

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

Framework Adjustment 59/Specifications

Council Staff

Council Meeting
December 4, 2019
Newport, RI



For Today

- Take final action on FW59.
- Implementation for May 1, 2020.

Specifications

Framework Adjustment 59 would:

Set 2020 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock,

Set 2020-2022 specifications for fifteen groundfish stocks,

Address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data, and

Revise the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation to the Closed Area I (CAI) Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP).

Specifications

The fifteen groundfish stocks include:

- 1) GB cod
- 2) Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod
- 3) GB haddock
- 4) GOM haddock
- 5) GB yellowtail flounder
- 6) Cape Cod/GOM yellowtail flounder
- 7) Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder
- 8) GB winter flounder
- 9) American plaice
- 10) Witch flounder
- 11) Pollock
- 12) White hake
- 13) Atlantic halibut
- 14) Northern windowpane flounder
- 15) Southern windowpane flounder.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.1 Option A – Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target

4.1.2.2 Option B – Allocation between Commercial and Recreational Fisheries for Gulf of Maine Cod and Gulf of Maine Haddock

4.1.2.3 Option C – Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program

4.1.2.4 Option D– Midwater Trawl Atlantic Herring Fishery sub-ACL for Georges Bank Haddock

4.1.2.5 Option E – Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder

4.2 ACTION 2 – RECREATIONAL FISHERY MEASURES FOR GEORGES BANK COD

4.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Temporary Administrative Measure to Allow the Regional Administrator Authority to Adjust the Recreational Measures for Georges Bank Cod

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications [CMTE]*

- Incorporates results of 2019 stock assessments and SSC recommendations
- Updates FY2020-FY2022 specifications for 15 groundfish stocks
- Includes US/CA quota for Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
- Includes results of PDT's sub-component review
- Options A through E can also be selected

***With exception of GOM cod, GOM haddock, GB haddock, pollock, and American plaice.**

Groundfish Advisors- Nov. 25, 2019

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the Committee recommend that the Council remand back to the Scientific and Statistical Committee the ABC recommendations for plaice, both haddock stocks (GOM and GB), and pollock.

Motion carried 6/1/0.

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to the Council to remand the GOM cod catch advice back to the SSC to consider: that the model averaging for GOM cod include the 3 model runs put forward by the Groundfish PDT which include: $M=0.2$ 75%FMSY (843mt), $M=0.2$ 75%Fmsy Rho Adjusted (526mt) and $Mramp=0.4$ 75% FMSY (577 mt). Model averaging results in an ABC of 649 mt for FY2020-FY2022.

Motion carried 6/1/0.

PDT's Sub-Component Review

State component and other component:

- Three-year recent average catch (FY2016-FY2018) used, in the absence of other information (e.g., Scallop PDT estimates, changes in state regulations, GB cod recreational catch target.).
- Final year-end data were not available for Atlantic halibut for FY2018.
- Generally, the PDT compared the current other or state waters subcomponent percentage (and associated value) to the three-year average catch to develop recommendations.

Additional Considerations

State component and other component:

- GB cod recreational catch target (state and other)
- GOM cod and GOM haddock allocation shares (state and other)
- Pollock and new MRIP data (state and other)
- Southern windowpane flounder and catches by large-mesh non-groundfish fisheries (other)
- Atlantic halibut and past Council motion (state)

**Example
Allocation:
GOM Cod
FY2020
with revised
comm./rec.**

OFL

724 mt

ABC

552 mt



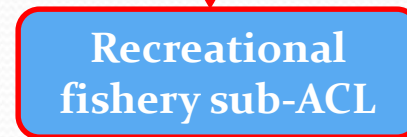
**Example
Allocation:
GOM Cod
FY2020
with revised
comm./rec.**



37.5% allocation



- 7% ↓ buffer

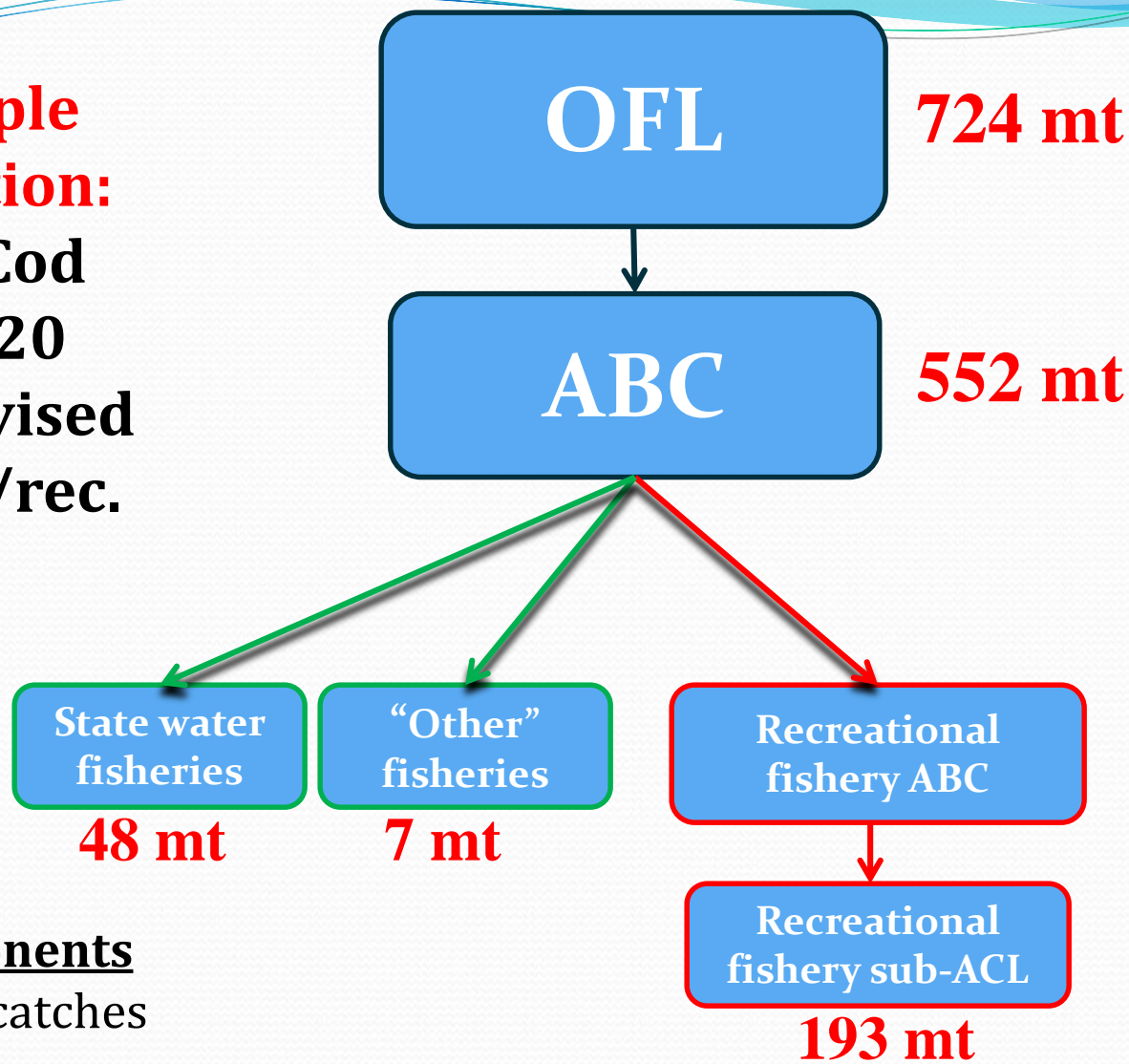


193 mt

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

Example Allocation:
GOM Cod
FY2020
with revised
comm./rec.



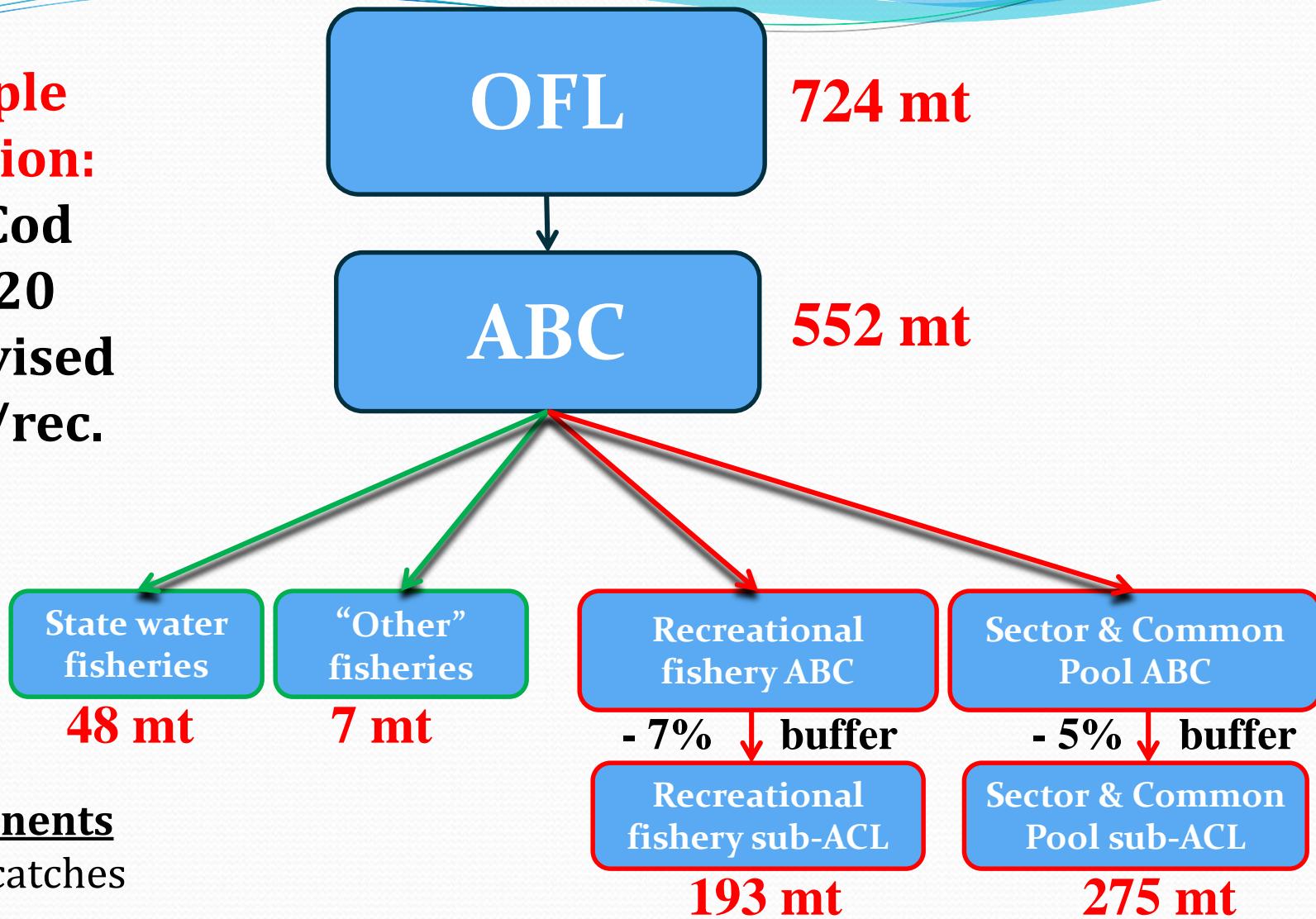
Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

Example Allocation:
GOM Cod
FY2020
with revised
comm./rec.



Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

Example Allocation:

**GB Cod
FY2020
with rec. catch
target of
138mt**

OFL

unknown

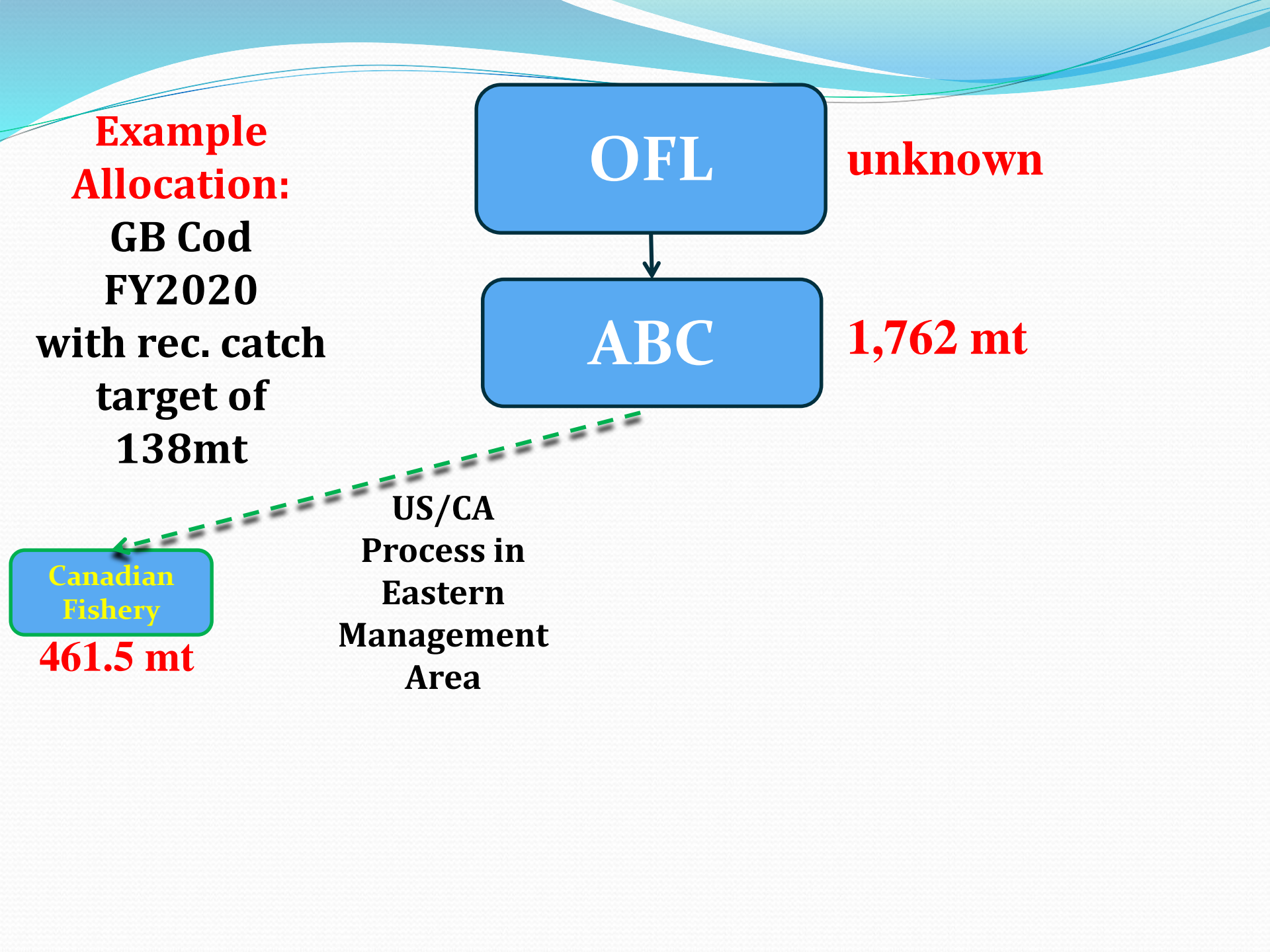
ABC

1,762 mt

**US/CA
Process in
Eastern
Management
Area**

**Canadian
Fishery**

461.5 mt



Example Allocation:

**GB Cod
FY2020
with rec. catch
target of
138mt**

OFL

unknown

ABC

1,762 mt

**Canadian
Fishery**

461.5 mt

**State water
fisheries**

20 mt

**“Other”
fisheries**

143 mt

[Includes rec. catch target]

Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Example Allocation:
GB Cod
FY2020
with rec. catch
target of
138mt

OFL

unknown

ABC

1,762 mt

Canadian Fishery

461.5 mt

State water fisheries

20 mt

“Other” fisheries

143 mt

[Includes rec. catch target]

Sector & Common Pool ABC

- 5% ↓ buffer

Sector & Common Pool sub-ACL

1,081 mt

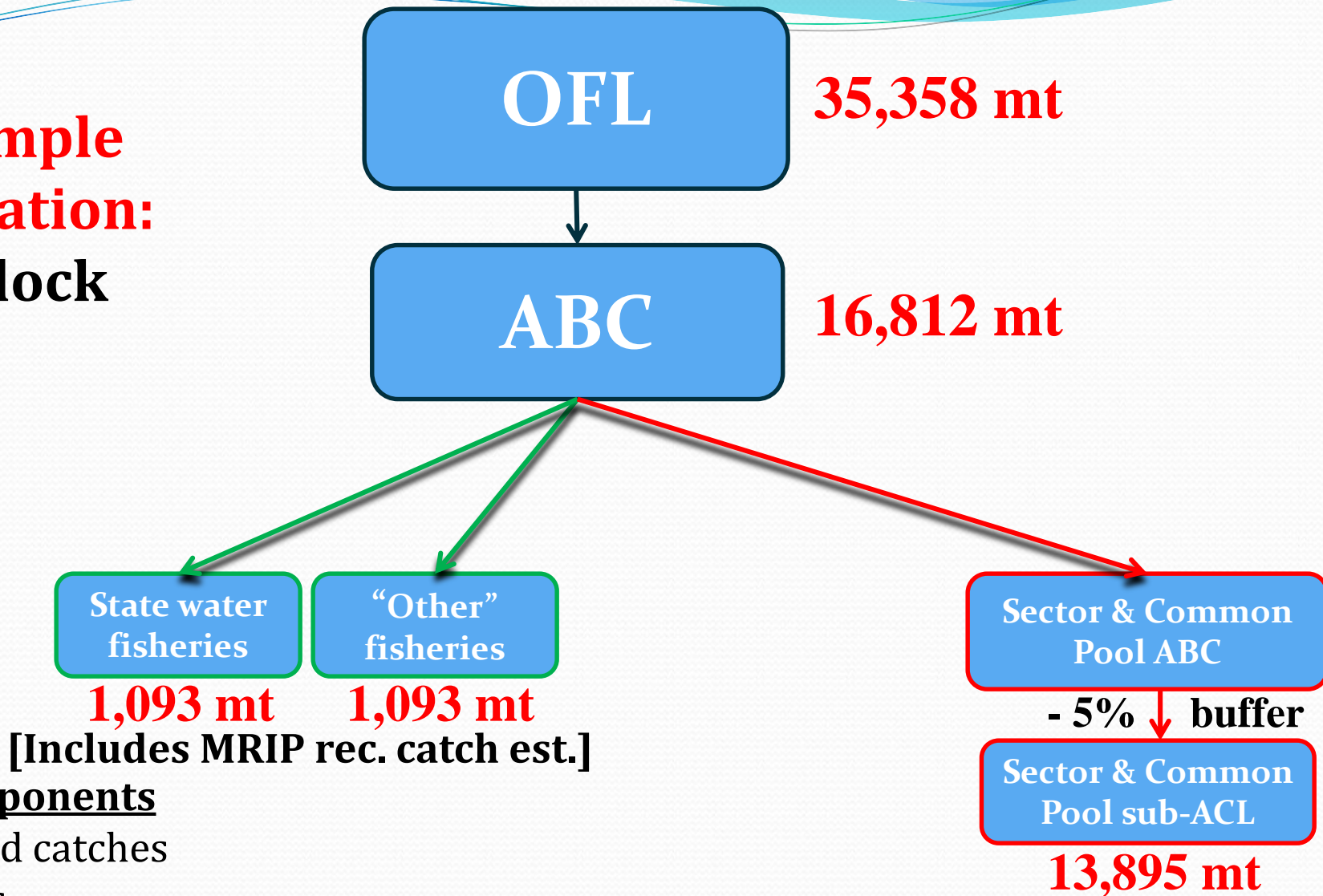
Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

**Example Allocation:
Pollock**



[Includes MRIP rec. catch est.]

Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.1 Option A – Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target

Option A1: No Action - 138 mt only for FY2020

Option A2: Recreational fishery GB cod catch target – 138 mt for FY2020-FY2022
[CMTE]

Option A3: Recreational fishery GB cod catch target – 288 mt for FY2020-FY2022

[Added by the Committee but not yet drafted by the PDT]

Groundfish Advisors- Oct. 30, 2019

The Advisors recommend to the Committee for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021.

Motion carried 6/o/o.

Recreational Advisors- Nov. 12, 2019

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee updating the recreational catch target for GB cod:

- using the post-calibration (new) MRIP data average of recreational catches in CY2012-CY2016 (406 mt) from the 2019 stock assessment,
- then reduce this value by the percent change from fishing year 2019 to proposed fishing year 2020 in the US ABC (a decrease of 29%),
- resulting in a recreational catch target of 288 mt for FY2020-FY2022.

Rationale: This approach was developed with the understanding that an average of more recent data, which includes the post-calibration (new) MRIP data, would likely be used by NMFS when setting Georges Bank cod recreational measures.

Motion carried 5/0/0.

Groundfish Advisors- Nov. 25, 2019

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that under FW 59 in Section 4.1.2.1 (Option A-Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target) include an option (Option A₃) that revises the recreational catch target to 152 mt for FY2020-FY2022.

Calculation: 152 mt represents a 2 x increase from the most recent 2018 fishing year MRIP revised catch estimate of 76 mt.

Motion carried 7/0/0.

Groundfish Committee- Nov. 25, 2019

The Groundfish Committee recommends adding an option for consideration in the draft alternatives in Section 4.1.2.1 Option A -Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target that would update the recreational catch target for GB cod:

- using the post-calibration (new) MRIP data average of recreational catches in CY2012-CY2016 (406 mt) from the 2019 stock assessment,
- then reduce this value by the percent change from fishing year 2019 to proposed fishing year 2020 in the US ABC (a decrease of 29%),
- resulting in a recreational catch target of 288 mt for FY2020-FY2022.

Motion carried 6/0/4.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.2 Option B – Allocation between Commercial and Recreational Fisheries for Gulf of Maine Cod and Gulf of Maine Haddock

Option B1: No Action

Stock	Years	Recreational Allocation
GOM cod	2001-2006	33.7%
GOM haddock	2001-2006	27.5%

Option B2: Revise the allocation between commercial and recreational fisheries for GOM cod and GOM haddock. [CMTE]

Stock	Years	Recreational Allocation
GOM cod	2001-2006	37.5%
GOM haddock	2001-2006	33.9%

Groundfish Advisors- Oct. 30, 2019

The Advisors recommend to the Committee no changes to the commercial and recreational allocation percentages for GOM cod and GOM haddock.

Rationale: GOM cod and GOM haddock are the current stocks with recreational allocation. Too much uncertainty in these numbers from MRIP, reallocation is a food fight and could detract from too many other problems – Make rather work at shared problems.

Motion carried 5/0/1.

Recreational Advisors- Nov. 12, 2019

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee updating the recreational and commercial data for years 2001-2006 to determine the Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock allocations, based on the 2019 stock assessments, in Framework Adjustment 59.

Motion 2 carried 5/0/0.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.3 Option C – Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program

Option C1: No Action

Option C2: Revise the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation for the CAI HGH SAP [CMTE]

	GB Cod Incidental Catch TAC - % of Common Pool sub-ACL	B DAS Program- % of GB Cod Incidental Catch TAC	Eastern US/CA Haddock SAP- % of GB Cod Incidental Catch TAC	CAI HGH SAP- % of GB Cod Incidental Catch TAC
Option C1/No Action	2% (0.77 mt)	50% (0.38 mt)	34% (0.26 mt)	16% (0.12 mt)
Option C2 – Remove CAI HGH SAP allocation	1.68% (0.64 mt)	60% (0.39 mt)	40% (0.26 mt)	0% (0 mt)

Groundfish Committee- Sep. 17, 2019

Groundfish Committee Consensus Statement

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council Option 2: Revise the Georges Bank cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation for the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP) as a preferred alternative under the draft options for Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.4 Option D– Midwater Trawl Atlantic Herring Fishery sub-ACL for Georges Bank Haddock

Option D1: No Action – remains at 1.5% of the U.S. ABC

Option D2: Increase the MWT Atlantic herring fishery sub-ACL for GB haddock to 2 percent [CMTE]

Groundfish Advisors- Oct. 30, 2019

The GAP recommends to the Committee no change in the GB haddock sub-ACL for the Atlantic herring MWT fishery from the current 1.5% for the sub-ABC of the US ABC.

Motion carried 5/1/0.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.5 Option E – Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder

Option E1: No Action – 16 mt for FY2020, then not specified

Option E2: Set the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder using 90% of projected scallop fishery catch [CMTE]

- Results in a 2 mt sub-ACL
- Placeholder depends on final action on Scallop FW32
- All three years would be held constant at 2 mt

Draft Alternatives

4.2 ACTION 2 – RECREATIONAL FISHERY MEASURES FOR GEORGES BANK COD

4.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

Current measures stay in place unless Council recommends changes

4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Temporary Administrative Measure to Allow the Regional Administrator Authority to Adjust the Recreational Measures for Georges Bank Cod [CMTE]

Measures could be adjusted to not exceed the recreational catch target, only for FY2020 and FY2021

Groundfish Advisors- Oct. 30, 2019

The Advisors recommend to the Committee for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021.

Motion carried 6/o/o.

Recreational Advisors- Nov. 12, 2019

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee extending the NMFS Regional Administrator's temporary authority to adjust management measures for Georges Bank cod for fishing years 2020 and 2021 in Framework Adjustment 59.

Motion carried 5/0/0.

Status of Draft Impacts Analysis

- All sections are drafted, with exception of the CMTE's new option under the recreational catch target for GB cod, added Nov. 25.
- Economic Impacts - quota-change model results delivered at the Council meeting.

Economic Impacts - Quota Change Model

Methods:

- For the sector component of the groundfish fishery only
- Uses FY 2018 effort, ex-vessel prices, quota costs
- 500 synthetic fishing years are estimated
- Predicts landings and revenue under
 - Alternative 1/No Action and
 - Alternative 2/Proposed FY 2020 sub-ACLs

Quota Change Model (QCM)- Past Performance

- The QCM has overpredicted revenue in the last three fishing years due in part to declining prices for groundfish stocks:
 - FY16: overpredicted groundfish revenue by \$4.6 million
 - FY17: overpredicted groundfish revenue by \$4.2 million
 - FY18: overpredicted groundfish revenue by \$9.5 million
- Average price for groundfish stocks declined from \$1.52 in FY16 to \$1.11 in FY18

QCM- Past Performance

QCM Predicted and Realized Revenue (millions of \$)

	FY2016		FY2017*		FY2018	
	Predicted	Realized	Predicted	Realized	Predicted	Realized
Groundfish Revenue	56.4	51.8	50.9	46.7	58.9	49.4
Total Revenue	74.3	78.3	73.5	70.1	83.9	72.1
Operating Cost	17.9	14.1	13.5	13	15.6	12.5
Sector Cost	2	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.0
Quota Cost	6.1	10.2	7.1	9.4	12	5.4
Operating Profit	48.4	52.4	51.2	46	54.5	52.2

QCM Results

- Alternative 2 is predicted to generate \$2.9 million more in groundfish revenue in FY2020 than No Action.
- FY2020 Alternative 1/No Action:
 - \$46 million in groundfish revenue
 - \$65.2 million in total revenue
- FY2020 Alternative 2:
 - \$48.9 million in groundfish revenue
 - \$69.9 million in total revenue

QCM Results

Comparison Stock-level Catch, Utilization, and Revenue (2018 \$, millions)

Option	Groundfish Gross Revenues	Total Gross Revenues	Operating Cost	Sector Cost	Quota Cost	Operating Profit	Days Absent
<i>FY18 Realized</i>	49.4	72.1	12.5	2.0	5.4	52.2	10,952
FY20 Prediction (Alt1/No Action)	46.0	65.2	11.7	1.8	5.2	46.5	10,209
FY20 Prediction (Alt 2)	48.9	69.9	12.5	1.9	5.4	50.2	10,907

QCM Results: Stock-level changes under Alternative 2

- In FY 2020, GOM cod, GB winter flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder predicted to be limiting (>99% utilization)
- White hake and GB cod west also predicted to be nearly fully utilized (>90% utilization)
- No Action for Option E (Option E1) is predicted to decrease sector groundfish revenue by ~1.0M and total revenue by ~\$2.5M

QCM Results: Stock-level changes under Alternative 2

	Sub-ACL (mt)	Predicted Catch (mt)	Predicted Utilization
GB Haddock West	52,335	4,445	8.5%
GOM Haddock	6,939	2,735	39.4%
Redfish	11,173	4,855	43.5%
Plaice	2,574	1,104	42.9%
Pollock	13,803	2,935	21.3%
White Hake	2,004	1,843	92.0%
GB Winter Flounder	501	498	99.4%
Witch Flounder	1,275	826	64.8%
GB Cod West	859	826	96.1%
SNE Winter Flounder	462	311	67.3%
GOM Cod	267	267	99.9%
GB Haddock East	16,084	704	4.4%
GB Cod East	185	135	73.0%
GOM Winter Flounder	272	95	35.0%
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	651	178	27.4%
GB Yellowtail Flounder	93	28	29.7%
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	12	12	99.8%

QCM Results: Port-level changes under Alternative 2

- Most major ports predicted to see decreases in revenue in FY2020 compared to FY19 and FY18 predictions
 - New Bedford predicted to have identical revenue compared to FY19, \$8.1 million
 - Gloucester: \$2.1 million less than predicted FY19
 - Boston: \$1.9 million less than predicted FY19
 - Portland: \$1.8 million less than predicted FY19

QCM Results: Port-level changes under Alternative 2

	FY20 Prediction	FY19 Prediction	FY18 Prediction
Gloucester	12.5	14.6	14.0
Boston	11.6	13.5	13.2
Portland	7.4	9.2	8.3
New Bedford	8.1	8.1	13.2

For Today

- Take final action on FW59.
- Implementation for May 1, 2020.

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

Council Staff

Council Meeting
December 4, 2019
Newport, RI



For Today

1. Review what is updated – **NO ACTION NEEDED**
 - Clarified alternative names and limited structure changes
 - Minor tweaks to language for clarification
 - Modifications needed to clarify certain alternatives (identified in the table provided by the PDT – Doc.#4b)
2. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level option – **POSSIBLE MOTION**
 - Considerations of vessel specific coverage levels (Doc.#4c)
 - Discussion on decoupling NEFOP and ASM coverage
 - Letter from NEFSC to NEFMC re response to request for observer deployment data at the vessel level for GF trips
 - Staff memo with strawman alternative (Doc. #4d)

NOTE: Cmte motion to include an EM review rate of 15% of trips or 15% of hauls/sets as a base rate for all EM alternatives in A23 (Cmte Motion #9) (See GARFO Letter 11/26/19 – Correspondence #8a).

Timeline - Milestones

2019	
JUN	SSC sub-panel provides report on review of PDT analyses; Council approve range of alternatives for analysis
JUN-AUG	PDT develops DEIS
SEP	Council receives progress report
OCT-NOV	PDT continues to develop DEIS; Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
DEC	Council receives progress report
DEC	PDT continues to develop DEIS
2020	
JAN	Council approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings, selects preferred alternatives
MAR-APR	Public hearing and comment period
JUN	Council takes final action

1. Review what is Updated

Oct 30th meeting:

- New consistent template
- Shorter background
- Expanded goals and objectives
- Clarified names of alternatives
- Limited reorganization of alternatives

Nov 25th meeting:

- Clarified alternative names and limited reorganization
- Clarified language for some alternatives

Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan

DRAFT Amendment 23

Including a Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
And Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Draft for Committee Review

November 19, 2019

Prepared by the
New England Fishery Management Council
In consultation with the
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
National Marine Fisheries Service



NO ACTION NEEDED – Cmte work

2. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level option

- *The Committee recommends to the Council to support an option to develop vessel-specific coverage levels.*

Substitute motion to task the PDT to develop and analyze an option for vessel-specific coverage levels. (6/o/o.)

- Letter from NEFMC to NEFSC requesting information on observer deployment data at the vessel level for GF trips.
- *Council should consider three items for this agenda item: 1) PDT memo #4c; 2) staff memo #4d; 3) NEFSC letter #8).*

2. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level option

PDT memo #4c: considerations for vessel specific coverage

- 1) Necessitate updates to the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) to address concerns about uneven vessel coverage;
- 2) Equal *target* coverage does not mean equal *realized* coverage (due to interactions between SBRM and ASM coverage and a variety of operational reasons);
- 3) The “2nd stage” selection process added to PTNS in May 2018 expected to mitigate some of the concerns about unequal coverage;

2. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level

PDT memo: considerations for vessel specific coverage levels (Doc. #4c) cont.

- 4) More practical to develop after A23 identifies the overall monitoring coverage level and tools (possible future action);
- 5) PDT already overloaded with A23 and FW59 analyses; may not be sufficient time before January meeting to develop and analyze vessel specific coverage level options for all the various monitoring alternatives in A23; and
- 6) Attaining vessel specific coverage levels in-season with NEFOP and ASM coverage combined is not feasible – if included in A23 would need to decouple NEFOP and ASM coverage.

2. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level

PDT memo: pros/cons of decoupling NEFOP and ASM coverage – Atch. 2

- Vessel specific coverage level alternative would necessitate separating the programs - this would be a vessel coverage level for ASM only.
- **Pro** - simplify the process of at-sea monitor selection - target coverage rate in an ASM monitoring stratum will no longer depend on NEFOP strata coverage rates through the course of a fishing year.
- **Pro** - when decoupled, NEFOP coverage is added onto the target ASM coverage – increases overall coverage.
- **Mixed** (+) more cost equitability across sectors for ASM (-) lose discounts from NEFOP funded coverage.
- **Con** - would not address the inherent difference in total coverage between vessels related to differing observer coverage per SBRM fleet.

2. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level

Staff memo: draft text to consider (Doc. #4d)

Strawman vessel specific coverage level alternative:

Under this option the target ASM coverage level would be vessel specific, and each vessel within a sector would have the same target coverage for ASM. ASM coverage would be decoupled from NEFOP coverage and the selected target monitoring coverage rate would be for ASM coverage only. NEFOP coverage would still take place on trips separate from, and in addition to, ASM, and NEFOP coverage would not count toward the coverage targets.

Currently, all other monitoring standard alternatives under consideration in A23 have ASM and NEFOP coverage combined to achieve a total coverage rate.

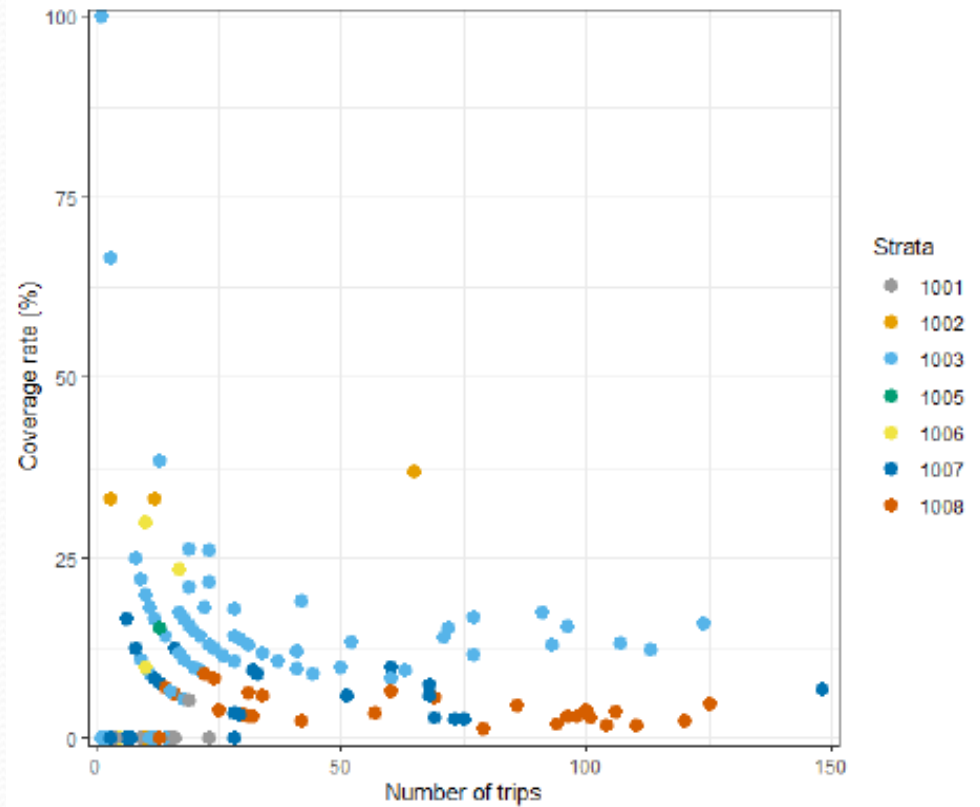
POSSIBLE MOTION – See Cmte Motion #8

Letter from NEFSC to NEFMC re response to request for observer deployment data at the vessel level for GF trips

Figure 1. Vessel-level realized coverage rates as a function of fishing activity (number of trips) for the 2019 SBRM program.

Target coverage rates can vary widely across sampling strata - the PTNS target coverage rate settings for the SBRM sampling program currently range from 2% (1001) to 50% (1002).

Very few vessels have high coverage rates, and the handful that do have relatively low number of total trips.



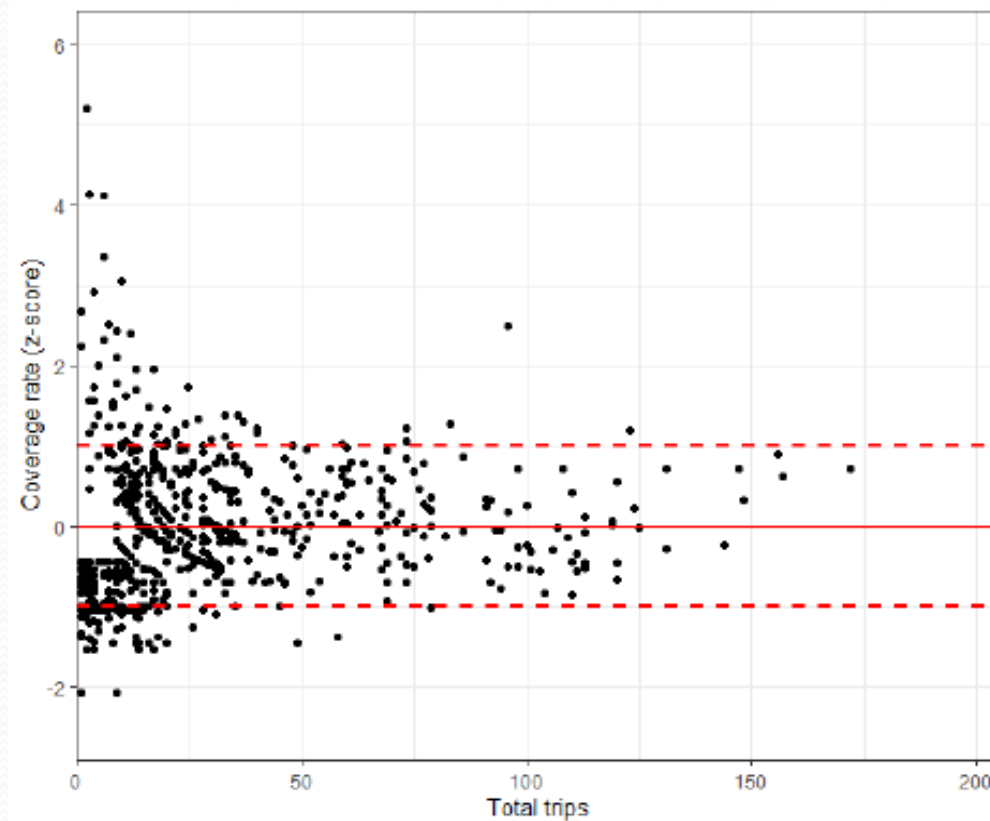
Data are current as of Nov. 14, 2019.

Letter from NEFSC to NEFMC (cont.)

Figure 3. Normalized (z-score) vessel-level realized coverage rates as a function of fishing activity (number of trips) across all 2018 and 2019 SBRM and ASM sampling strata.

Dots near the solid red line at 0 represent vessels with coverage near the stratum mean. The dashed red line represents ± 1 standard deviation.

Most vessels fall within ± 1 SD of their coverage level stratum mean, especially vessels with over 50 total trips.



Data are current as of Nov. 14, 2019.

Letter from NEFSC to NEFMC (cont.)

- The interaction of the ASM and SBRM sampling programs leads to increased complexity in calculating ASM coverage. To date, in FY2019 there are 51 unique combinations of SBRM and ASM selection outcomes, with combinations having differing coverage levels, including exemptions from one or both programs.
- Some collection of trips within a sector will receive more than the mandated 31% combined SBRM and ASM coverage, while others will receive less. This variability in coverage stems from the interaction of the SBRM and ASM sampling programs.
- Vessel level coverage converges on the stratum mean as a vessel takes more trips – of the vessels that took more than 20 or more trips – over 91% of the coverage rates were within 1 SD of the mean, and over 94% when over 50 trips taken.
- PTNS also has a dashboard that allows NMFS to track relative variation of vessel-level coverage within strata in real-time – reviewed manually at least monthly and if something flagged, NMFS then works with sector managers and providers to address issues.

Letter from GARFO to NEFMC re approval of electronic monitoring for sectors

- Outlines GARFO's plan to include an EM program option to meet sector monitoring requirements beginning in FY2021-2022 sector operations plans.
- Developing revised sector operations plan guidance document that will include information on the EM data and design elements necessary to meet sector monitoring requirements for specific trip types based on gear and area fished.
- Intend to approve a NOAA-designed EM program based on audit model – in which vessels would turn their cameras on for all sector trips and video from a subset of those trips would be reviewed to verify the accuracy of eVTR-reported discards.
- Not ready to approve a maximized retention EM program (MREM)– still testing with program partners. However, sectors can propose an MREM program as part of FY2021-2022 sector operations plans.
- The NOAA-designed audit-model EM program is expected to audit less than 100 percent of all sector trips. The program may be modified in the future to comply with any new requirements that may be established in A23 or another action.

Letter from GARFO to NEFMC (cont.)

- Phased-in implementation of minimum review rate for participating vessels - for example:
 - Year 1 – 50% of trips
 - Year 2 – 30% of trips; 50% for vessels not meeting reporting threshold
 - Year 3 – 15% of trips
 - 100% review rate may be required for individual vessels failing to meet reporting requirements.
- Subject to available funding, industry's review costs would be reimbursable by NFMS in years 1 and 2. In year 3 and beyond, expect that only the minimum video review rate would be reimbursable if funds were available, and industry would be responsible for the cost of any additional video review.
 - Estimated industry costs of various video review rates will be included in A23 economic impacts analysis.

For Today

1. Review what is updated – **NO ACTION NEEDED**
 - Clarified alternative names and limited structure changes
 - Minor tweaks to language for clarification
 - Modifications needed to clarify certain alternatives (identified in the table provided by the PDT – Doc.#4b)
2. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level option – **POSSIBLE MOTION**
 - Considerations of vessel specific coverage levels (Doc.#4c)
 - Discussion on decoupling NEFOP and ASM coverage
 - Letter from NEFSC to NEFMC re response to request for observer deployment data at the vessel level for GF trips
 - Staff memo with strawman alternative (Doc. #4d)

NOTE: Cmte motion to include an EM review rate of 15% of trips or 15% of hauls/sets as a base rate for all EM alternatives in A23 (Cmte Motion #9) (See GARFO Letter 11/26/19 – Correspondence #8a).

**Summary of
Possible Limited Access Program for
the Recreational Groundfish
Party and Charter Fishery
*Public Listening Sessions and
Public Comment*
Council Staff**

**Council Meeting
December 4, 2019
Newport, RI**



Public Listening Session Schedule

(2 hour duration each session)

Seabrook, NH – Thursday, April 4, Seabrook Public Library, 5:45pm

Avalon, NJ– Monday, April 8, ICONA Golden Inn (following MAFMC meeting), 6pm

Wells, ME – Thursday, April 18, Wells Public Library, 5:45pm

Narragansett, RI– Tuesday, April 23, University of Rhode Island, 6pm

Chatham, MA– Tuesday, May 7, Chatham Community Center, 6pm

Plymouth, MA– Wednesday, May 8, Hampton Inn, 6pm

Gloucester, MA– Thursday, May 9, Sawyer Free Library, 5:45pm

Webinar– Friday, May 10, 1 pm

Why was the Council seeking public input?

The Council was seeking public input on the possibility of initiating an amendment to develop a limited access program for the recreational groundfish party and charter fishery.

The Council heard from some recreational fishery participants indicating interest in developing a program, while others in the fishery did not agree with pursuing a program.

Given this split in views, the Council sought feedback from the public on interest in developing a program, in order to assist the Council in deciding how to proceed.

What actions have already been taken?

In January 2018 at its first meeting of the year, the Council recommend refreshing the control date in the party/charter fishery.

The control date in the party/charter fishery was refreshed to March 19, 2018.

Requested Comments

- **Goals and Objectives-** What would the goals and objectives of a limited access program be?
- **Definitions-** Would limited entry apply to all or a portion of the fleet? How would groundfish recreational for-hire be defined?
- **Permits/Vessels-** What would happen to the permits? Should the for-hire fleet be all limited access, or should there be an open access component with other constraints? Should there be vessel upgrade restrictions?
- **Measures-** What range of management measures would be considered for limited entry?
- **History-** How will history be used – would it be simple or complex?
- **New Entrants-** What opportunities will there be for new entrants?

Several opportunities for public comment

- At the listening sessions
- In writing: fax, email and mail
- Closed: Friday, May 17, 2019, by 5pm



Overview of summary document

- Summary Report
 - Introduction
 - Background
 - Description of Commenters
 - Comment Summary
 - Overall Summary
 - Specific Comments and Themes
 - Next Steps
- Appendix A – Listening Session Summaries
- Appendix B – Background Document
- Appendix C- Written Comments



Overview of summary document

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- Comments**
1. Goals and Objectives
 2. Regulations
 3. New Entrants
 4. Control Date
 5. Size of the Fleet Relative to the Resource
 6. Differentiating the For-Hire Fishery in Management
 7. Business Profitability and the Market
 8. Alternative Management Focus to Address Declines in the Cod
 9. Equity Across Modes
 10. Specific Alternatives for a Limited Access Program
 11. Other Comments



Participation

- 64 unique stakeholders attended the listening sessions, including five individuals who attended 2-3 meetings, raising the total attendees to 72 including the duplicates.
- Of these attendees, 30 individuals offered oral comments.
- Twelve people registered for the Webinar, although only six people attended, and are included in the totals.



Participants

- There was a diversity of stakeholders represented at the meetings, from the following categories:
 - Recreational: For-hire owner/operator, for-hire captain/crew, planning to be a for-hire, owner/operator, recreational angler, and industry association
 - Commercial: Commercial fishermen
 - Management: New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) representatives, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) representatives, NMFS staff, and state fishery management agency/commission representatives
 - Congressional: U.S. Senate staff



Listening Session Attendance

Location	Attendees ¹	Speakers
Wells, ME	12	5
Seabrook, NH	15	8
Avalon, NJ	11	5
Narragansett, RI	11	6
Chatham, MA	1	0
Plymouth, MA	10	4
Gloucester, MA	6	1
Webinar	6 ²	1
Total	72 ³	30

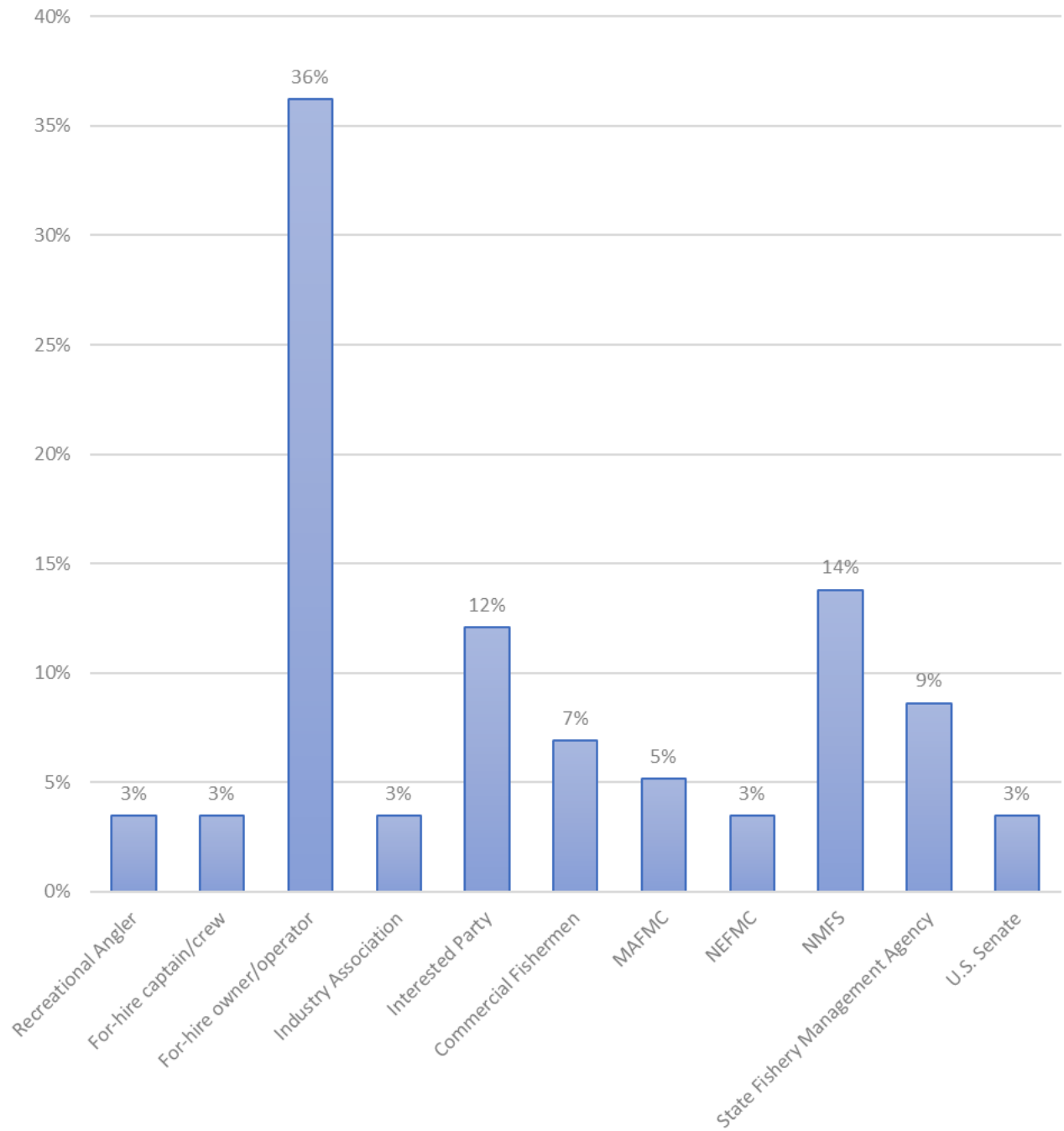
1. Not including Council members or staff who facilitated the meeting.

2. Number of attendees registered for *and* attended the webinar.

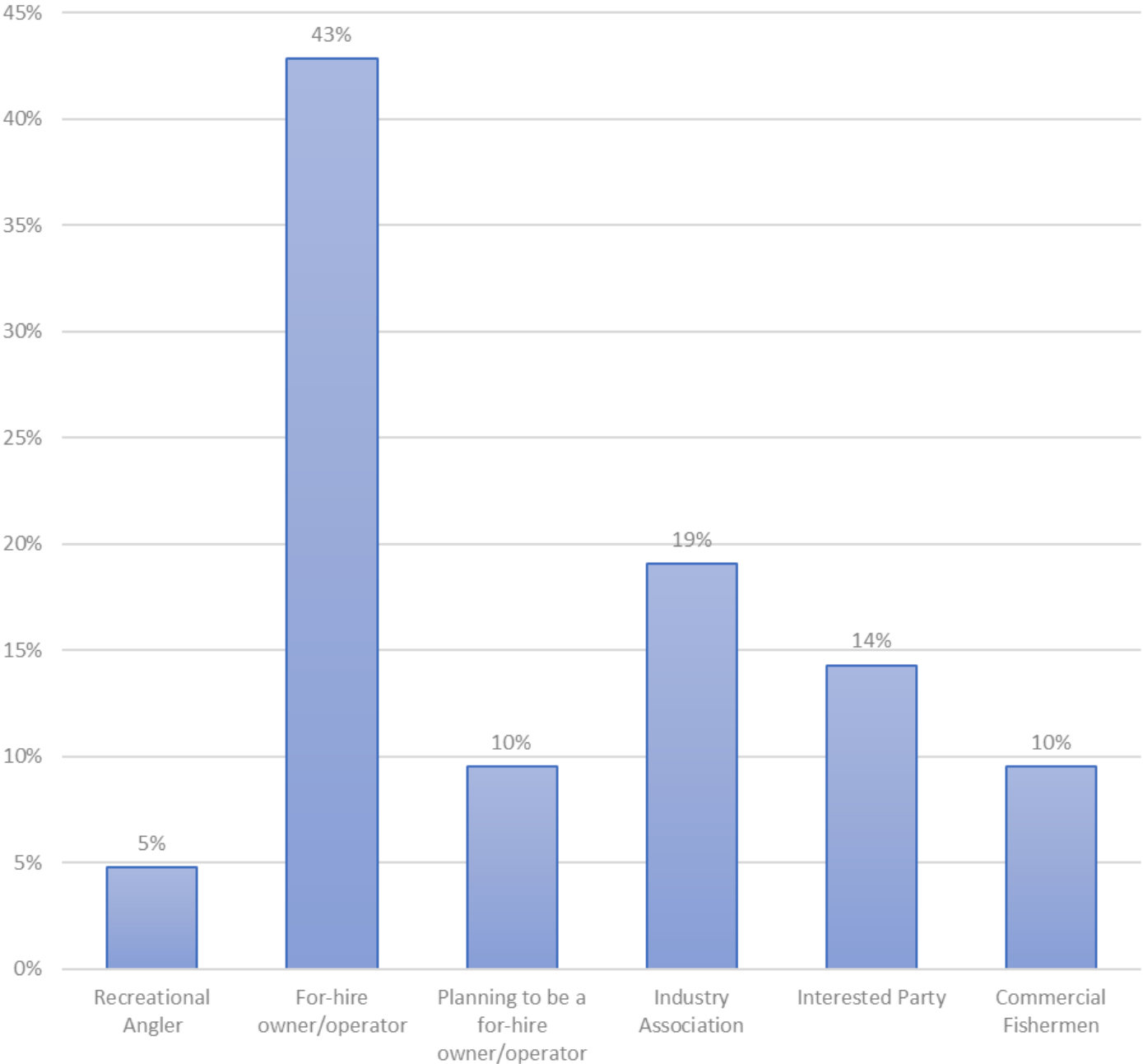
3. Total unique attendees = 64 total with duplicates removed.



Listening Session Attendees - Primary Affiliation



Written Commenter - Primary Affiliation



Overall Summary

46 unique commenters,

- 17 were neither for nor against,
- 17 were opposed, and
- 12 supported a limited access program.



For Today

Council will consider an initiation of an amendment as a 2020 priority.