

Groundfish Committee Background Information

NEFMC Groundfish Staff

**Groundfish Committee
Meeting**
January 25, 2018





Control Date

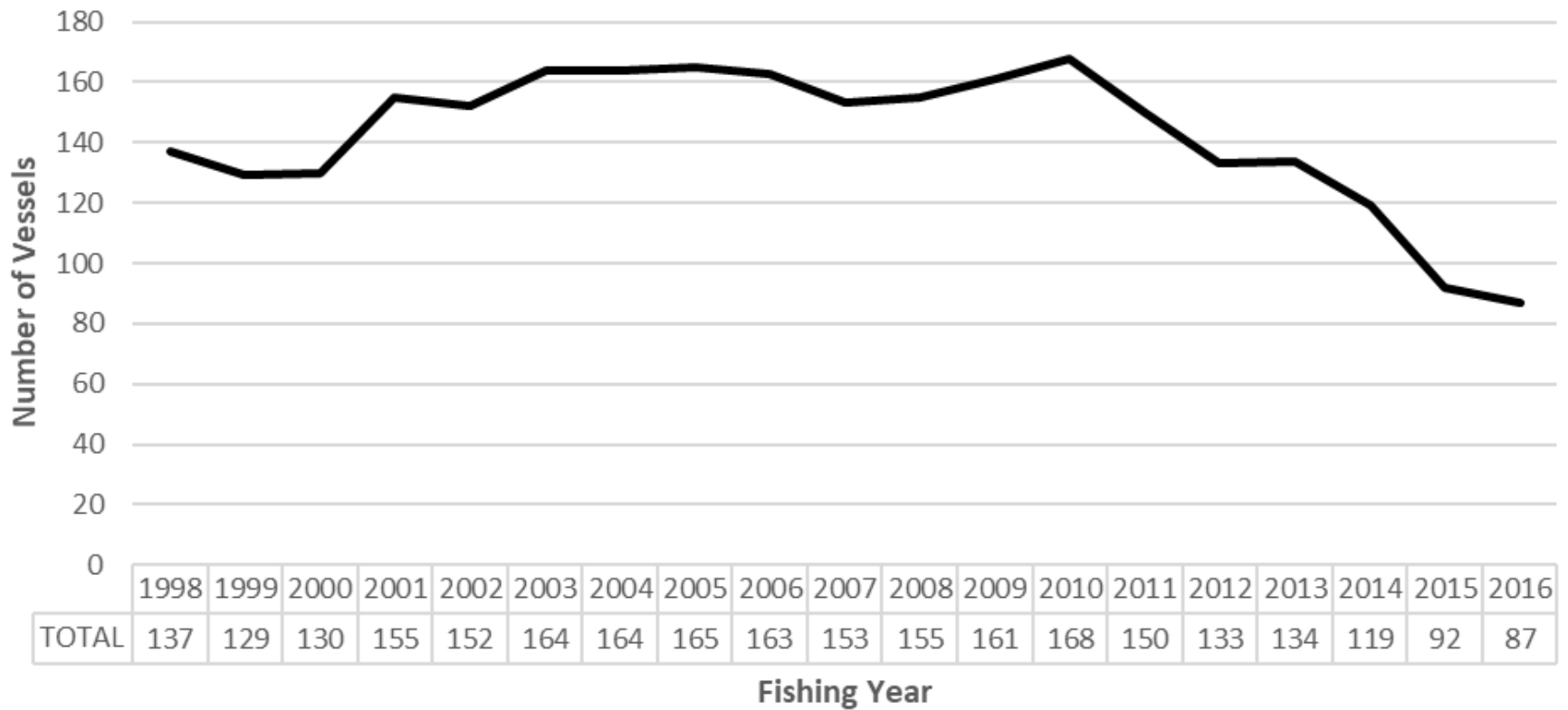
Background

The current “control date” is March 30, 2006 and may be used for establishing eligibility criteria for determining levels of future access to the charter/party fishery subject to Federal authority.

- Helps to distinguish from established participants from speculative entrants
- Additional qualification criteria may apply
- Weighted criteria may be used
- Does not commit the Council to take action
- Can be revised or rescinded
- Gives the public notice to locate and preserve records to verify activity



For-Hire Recreational Vessels Catching Cod or Haddock from the Gulf of Maine



For Today

- At the January 2018 Council meeting, the Council will consider recommending a new control date for the charter/party fishery.
- The Committee may consider any recommendations from the advisors and develop recommendations to the Council.





2018 Groundfish Priorities

List of 2018 Priorities

Council set 2018 priorities in December 2017

<i>Legal/Regulatory Requirement- Annual</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set ABCs/ACLs for US/CA stocks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revise rebuilding plans as needed (ocean pout, GB winter flounder, witch flounder, GOM/GB windowpane flounder, and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address Status Determination Criteria issue when analytic assessments fail
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional guidance on sector overages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRAC/TMGC

List of 2018 Priorities

Annual

- Address allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data
- Get input on different ways to manage recreational fishery in light of highly variable catch estimates: for example, consideration of catch error estimates under MRIP, and errors in bioeconomic model used to determine measures
- Specify allocation review triggers
- Sector five-year review

Multi-Year

- ASM action/Amendment 23 (including work groups/workshops necessary and working group on how fishery dependent data can be used to inform stock abundance).
- Scope limited entry in groundfish party/charter fishery
- Cod Stock Structure Working Group



Amendment 23: Groundfish Monitoring

Amendment 23 Timeline

2018	
JAN 30-31	NEFMC – Receives progress report
TBD	Groundfish PDT meeting
TBD	Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting
TBD	Groundfish Committee meeting
APR 17-19	NEFMC – Approves range of alternatives
TBD	Groundfish PDT meeting
TBD	Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting
TBD	Groundfish Committee meeting
JUN 12-14	NEFMC – Receives progress report (or approves range of alternatives, if not in April)

A23 Alternatives Outline (Draft)

<u>Introduction</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose and need Background on Groundfish Sector Monitoring Program
<u>Alternatives</u>	
<i>Monitoring Cover Levels</i> <i>*input from Sept Committee meeting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-evaluate 30% CV precision standard Alternatives methodologies for determining total monitoring coverage levels Knowing total monitoring coverage level at a time certain
<i>Improving monitoring of discards</i> <i>*input from Sept Committee meeting</i>	Electronic monitoring (EM) – in place of ASM, audit-based, maximum retention-based
<i>Improving monitoring of landings</i> <i>*input from Sept Committee meeting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dockside monitoring program EM for landings verification (maximum retention)
<u>Streamlining Sector Reporting</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly sector reporting Other sector reporting requirements
<u>Funding</u> <i>*input from Sept Committee meeting</i>	<i>Funding source ideas</i>

Groundfish AP Motions (from Nov 28, 2017)

AP Motion #16:

To include an Optimized Retention approach for EM, where EM runs on 100% of trips and a subset of hauls or trips is reviewed to verify vessel trip reported (VTR)-reported discards. The optimized retention model would eliminate minimum fish size restrictions, but fishermen could choose which fish to keep based on their marketability, and/or the difficulty handling and sorting on deck—modeled upon the West Coast EM program.

GF Committee Motion (from Nov 29, 2017)

Committee Motion #15:

To explore an Optimized Retention approach for EM, where EM runs on 100% of trips and a subset of hauls or trips is reviewed to verify vessel trip reported (VTR)-reported discards. The optimized retention model would eliminate minimum fish size restrictions, but fishermen could choose which fish to keep based on their marketability, and/or the difficulty handling and sorting on deck—modeled upon the West Coast EM program.

Groundfish AP Motions (from Nov 28, 2017)

AP Motion #18:

That the amendment includes a cost-benefit analysis of all aspects of monitoring.

To do: Committee discusses and makes recommendation today

Monitoring Workshop

2018 Council Priorities:

To amend the priorities for Groundfish for 2018 to include all regulatory requirements and Amendment 23 and by clarifying that work on Amendment 23 includes utilization of workshops/expanded PDT meetings for development of technical elements i.e. EM, DSM etc. and a working group to discuss the topic of how fishery dependent data can be used to inform stock abundance.

Will be discussed at Executive Committee meeting tomorrow (Jan 26)