

# Agenda

## 1. Framework 59/Specifications

- Consider adding alternatives that would:
  - Revise commercial/recreational allocations for GOM cod and haddock
  - Address GB cod catches in the recreational fishery
  - Increase the GB haddock sub-ACL for the Atlantic herring MWT fishery
  - Set the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder sub-ACL for the scallop fishery at 90% of the Scallop PDT's estimate (TBD)
  - Modify the yellowtail flounder AM trigger in the scallop fishery
- Next steps for November meeting

## 2. Amendment 23/Monitoring

- MSE overview by GMRI staff
- New template with some clarifications
- Review alternatives moved to considered but rejected (2)
- Discuss Council motion from Sept. – vessel specific coverage
- Review updated impacts analysis - dockside monitoring sub-options for lower coverage
- Next steps for November meeting

# Joint Meeting Groundrules

- After the staff presentation for each topic, the CMTE will call for questions from the table (CMTE and AP), along with the audience.
- Then, the AP chair will lead a round of AP discussion and any motions, which may include audience input. The CMTE, however, would refrain from any input.
- Next, the CMTE chair would lead the CMTE in their discussion and ask for any motions.
- With a motion on the table, the CMTE chair will first ask for audience input on motions, followed by any AP input, and then back to the CMTE for final discussion and to take action on the motion.
- This process would be repeated for each topic.

# Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

## Framework Adjustment 59/Specifications

*Council Staff*

**Joint Groundfish AP/Committee Meeting**  
***October 30, 2019***  
***Portsmouth, NH***



# Specifications

## Framework Adjustment 59 would:

Set 2020 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock,

Set 2020-2022 specifications for fifteen groundfish stocks,

Address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data, and

Revise the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation to the Closed Area I (CAI) Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP).

## Draft Range of Alternatives

1. Updates to annual catch limits
  - Specifications for fifteen groundfish stocks
  - Total allowable catches for Transboundary Stocks
  - Sub-annual catch limits for Atlantic sea scallop, small-mesh multispecies, and herring fisheries
  - Revisions/additions to commercial/recreational allocations
  - Removal of allocation to the CAI Haddock SAP
2. Recreational Fishery Management
  - Adjustments to recreational fishery management measures

# Specifications

The fifteen groundfish stocks include:

- 1) GB cod
- 2) Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod
- 3) GB haddock
- 4) GOM haddock
- 5) GB yellowtail flounder
- 6) Cape Cod/GOM yellowtail flounder
- 7) Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder
- 8) GB winter flounder
- 9) American plaice
- 10) Witch flounder
- 11) Pollock
- 12) White hake
- 13) Atlantic halibut
- 14) Northern windowpane flounder
- 15) Southern windowpane flounder.

## Decision point #1:

Upon an overview of the PDT memo,

- 1A) Do you recommend adding an alternative to update the commercial/recreational allocations for GOM cod and GOM haddock?
- 1b) What approach should the PDT use to develop a recreational catch target for GB cod and how would management measures be treated?

Decision point #2:

Upon an overview of the PDT memo, do you recommend adding an alternative to increase the GB haddock sub-ACL for the Atlantic herring MWT fishery to 2% for the sub-ABC of the US ABC?

## Decision point #3:

- Should the PDT continue (as in previous actions) to develop an alternative for the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder sub-ACL in the sea scallop fishery at 90% (for the sub-ABC) of the Scallop PDT's estimate?
- Should we explore adding other options (e.g., percentage-based approaches) if the PDT's estimate is high relative to the proposed ABC?

*SSC recommendation or 2020-2022 is a total ABC of 22 mt.*

## Decision point #4:

- The temporary change to the AM trigger is set to expire after this fishing year for GB yellowtail flounder.
- Should the PDT develop an alternative to modify the GB yellowtail flounder AM trigger in the scallop fishery such that, the AM would be triggered only if the scallop fishery sub-ACL and the total ACL were exceeded?
- Should the same change also be applied to SNE/MA yellowtail flounder – in which the temporary measure already expired?
- Absent any action, AMs for the scallop fishery's GB and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder sub-ACLs could be triggered following EITHER an overage of the sub-ACL by certain percentages OR an overage of the sub-ACL and the total ACL.

## **Next Steps – Nov. 25 Joint CMTE/AP meeting**

- Review the draft alternatives (based on Council, Committee, and SSC recommendations),
- Review the PDT's sub-component analysis,
- Discuss any available draft impacts analysis – with emphasis on biological and economic sections, and
- Recommend preferred alternatives, as appropriate.

*Council Final Action – December meeting*

## For Today

Consider adding alternatives that would:

- Revise commercial/recreational allocations for GOM cod and haddock
- Address GB cod catches in the recreational fishery
- Increase the GB haddock sub-ACL for the Atlantic herring MWT fishery
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- Modify the yellowtail flounder AM trigger in the scallop fishery

# Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

## Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

*Council Staff*

**Joint Groundfish AP/Committee Meeting**  
**October 30, 2019**  
**Portsmouth, NH**



# For Today

1. Review what is updated – **NO ACTION NEEDED**
  - New template for Council actions
  - Clarified alternative names and limited structure changes
  - Reduced background and expanded goals and objectives
  - Minor tweaks
2. Review two alternatives moved to considered and rejected – **NO ACTION NEEDED**
3. Discuss motion from Sept meeting – vessel specific coverage levels - **POSSIBLE MOTION**
4. Review update on initial impacts analysis – dockside monitoring sub-options for lower coverage – **ANY FEEDBACK?**
5. Heads up for November meeting – **NO ACTION NEEDED TODAY**

# Timeline - Milestones

<b>2019</b>	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>SSC sub-panel provides report on review of PDT analyses; Council approve range of alternatives for analysis</b>
JUN-AUG	PDT develops DEIS
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
OCT-NOV	PDT continues to develop DEIS; Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
DEC	PDT continues to develop DEIS
<b>2020</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings, selects preferred alternatives</b>
MAR-APR	Public hearing and comment period
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>

# 1. Review what is Updated

- New consistent template
- Shorter background
- Expanded goals and objectives
- Clarified names of alternatives
- Limited reorganization of alternatives

**NO ACTION NEEDED**

## **Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan**

### **DRAFT Amendment 23**

Including a Draft Environmental Impact Statement,  
And Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

**Draft for Committee Review**

**October 25, 2019**

Prepared by the  
New England Fishery Management Council  
In consultation with the  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
National Marine Fisheries Service



## Sec. 3.2 Purpose and Need (p.10)

The need, or problem this action was developed to address is: the need to implement measures to improve reliability and accountability of catch reporting in the commercial groundfish fishery and to ensure there is precise and accurate ~~representation of~~ catch estimates (landings and discards). 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.

The purpose, or potential solutions considered in this action focus on measures that adjust the current monitoring program to improve catch accounting and accuracy ~~of collected catch data~~. It is the Council's intent that the catch reporting requirements are ~~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.

## Sec. 3.3 Goals and Objectives (p.10)

- 3.3.1 Goals and objectives of GF FMP
- 3.3.2 Goals and objective of GF monitoring program (FW<sub>48</sub> and FW<sub>55</sub>)
- 3.3.3 Goal and objective of A<sub>23</sub>

*This action would maintain the current goals and objectives of the GF monitoring program but consider measures to better address Goal #1: improve documentation of catch, described as “improved catch accounting” during the scoping process.*

# Examples of clarified A23 alternative language

- 4.1 Commercial Groundfish Monitoring Program (Sectors only)
  - 4.1.1 Sector Monitoring Standards
  - 4.1.2 Sector Monitoring Tools (elevated heading)
- 4.2 Commercial Groundfish Monitoring Program (Sectors and Common Pool) (elevated heading)
- 4.3 Sector Reporting
- 4.4 Funding/Operational Provisions of Groundfish Monitoring
- 4.5 Management Uncertainty Buffers
- 4.6 Exemptions from Groundfish Sector and Common Pool Monitoring Requirements

## 2. Review alternatives moved to considered but rejected (2) (p.45)

- Section 4.2.1 Dockside Monitoring  
Option 3: Dockside Monitoring as an Optional Program for Sectors
- Section 4.5 Management Uncertainty Buffers  
Option 2: Revised Management Uncertainty Buffers for Allocated Groundfish Stocks

**NO ACTION NEEDED**

### 3. Discuss motion from Sept. 2019 Meeting

- *To add a sub-Option to Section 4.2.2.1.2 for coverage levels based on trips of the vessel (e.g., if the coverage level is 25% of trips taken by the vessel, then the vessel takes four trips, it would get covered once). These would be vessel specific coverage rates.*

*To remand this motion back to the Groundfish Committee for further analysis. (Carried 10/3/1)*

- Letter from NEFMC to NEFSC requesting information on observer deployment data at the vessel level for groundfish trips

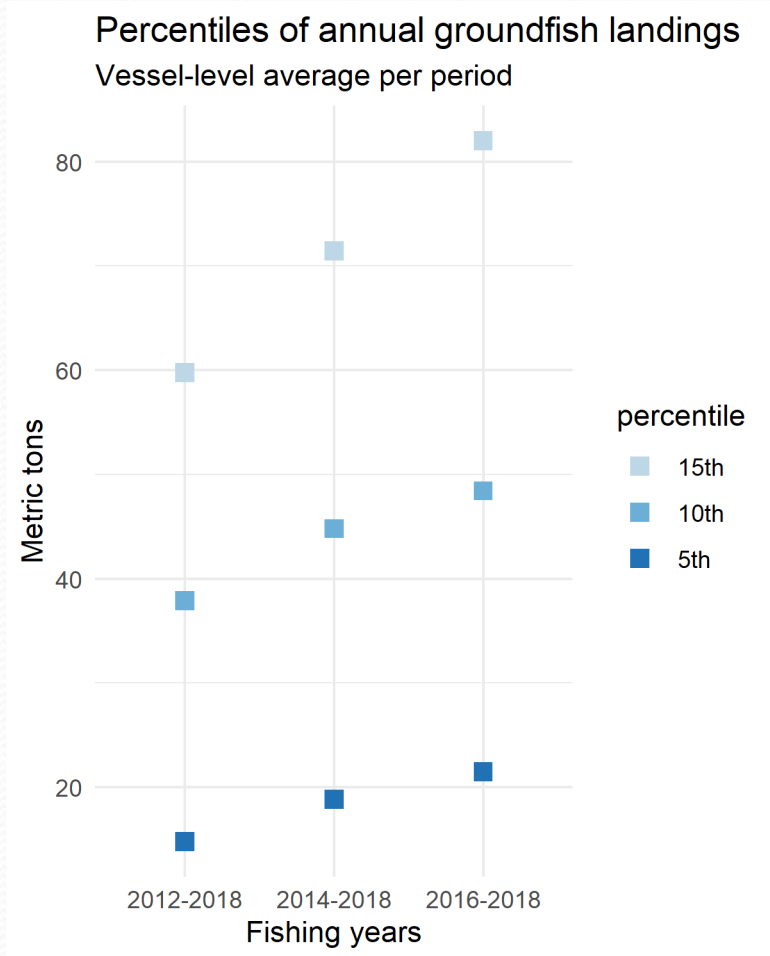
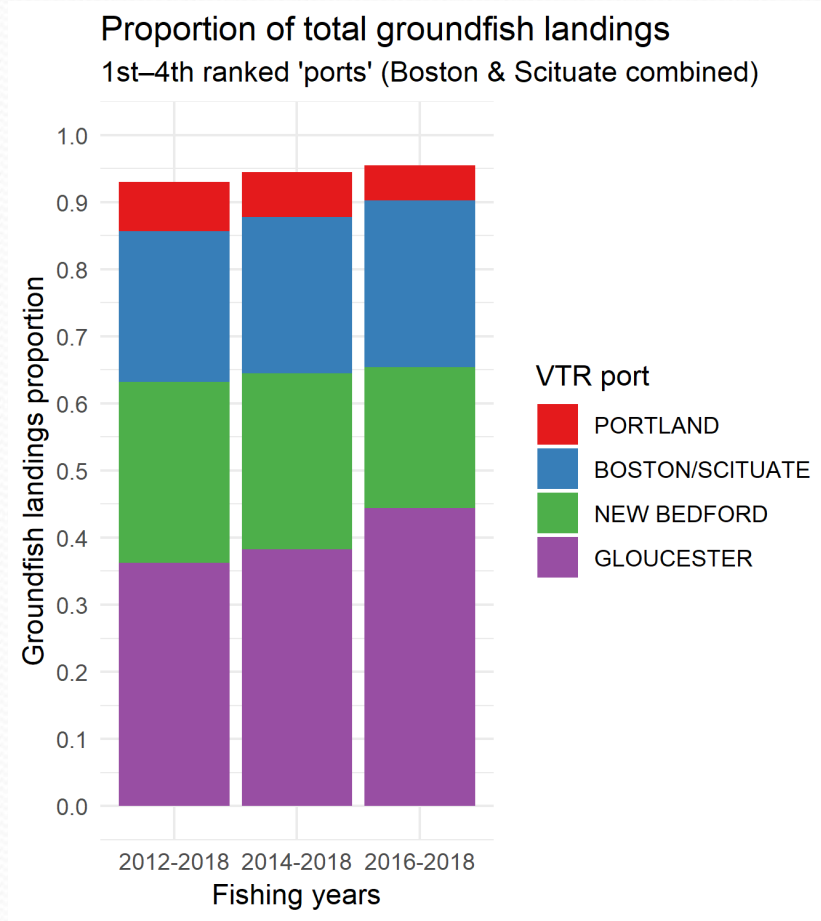
**POSSIBLE MOTION**

## 4. Update on initial impacts analysis

- Additional analysis on Dockside Monitoring Sub-options for lower coverage for small ports and low volume vessels - by time period and by stock (*See PDT memo, Doc. 4b*).
- PDT will consider a time period for determining qualifying vessels/ports:
  - 2012-2018, 2014-2018, or 2016-2018
- Stock level - smaller ports and lower landings thresholds per vessel are necessary to cover >90% of landings.
  - For example, SNE stocks are landed mainly in southern ports like Point Judith, which are not included in the top 5 ports.

**ANY FEEDBACK ?**

## 4. Update on initial impacts analysis



**Proportion of total groundfish landings for the top 4 fishing areas/ports by fishing period.**

**Total groundfish landings for the 5th, 10th, and 15th percentile vessels by fishing period.**

## 5. Heads up for November meeting

- Several alternatives call for more clarity.
- PDT Meeting November 5 at GARFO to review and make recommendations for Cmte consideration.
- Cmte scheduled to clarify any outstanding issues at Nov. 25 meeting.
- For example, clarifications about how existing NMFS authorities fit into the alternatives.

**NO ACTION NEEDED TODAY – REVISIT IN NOVEMBER**

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5. Heads up for November meeting – **NO ACTION NEEDED TODAY**