

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

**Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring,
Gear Standards Policy, and 2019 Priorities**

Council Staff

**Groundfish Advisory Panel and
Groundfish Committee
Meetings**

1 April 1-2, 2019



Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring Timeline

2018	
SEP 24-27	Council receives progress report
OCT-NOV	Fishery Data for Stock Assessment 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
DEC 4-6	Council receives progress report
DEC	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
2019	
JAN 29-31	Council receives report from Fishery Data Working Group; SSC provides report on review of Fishery Data Working Group report
FEB-APR	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
APR 16-18	Council approves range of alternatives
APR	SSC reviews PDT analytical approach to monitoring issues

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring Timeline

2019	
MAY	PDT completes DEIS
JUN	SSC provides report on review of PDT analyses; Council approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings and possibly identifies preliminary preferred alternatives
JUL-AUG	Public hearing and comment period
SEP	Council takes final action
OCT	Staff finalizes EIS
DEC	Preliminary submission
2020	
FEB/MAR	Final submission
MAY	Target implementation

A23 Purpose and Need Statement

To implement measures to improve reliability and accountability of catch reporting and to ensure a precise and accurate representation of catch (landings and discards).

To improve the accuracy of collected catch data. Accurate catch data are necessary to ensure that catch limits are set at levels that prevent overfishing and to determine when catch limits are exceeded. To create fair and equitable catch reporting requirements for all commercial groundfish fishermen, while maximizing the value of collected catch data and minimizing costs for the fishing industry and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Sections with Updates to Draft A23 Alternatives – March 27, 2019

4.1 Fishery Program Administration

4.1.1 Sector Administration Provisions

4.1.1.3 Funding for the Groundfish Monitoring Program

4.2 Commercial Fishery Measures

4.2.1 Groundfish Sector and Common Pool Monitoring Program Revisions

4.2.1.1 Dockside Monitoring Program

4.2.2 Groundfish Sector Monitoring Program Revisions

4.2.2.1 Sector Monitoring Standards

4.2.2.2 Sector Monitoring Tools

PDT Memo re Updates to Draft A23 Alternatives

- Summarizes updates to draft alternatives – PDT worked from GAP and Committee discussions
- Provides requests from PDT on clarifications and questions for development of draft alternatives
- Outlines additional considerations for developing the draft alternatives

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

- Consider the draft alternatives revised by the PDT, and
- Make recommendations to the Committee or Council, as appropriate.

Policy on Gear Standards

Priority: *Modify Council policy on gear standards to facilitate use of gear in AMs*

Current Policy:

“The standards require that new gear either reduce the catch of each regulated stock of species of concern or other non-groundfish stocks that are overfished or subject to overfishing, by at least 50% (by weight on a trip-by-trip basis); or that its catch of each regulated stock of species of concern, or other non-groundfish stocks that are overfished or subject to overfishing, be less than 5% of the total catch of regulated groundfish (also by weight on a trip-by-trip basis).”

Suggested revision

Add this sentence to the end of the current policy statement:

“In the case of a gear required for an accountability measure (AM), the gear need only meet this standard for the stock that triggers the AM.”

Gear Standards Policy

- Consider the PDT's revisions to the Council policy on gear standards to facilitate use of gear in accountability measures, and
- Make recommendations to the Committee or Council, as appropriate.

Priorities for 2019

Annual

- Set ABCs/ACLs for all groundfish stocks for FY2020-2022 and US/CA stocks for FY2020
- Staff: TRAC/TMGC
- Groundfish Operational Assessments
- Address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data
- Staff: Sector five-year review
- Specify allocation review triggers
- Modify Council policy on gear standards to facilitate use of gear in AMs

Multi-year

- Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring (including Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group and possible workshops)
- Consider results of public listening sessions for possible initiation of an amendment to develop a limited access program for the party/charter fishery
- Staff: Cod Stock Structure Workshop