

# **Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)**

## **Framework Adjustment 58 and Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring**

**Groundfish AP and Committee  
Meeting**  
*September 18, 2018*





# **Framework Adjustment 58- Specifications and Management Measures**

# Scope

- 1) To revise or establish rebuilding plans for several stocks (Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder, Southern New England (SNE)/Mid-Atlantic (MA) yellowtail flounder, witch flounder, Gulf of Maine (GOM)/GB (Northern) windowpane flounder, and ocean pout),
- 2) To set specifications for fishing year 2019 for U.S./Canada stocks (Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder),
- 3) To exempt vessels fishing in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) waters from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and
- 4) To provide additional guidance on sector overages.

# Objectives

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

# Range of Alternatives

## 1. Updates to Formal Rebuilding Programs and Annual Catch Limits

- Formal Rebuilding Plans
- Annual Catch Limits

## 2. Fishery Program Administration

- Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in NAFO Waters
- Guidance on sector overages

# Timeline - May 1, 2019 Implementation

2018	
MAR-JUN	Committee/AP/PDT preliminary discussion and analysis
<b>JUN 12-14</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council initiates framework</b>
JUL 10-12	TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including EGB Cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
JUL-AUG	PDT develops options for the SSC to consider for OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder and rebuilding plan options for SSC feedback
AUG 15	SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder and provides feedback on rebuilding plan options
SEP 11-13	TMGC/SC recommends TACs for US/CA stocks
JUL-SEP	Committee/AP/PDT develop alternatives and analysis
<b>SEP 24-27</b>	<b>NEFMC – Receives an update on the development of the action, approve range of alternatives, including TACs for US/CA stocks</b>
OCT-DEC	Committee/AP/PDT refine alternatives and complete impact analysis
<b>DEC 4-6</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council takes final action/approves framework</b>
DEC-JAN	PDT completes submission document
2019	
JAN	Preliminary submission
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Implementation

# Inadequate Rebuilding Progress for Several Stocks

## NMFS letter, August 31, 2017

- Ocean Pout
- Georges Bank winter flounder
- Witch flounder
- Northern windowpane flounder
- Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder

# Stocks with Projections

- Georges Bank winter flounder
- Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder
- Overview of approach
  - $T_{\min}$  is 3 years at  $F=0$  with a 50% probability of achieving  $B_{\text{MSY}}$
  - $T_{\max}$  is 10 years.
  - $T_{\text{target}}$  options developed across a range of fishing mortality rates. Also, options were developed considering the factors in the NS1 guidelines.



# Stocks with Projections

The PDT would like feedback from the SSC on if  $F_{\text{rebuild}}$  established with the rebuilding plan should be considered as an approach or a specific value (e.g.,  $50\%F_{\text{MSY}}$  or 0.261).

# Stocks without Projections

- Witch flounder
- Northern windowpane flounder
- Ocean Pout
- Overview of approach
  - $T_{\min}$  is undefined, could be less than or greater than 10 years
  - $T_{\max}$  is assumed to be 10 years.
  - Factors in the NS1 Guidelines were considered.

# Stocks without Projections

The PDT would like feedback from the SSC on possible approaches and basis to extend the  $T_{\text{target}}$  beyond 10 years for these stocks or whether it is more appropriate to have an undefined rebuilding date (e.g., like the wolffish stock).

## For Today's Meeting

- Discuss the range of alternatives for FW58, including the PDT's questions on the development of the alternatives (see pp. 2 and 6 of the memo), and
- Make recommendations.



# **Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring**

## For Today's Meeting

- Receive progress report on the potential range of alternatives
- Receive progress report on PDT analyses to develop draft alternatives
- Receive draft Amendment 23 glossary of key terms
- Discuss the draft alternatives, which include updates following the last Committee meeting, mainly to Section 4.2 Commercial Fishery Measures
- Discuss the PDT's analysis to date

# Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring – Timeline

<b>2018</b>	
<b>JUN 12-14</b>	<b>NEFMC – Receives progress report</b>
JUN-SEP	PDT develops alternatives and analyses
JUN-SEP	Fishery Data Working Group develops report to address objectives
SEP	Committee/AP review progress on developing alternatives, recommend additional alternatives for development
<b>SEP 24-27</b>	<b>NEFMC – Receives progress report</b>
OCT-NOV	Fishery Data Working Group forms recommendations, completes draft report
OCT-NOV	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
NOV	SSC review of Fishery Data Working Group report, select PDT analyses (tentative)
<b>DEC 4-6</b>	<b>NEFMC - Receives initial range of alternatives; final report from Fishery Data Working Group; SSC provides report on review of Fishery Data Working Group and PDT analyses</b>
DEC	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
<b>2019</b>	
<b>JAN 29-31</b>	<b>NEFMC - Approves range of alternatives</b>

# Draft Alternatives – September 10, 2018

## 4.1 Fishery Program Administration

### 4.1.1 Sector Administration Provisions

#### 4.1.1.1 Sector Reporting Requirements

#### 4.1.1.2 Knowing Total Monitoring Coverage Level at a Time Certain

#### 4.1.1.3 Funding for the Groundfish Monitoring Program

## 4.2 Commercial Fishery Measures

### 4.2.1 Groundfish Monitoring Program Revisions

#### 4.2.1.1 Monitoring Coverage Levels

##### 4.2.1.1.2 Option 2: Fixed Total Monitoring Coverage Level

##### 4.2.1.1.3 Option 3: Alternative Methodologies to Using a CV Standard to Determine an Annual Coverage Target

#### 4.2.1.2 Dockside Monitoring Program

##### 4.2.1.2.2 Option 2: Dockside Monitoring Program



# Draft Alternatives: 4.2.1.1 Monitoring Coverage Levels

## Motion #4:

*Move to have the Plan Development Team develop alternative methodologies to the coefficient of variation (CV) standard for determining the target monitoring coverage level. This could include fixed target coverage levels (e.g., an annual target coverage level 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% of sector trips).*

Carried 10/0/0.

- The PDT is working on analysis to analyze fixed target coverage levels, with an approach that accounts for bias (Attachment #2).
- The PDT will develop ideas for alternative methodologies to the CV standard for determining annual total monitoring coverage levels.

# PDT Monitoring Coverage Level Analyses

- First, the PDT analyzed effects of different fixed coverage rates (10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100%), assuming no bias, on the precision of estimated groundfish catch.
- Second, the PDT analyzed effects of coverage rate & bias (4 levels of bias - 1×, 2×, 5×, 10×) on the true catch.
- In the absence of bias, the mean estimated discards are equivalent to true discards and uncertainty is dictated by coverage (precision increases with increasing coverage). In the presence of bias, estimated discards are no longer representative of the truth.
- For highly utilized stocks where catch is comprised mostly of landings, the effects of observer coverage and bias are relatively low.
- Under high levels of bias (10×) and low levels of coverage (10–25%), simulated true catch for some stocks was significantly inflated over the true catch that occurs with no bias.

## Draft Alternatives: 4.2.1.2 Dockside Monitoring Program

### Motion #6:

*To task the Plan Development Team to develop an alternative for a dockside monitoring program (at e.g., 50% and 100% coverage levels) for the commercial groundfish fishery with two options: 1) a mandatory option or 2) an option for sectors to use as part of their sector monitoring plans. Carried 9/0/1.*

- The PDT developed ideas for dockside monitoring (DSM) program designs (Attachment #3).
- The PDT has questions for the Committee to help with development of these alternatives.

# PDT Questions on Dockside Monitoring Objectives

- Is the Committee's intent that the DSM program is to ensure accurate reporting by dealers and to prevent illicit activity circumventing the dealer regulations (e.g., unreported offloads)?
- If so, is the Committee willing to consider a DSM program as a dealer responsibility, rather than a vessel or sector responsibility?
- Is the Committee's intent that the voluntary DSM program in A23 would be in lieu of another requirement, or would grant some exemption or additional benefit to a sector adopting the voluntary DSM program?
- Several questions based off review of the previous DSM program (e.g. use of certified scales, dock access for DSMs, insurance requirements)

# Additional A23 analysis

## **Motion #2:**

*To task the Plan Development Team to analyze groundfish fishing activity west of 72 degrees 30 minutes west longitude to see if it would be appropriate to exempt vessels from at-sea monitoring and dockside monitoring (if implemented). Carried 9/0/1.*

- The PDT analyzed groundfish catch (landings and discards) west of 72 degrees 30 minutes west longitude (Attachment #4).
- Groundfish catch is generally low in this area, but there are notable catches for some stocks: Georges Bank cod (west), southern windowpane flounder, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder, ocean pout, witch flounder, and SNE/MA winter flounder.

# A23 Glossary of Key Terms

- The PDT developed definitions for key terms used throughout discussions of monitoring.
- Definitions for commonly used terms (e.g. accuracy, precision, accountability, reliability).
- Definitions for monitoring tools (e.g. dockside monitoring, electronic monitoring) and descriptions of the current groundfish fishery monitoring system.
- Purpose: to provide clarification to managers and the public on key terms commonly used in discussions of monitoring, and to insure the PDT is using these terms consistently across its work.



# Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group

- Meeting summaries available on WG webpage
- WG drafting report to address four main deliverables
  1. Explain how fishery data (dependent and independent) is currently used in age-based analytical stock assessments.
  2. Summarize the utility and limitations of using a CPUE and LPUE as indexes of abundance for Northeast multispecies stocks, including recent efforts.
  3. Identify the fishery dependent data needed to develop a CPUE – without regard to existing fishing practices, regulations, or monitoring systems.
  4. Perform a gap analysis to compare the desired fishery dependent data identified with existing conditions and data for the fishery, to create a CPUE.
- Anticipate SSC review of WG report in November
- **WG report to Committee/Council in December**

# Plan Development Team Memo – September 10, 2018

- Summarizes updates to the draft Amendment 23 alternatives, following input from the Committee meeting June 1.
- Summarizes progress on analyses for Amendment 23.
- Identifies questions the PDT has for the Committee to help with developing the alternatives (mainly on DSM).
- Addresses Committee motions related to draft alternatives and analyses.
- Summarizes the draft glossary of A23 key terms the PDT developed.



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