantic halibut management
- Modify Southern windowpane flounder accountability measures for the large-mesh non-groundfish fisheries

Recreational

- Revise the recreational management measures process



Draft Timeline

Action to be in place in time for May 1, 2018

SEPT 26-28	NEFMC – Receives an update on the development of the action, approve range of alternatives, including discussing US/CA stocks
OCT 3	Groundfish PDT meeting
OCT 23-24	SSC meeting to recommend groundfish stocks OFLS/ABCs
NOV XX	Groundfish PDT meeting
NOV 14	Recreational Advisory Panel meeting
NOV 28	Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting
NOV 29	Groundfish Committee meeting
DEC 5-7	NEFMC- Takes final action on framework



Likely Range of Alternatives

4.1. Updates to status determination criteria stock status and annual catch limits

4.1.1 Revised status determination criteria

- Option 1: No Action
- Option 2: Revised SDCs

4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits

- Option 1: No Action
- Option 2: Specifications for 2018-2020, including US/CA stocks



Likely Range of Alternatives

4.2. Commercial and Recreational Fishery Management Measures

4.2.1 Commercial

- 4.2.1.1 Revise common pool trimester TACs
 - Option 1: No Action

 - Option 2: Revised common pool trimester TACS
 - Sub-Option 2A: Revised common pool trimester TACs for certain stocks
 - Sub-Option 2B: Administrative Measure for the Regional Administrator to adjust trimester TACs and AMs, under certain conditions



Likely Range of Alternatives

4.2. Commercial and Recreational Fishery Management Measures

4.2.1 Commercial

- 4.2.1.2 Modify Atlantic halibut management
 - Option 1: No Action

 - Option 2: Modified Atlantic halibut management
 - Sub-Option 2A: Reactive AM of no possession would apply to all federal permit holders
 - ~~Sub-Option 2B: Tiered AM system for commercial groundfish fisheries~~
 - Sub-Option 2C: Modified gear restricted area off the eastern Maine coast for ~~commercial groundfish fisheries~~ all federal permit holders



Likely Range of Alternatives

4.2. Commercial and Recreational Fishery Management Measures

4.2.1 Commercial

- 4.2.1.3 Modify Southern windowpane flounder accountability measures for the large-mesh non-groundfish fisheries
 - Option 1: No Action
 - Option 2: Modified windowpane flounder management
 - Sub-Option 2A: Extension of FW52 provisions to large mesh non-groundfish trawl fisheries
 - Sub-Option 2B: Modified gear restricted areas
 - ~~Sub-Option 2C: Modified AM triggers~~



Likely Range of Alternatives

4.2. Commercial and Recreational Fishery Management Measures

4.2.2 Recreational

- 4.2.2.1 Revise the recreational management measures process
 - Option 1: No Action
 - Option 2: Revised recreational management measures process
 - Sub-Option 2A: Remove proactive FW 48 AMs
 - Sub-Option 2B: Set measures with biennial specifications to remain unchanged during the biennial specification cycle
 - Sub-Option 2C: Formulaic process to adjust the measures developed with specifications



Outcomes For Today

- Discuss the work of the PDT and Committee
- Approve the range of alternatives



Groundfish Amendment 23

Monitoring

Range of Alternatives

Robin Frede
Council Staff, Fishery Analyst

Amendment 23 Timeline

2017	
MAR-APR	Public scoping period
APR 12	Groundfish PDT meeting
MAY 24	Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting
JUN 15	Groundfish Committee meeting
JUN 20-22	NEFMC – Receives an update on the development of this action, discusses likely range of alternatives
AUG 3	Groundfish PDT meeting
AUG 31	Groundfish PDT meeting
SEP 21	Groundfish Committee meeting
SEP 26-28	NEFMC – Receives progress report
DEC 5-7	NEFMC – Receives progress report

A23 Alternatives Outline (Draft)

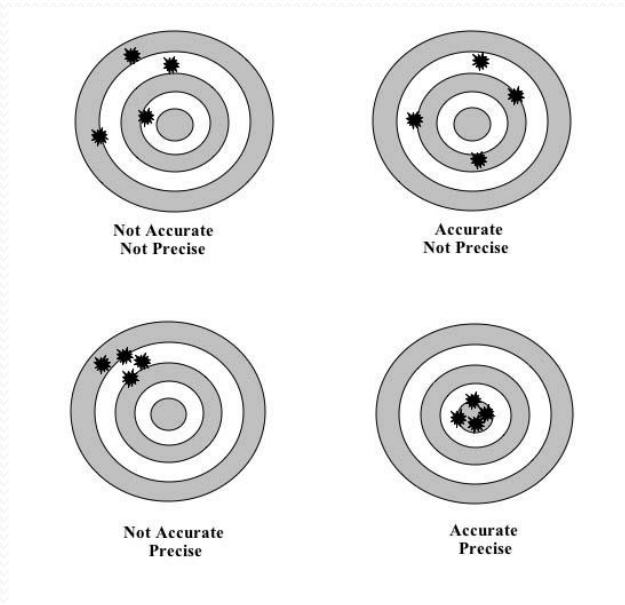
- Goals and Objectives based
- Introduction
 - Purpose and need
 - Background on Groundfish Sector Monitoring Program
- Alternatives
 - Monitoring Coverage Levels
 - Re-evaluate 30% CV precision standard
 - Alternatives methodologies for determining total monitoring coverage levels
 - Knowing total monitoring coverage level at a time certain
 - Improving monitoring of discards
 - Electronic monitoring (EM) – in place of ASM, audit-based, maximum retention-based
 - Improving monitoring of landings
 - Dockside monitoring program
 - EM for landings verification (maximum retention)
 - Streamlining Sector Reporting
 - Weekly sector reporting
 - Other sector reporting requirements

Preliminary PDT Discussion

Consider census-based approach to EM, where EM runs on 100% of trips and a subset of hauls or trips is reviewed to estimate discards.

Develop definitions for terminology:

Accuracy, Precision, Accountability, Reliability



Possible Workshop

Revisit June 2017 Council Motion:

Motion #9: 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.

Motion #9a: To recommit this motion back to the Committee.

Committee Recommendations

- Add section on Funding sources to draft outline
- Industry involvement
 - Possible joint PDT/AP meeting
- Recommend to the Council to request that the Executive Committee discuss convening a working group, to identify and/or improve methods for using monitoring data in stock assessments to estimate stock biomass.

Outcomes for Today

- Review a draft outline of the likely range of alternatives.
- Discuss the possibility of an industry workshop.