

## **Groundfish Framework Adjustment 53**

### **Draft Action Plan**

**Council:** New England Fishery Management Council

**Fishery:** Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

**Title of Action:** Framework Adjustment 53 (FW53)

**Scope:** To incorporate any status changes for groundfish stocks, set specifications for several groundfish stocks, and adjust management measures for commercial and recreational fisheries that catch groundfish stocks

**Problem Statement/Objective of Action:**

To meet regulatory requirements and adjust management measures that are necessary to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the fishery. These include:

Regulatory Requirements

- Stock status changes, if any
- Specifications for groundfish stocks (GOM and GB winter flounder, pollock, GOM haddock, GOM cod, GB yellowtail flounder, GB cod and haddock)

Management Measures

- Allocate windowpane flounder to sub-components and develop corresponding accountability measures, if necessary (applies to both stocks)
- Expand GOM cod inshore spawning closure
- No possession of GOM cod
- Observer requirements related to GOM cod
- Create a roll-over provision for specifications
- Revise the sector ACE carryover provisions

**Likely Range of Alternatives:**

*The Council gave the PDT discretion to address the work in order of priority and to discontinue work identified as a lower priority. The PDT may not have sufficient time to develop and analyze all of the potential alternatives listed below in 4.2.*

- 4.1 Updates to status determination criteria, formal rebuilding programs and annual catch limits
  - 4.1.1 Revised Status Determination Criteria
  - 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits
  - 4.1.3 SNE/MA (southern) Windowpane Flounder Sub-ACLs for Groundfish Sectors and the Common Pool
  - 4.1.4 GOM/GB (northern) Windowpane Flounder Sub-ACLs for Groundfish Sectors and the Common Pool
  - 4.1.5 GOM/GB Windowpane Flounder Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL
- 4.2 Commercial and Recreational Fishery Measures
  - 4.2.1 GOM Cod Spawning Area Closures
  - 4.2.2 Prohibition on the Possession of GOM Cod
  - 4.2.3 Observer Requirements in the Gulf of Maine
  - 4.2.4 Rollover of Groundfish Specifications
  - 4.2.5 Sector ACE Carryover

**Type of NEPA Analysis (CE/EA/EIS):**

This action is expected to require an Environmental Assessment, and this determination will be re-evaluated as the likely range of alternatives is further developed.

**Type of Endangered Species Act Consultation Expected (Informal/Formal):**

An informal consultation is expected for this action.

**Applicable Laws/Issues:**

<b><i>Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act:</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>Administrative Procedure Act:</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>National Environmental Policy Act:</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>Regulatory Flexibility Act:</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>Paperwork Reduction Act:</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>Coastal Zone Management Act:</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>Endangered Species Act:</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>Marine Mammal Protection Act:</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>E.O. 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review)</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>E.O. 13132 (Federalism):</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time
<b><i>Information Quality Act:</i></b>	Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

**Plan Development Team (PDT) Membership and Other Individuals:**

**PDT Chair/ NEFMC Project Manager:** Jamie M. Cournane, PhD

**GARFO Project Manager:** Sarah Heil

	Organization	Name	Role and Responsibility
<b>Plan Development Team</b>	NEFMC	Jamie Cournane	Chair of Groundfish PDT, Groundfish FMP Coordinator. Collaborate on Biological and Economic Impact Analyses. Oversee document preparation and submission.
	NEFMC	Jonathon Peros	Consultation on development of measures and data analysis. Coordinate updating of the Affected Environment. Complete Protected Species Impact Analyses. Coordinate on Essential Fish Habitat Impact Analyses. Document preparation.
	NEFMC	Rachel Feeney	Collaborate on Social Impact Analyses.
	NEFMC	Michelle Bachman	Complete Essential Fish Habitat Impact Analyses.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Sarah Heil	Primary point of contact in NMFS for FW53. Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs. Prepare document for rule-making.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	William Whitmore	Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Michael Ruccio	Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs.
	NMFS GARFO Analysis & Program Support Division	Dan Caless	Support data requests. Identify potential monitoring issues during development and review.
	NMFS GARFO NEPA	Tim Cardiasmenos	Review document for completeness in terms of NEPA requirements during development and review.
	NMFS GARFO Protected Resources Division	Danielle Palmer	Consultation on Protected Species Impact Analyses. Consultation on development of measures and impacts on protected resources
	NMFS NEFSC Population Dynamics Branch	Paul Nitschke	Consultation on development of measures, data analysis, and biological impact analyses.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Br.	Chad Demarest	Consultation on development of measures. Complete data requests for the PDT. Complete Economic Impact Analyses.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Br.	Anna Henry	Consultation on development of measures. Collaborate on Social Impact Analyses.
	Maine DMR	Sally Sherman	Consultation on development of measures and data analysis.
	Mass. DMF	Steve Correia	Consultation on development of measures, data analysis, and biological impact analyses.
<b>Other Individuals</b>	NEFMC	Deirdre Boelke	Support development of any potential windowpane sub-ACLs for the scallop fishery
	NMFS GCNE	Mitch MacDonald	Consultation on potential legal issues and questions.
	NMFS GARFO Habitat Conservation Div.	David Stevenson	Consultation on development of measures and impacts on habitat.

**NMFS Implementation Membership:****Implementation Team Chair:** Sarah Heil, GARFO Staff

Organization	Name	Role
NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Sarah Heil	Implementation Team, Chair
NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Allison Murphy	Assist with issues and measures affecting sector operations
NMFS GARFO Analysis and Program Support Division (Statistics)	Dan Caless	Implementation of specifications, new sub-ACLs, and other related catch monitoring issues
NMFS GARFO Protected Resources Division	Danielle Palmer	Consultation on measures and impacts on protected resources
NMFS Northeast General Counsel—Enforcement	Joe Heckwolf	Consultation on development of measures with enforcement considerations including any new area/gear restrictions
NMFS Office of Law Enforcement	Don Frei	Consultation on development of measures with enforcement considerations including any new area/gear restrictions
NMFS Office of Law Enforcement—VMS	Bill Semrau	Consultation on development of measures with VMS considerations including any new area restrictions

**Implementation Team Issues:***None identified at this time*

**Worksheet 1: Groundfish PDT Resources and Work Schedule**

(Section leads as indicated.)

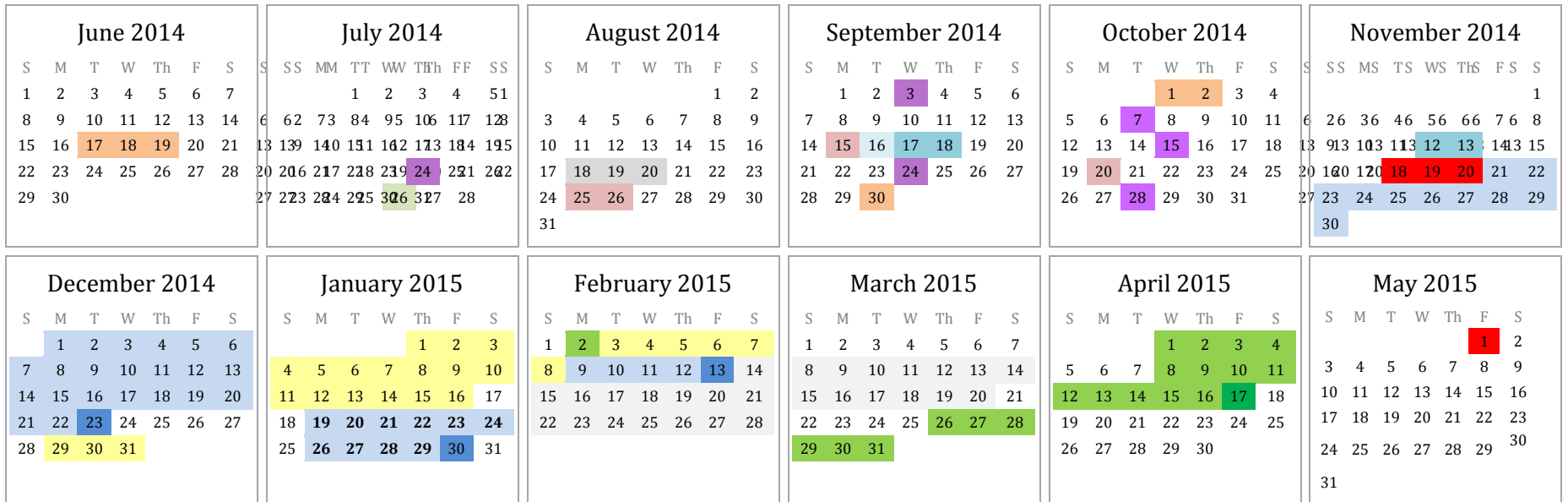
**First Due Date: Draft Impacts for all VECs**

**Second Due Date: Revisions to Draft Impacts after Council Final Action**

Section	Date Due	Council Staff	Other Staff	Estimated Time to Complete (Days)
<b>Review of Alternatives and Discuss Potential Impacts Analysis</b>	10/28/2014	<u>Jamie, Jonathon</u>	Groundfish PDT	1
<b>Draft Alternatives and Impacts Analysis Template Distributed</b>	10/23/2014	<u>Jamie</u>		1
<b>Additional Data Requests</b>			<u>Dan</u>	
-			<u>Dan</u>	
<b>Impacts Analysis</b>				
-Biological Impacts	11/04/2014 12/03/2014	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon, Deirdre	Steve, Paul, Sarah, Sally, Tim	14-21
-Social Impacts	11/04/2014 12/03/2014	<u>Rachel</u>	<u>Anna</u> , Tim	14-21
-Economic Impacts	11/04/2014 12/03/2014	Jamie, Deirdre	<u>Chad</u> , Sarah, Tim	14-21
-Habitat Impacts (EFH)	11/04/2014 12/03/2014	<u>Michelle/Fiona, Johnathon</u>	Tim	14-21
-Protected Resources	11/04/2014 12/03/2014	Jamie, <u>Jonathon</u>	Tim, Danielle	14-21
<b>Updating Affected Environment</b>	12/03/2014	Jamie, <u>Jonathon</u>	Sarah	5
<b>Introduction, Purpose and Need</b>	12/03/2014	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Sarah	2
<b>Decision Document</b>	11/04/2014 (OSC) 11/14/2014 (Council)	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Sarah	1
<b>Applicable Laws</b>	12/03/2014	<u>Jamie</u>	<u>Chad</u> , Sarah	4
<b>Cumulative Impacts</b>	12/03/2014	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Sarah	2
<b>PDT receives full document for review</b>	12/05/2014	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Groundfish PDT	
<b>Review of full document: comments due from PDT</b>	12/12/2014	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Groundfish PDT	7
<b>Council Staff Final Review</b>	12/19/2014	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon, Chris Kellogg		3
<b>Preliminary Submission</b>	12/23/2014	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon		
<b>Formal Submission</b>	1/30/2015	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon		

# GROUND FISH FW53 TIMELINE

Milestone	Start Date	End Date	Milestone	Start Date	End Date
NEFMC Meeting (Action initiated)	6.18.2014	6.18.2014	Council staff complete draft document	11.20.2014	12.23.2014
Groundfish PDT Meeting	7.24.2014	7.24.2014	Preliminary submission to NMFS GARFO	12.23.2014	12.23.2014
Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting	8.4.2014	8.4.2014	NMFS GARFO review of preliminary document ( <i>1 month</i> )	12.29.2014	1.16.2015
Operational Assessments (winter flounder and pollock)	8.18.2014	8.20.2014	Formal submission to NMFS GARFO	1.30.2015	1.30.2015
SSC Meeting	8.25.2014	8.26.2014	NMFS Program Planning and Integration review (5 days)	2.2.2015	2.6.2015
SSC Meetings – 9/15 and 10/20	9.15.2014	10.20.2014	PPI comments incorporated by Council staff, if applicable	2.6.2015	2.13.2015
Groundfish PDT Meeting	9.3.2014	9.3.2014	Resubmission (final), if necessary	2.13.2015	2.13.2015
Groundfish/Recreational Advisory Panels Meeting	9.16.2014	9.16.2014	Proposed rule submitted to NMFS Headquarters	1.23.2015	1.23.2015
Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting	9.17.2014	9.18.2014	Proposed rule publishes in Federal Register	2.13.2015	2.13.2015
NEFMC Meeting	9.30.2014	10.2.2014	Proposed Rule Public Comment Period ( <i>30 days</i> )	3.13.2015	3.13.2015
Groundfish PDT Meetings- 9/24; 10/7; 10/15; and 10/28	9.24.2014	10.28.2014	Final Rule submitted to NMFS Headquarters	3.27.2015	3.27.2015
Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting	11.12.2014	11.13.2014	Final Rule publishes in Federal Register	4.17.2015	4.17.2015
NEFMC Meeting—Final Action on FW53	11.18.2014	11.20.2014	Approved measures effective	5.1.2015	5.1.2015



**Version Control:**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Change Description</b>
1.1	6/30/14	Jamie Cournane	Initial Version
2	8/3/14	Sarah Heil	Updates for implementation team and timeline
3	9/12/14	Jamie Cournane	Added GOM cod to list of specifications, updated calendar
4	10/22/14	Jamie Cournane	Updated PDT work due dates
5	10/30/14	Jamie Cournane	Updated list of measurement measures, list of alternatives by section number, and updated the public calendar
5.1	10/30/14	Sarah Heil	Updated work assignments and timeline
5.2	11/07/14	Jamie Cournane	Formatting changes for constancy with other FMPs