

**New England Fishery Management Council
Groundfish Agenda Item- Committee Motions
Newport, RI
November 17-20, 2014**

FRAMEWORK ADJUSTMENT 53

In order of anticipated discussion and subject to change.

Revised Status Determination Criteria

The Committee recommends that in Section 4.1.1. (Revised Status Determination Criteria), the Council select Option 2 (Revised Status Determination Criteria) as its Preferred Alternative.

The motion carried (9/0/1).

Annual Catch Limits

The Committee accepts the PDT's recommendations for state-water and other sub-components ABC distribution as described in Document 8 (PDT Memo to the Committee re FW 53, November 5, 2014) for FW 53 in Section 4.1.2 (Annual Catch Limits), Option 2 (Revised annual catch limit specifications).

The motion carried (8/0/1).

The Committee recommends that in Section 4.1.2. (Annual Catch Limits), the Council select Option 2 (Revised annual catch limit specifications) as its Preferred Alternative.

The motion carried (9/0/1).

Rollover of Groundfish Specifications

The Committee recommends that in Section 4.2.4 (Rollover of Groundfish Specifications), to all sub-options sub Option 2 (Percentage rollover provisions for specifications) an additional provision be added that would specify that, in the event specifications are rolled over into the next fishing year, that Sectors would not be subject to the 20% holdback of current year's Sector Annual Catch Entitlement while the rollover specifications are in place.

The motion carried (9/0/1).

The Committee recommends that in Section 4.2.4 (Rollover of Groundfish Specifications), the Council select Sub-Option A (Rollover 35% of all groundfish stocks to the following FY) as its Preferred Alternative, with an end date no later than August 1.

The motion carried (9/0/1).

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Carryover

The Committee recommends that in Section 4.2.5 (Sector ACE Carryover), the Council select Option 2 as its Preferred Alternative.

The motion carried (8/0/2).

Observer Requirements in the Gulf of Maine

The Committee recommends that Section 4.2.3 (Observer Requirements in the Gulf of Maine) be moved to “Considered but Rejected”.

The motion carried (9/0/0).

GOM Cod Spawning Area Closures

The Committee recommends that, due to the high bycatch of cod in the lobster fishery and potential disruption of spawning behavior, for FW53 that all options in Section 4.2.1 (GOM Cod Spawning Area Closures) include a restriction on fishing with or using lobster pot gear.

The main motion carries (6/1/3).

The Committee recommends that March be eliminated as a closure from Sub-Options A and B in Section 4.2.1 (GOM Cod Spawning Area Closures), Option 2 (Additional GOM cod spawning protection measures).

The motion carries (9/0/1).

The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.2.1 (GOM Cod Spawning Area Closures) Option 2 (Additional GOM Cod Spawning Protection Measures), Sub-Option A, strike “Year-round in the WGOM Closed Area”.

The motion carried (8/0/1).

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The Committee recommends to the Council that an additional sub-option as “Sub-Option C” be added to Section 4.2.1 (GOM Cod Spawning Area Closures) that would replicate Sub-Option B, except that for November – January, to open 30-minute block 124 with the exception of: 42° - 70°30’; 42°07’ - 70°24’; 42°16’ -70°30’ (30-minute block 125 would be closed, as well as this triangle in 30-minute block 124).

The motion carried (7/2/1).

Prohibition on the Possession of GOM cod

No motions.

Add new section in FW 53 “GOM Cod Protection Measures”

The Committee recommends to the Council that in FW 53, a new section in 4.2 (Commercial and Recreational Fishery Measures) be included titled “GOM Cod Protection Closures”:

Option 1: No Action

Option 2: While the GOM cod SSB is below 25% of B_{MSY} , all commercial and recreational groundfish fishing would be prohibited in the following 30-minute blocks and months:

- April: 124,125,132,133
- May: 125,132,133,138, 139, 140
- June: 133, 139, 140, 146, 147
- November - January block 125 would be closed and 30-minute block 124 would remain open except a bump out with the following coordinates:
 - o 42° 00’ 70° 30’
 - o 42° 07’ 70° 24’
 - o 42° 16’ 70° 30’

If the GOM cod SSB is above 25% of B_{MSY} , these closures would be reviewed.

The motion carries (6/2/2).

The Committee recommends to the Council that in the new section (GOM Cod Protection Closures), add a sub-option (Option 2, Sub-Option B) to exempt the recreational fishery from the WGOMAC year-round with a zero cod possession limit within the WGOMAC.

The motion carried (6/0/2).

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SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder Sub-ACLs for Groundfish Sectors and the Common Pool

The Committee recommends that Section 4.1.3. (SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder Sub-ACLs for Groundfish Sectors and the Common Pool) be moved to “Considered but Rejected”.

The motion carries (9/0/1).

GB/GOM Windowpane Flounder Sub-ACLs for Groundfish Sectors and the Common Pool and GB/GOM Windowpane Flounder Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL

The Committee recommends that in Section 4.1.5. (GOM/GB Windowpane Flounder Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL), Option 2 (Create a scallop fishery GOM/GB windowpane flounder sub-ACL) include a sub-ACL of X% for the scallop fishery, and in Section 4.1.4. (GOM/GB Windowpane Flounder Sub-ACLs for Groundfish Sectors and the Common Pool), Option 2 (Create GOM/GB windowpane flounder sub-ACLs for Groundfish Sectors and Common Pool) include a sub-ACL of X% for Common Pool and other sub-components and X% for Sectors.

The main motion carried (8/0/2).

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee recommends, in response to the Interim Action Management Measures for GOM Cod, specifically the measure that restricts the number of gillnets in the day gillnet permit category, that the Council ask GARFO to allow vessels enrolled in the day gillnet category a one-time change to their permit category from the day- to the trip-gillnet category.

The motion carried (8/0/2).

That a letter be sent to GARFO that GARFO analyze the possibility taking away some unused ACE rather than have the 200 lb. trip limit.

The Chairman postponed this motion.

The Committee recommends that the Council request that the NEFSC immediately initiate a benchmark assessment of all cod stocks. The terms of reference for this assessment will be set by the full NEFMC after consultation with the public.

The motion carried (6/0/3).

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GROUNDFISH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED PRIORITIES FOR 2015

(In order of priority, when numbered)

Annual

- Set specifications for all groundfish stocks 2016-2018*
- Set specifications for US/CA stocks for 2016*
**Regulatory requirement*
- 1) Sub-ACLs for fluke, squid, etc. for SNE Windowpane Flounder – coordinate with MAFMC and ASFMC
- 2) Electronic Monitoring – EMWG finishes final of white paper- “recommendations sections”- short-term item
- 3) Recreational Management Measures Process
 - Staff: Five Year Sector Review
 - Staff: TMGC/TRAC
 - Staff: Operational/Update Assessments

Multi-Year

- 1) Continue to coordinate action on the Habitat Omnibus Amendment to include possible modifications of the Groundfish closed areas.
 - 2) Complete Amendment 18 to consider fleet diversity and accumulation caps.
 - 3) Develop alternative strategies for setting catch advice for stability in ACLs.
 - 4) Amendment: Windowpane.
 - 5) Process for review of groundfish catch in other fisheries (could be done with the windowpane amendment).
 - 6) Amendment: Party/charter – limited access.
- Staff: Cod Stock Structure Workshop