

Joint Meeting Groundrules

- After the staff presentation for each topic, the CMTE chair 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 Committee/
Advisory Panel Meeting
November 25, 2019
Danvers, MA



Overview

- Review the PDT's sub-component analysis
- Make recommendations on preferred alternatives in each section.

Council will take final action on FW59 on Dec. 4.

Implementation for May 1, 2020.

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).

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.

PDT's Sub-Component Review

State component and other component:

- Three-year recent average catch (FY2016-FY2018) used, in the absence of other information (e.g., Scallop PDT estimates, changes in state regulations, GB cod recreational catch target.).
- Final year-end data were not available for Atlantic halibut for FY2018.
- Generally, the PDT compared the current other or state waters subcomponent percentage (and associated value) to the three-year average catch to develop recommendations.

Additional Considerations

State component and other component:

- GB cod recreational catch target (state and other)
- GOM cod and GOM haddock allocation shares (state and other)
- Pollock and new MRIP data (state and other)
- Southern windowpane flounder and catches by large-mesh non-groundfish fisheries (other)
- Atlantic halibut and past Council motion (state)

**Example
Allocation:
GOM Cod
FY2020
with revised
comm./rec.**



724 mt



552 mt

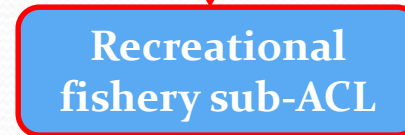
**Example
Allocation:
GOM Cod
FY2020
with revised
comm./rec.**



37.5% allocation



- 7% ↓ buffer

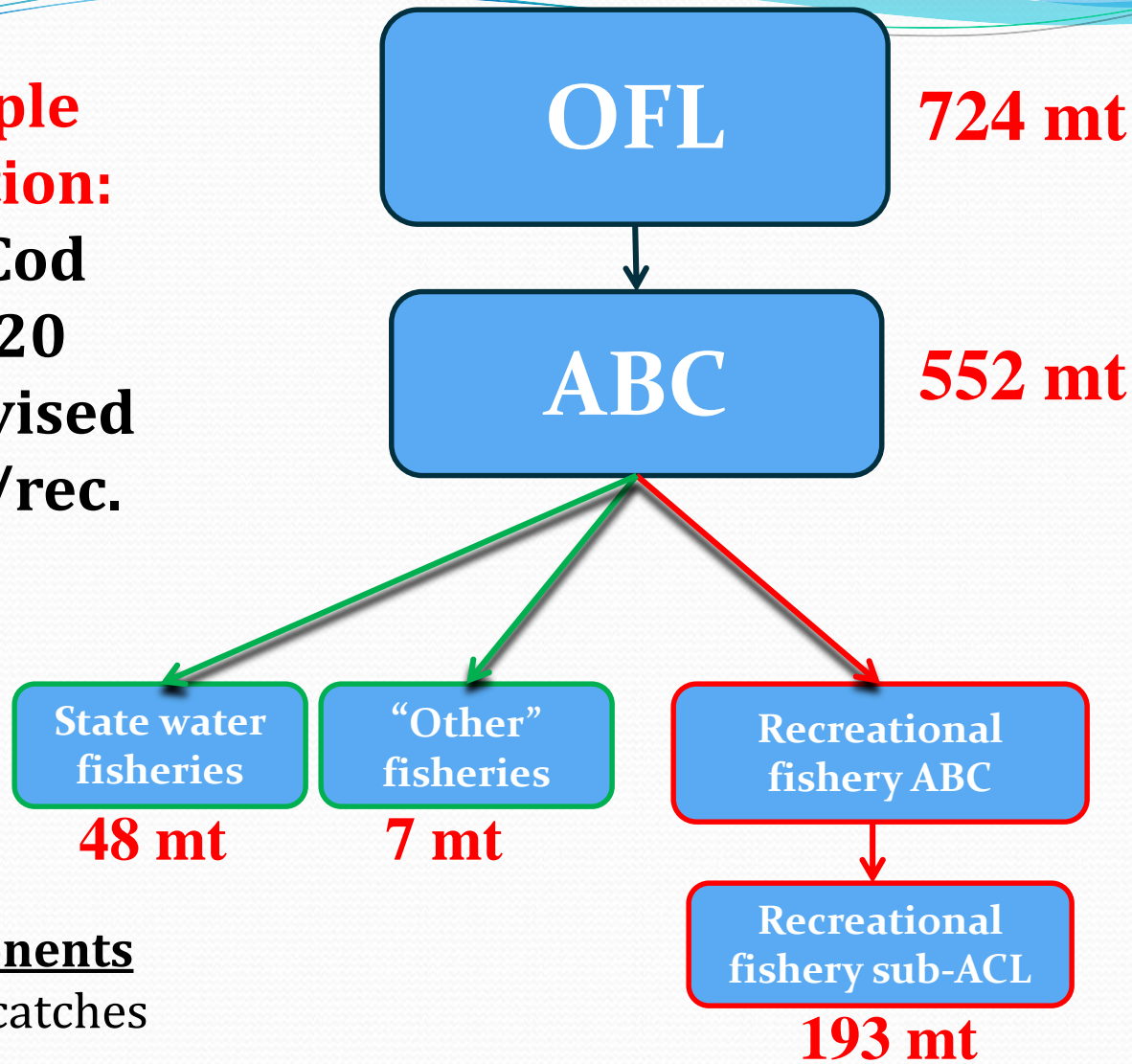


193 mt

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

Example Allocation:
GOM Cod
FY2020
with revised
comm./rec.



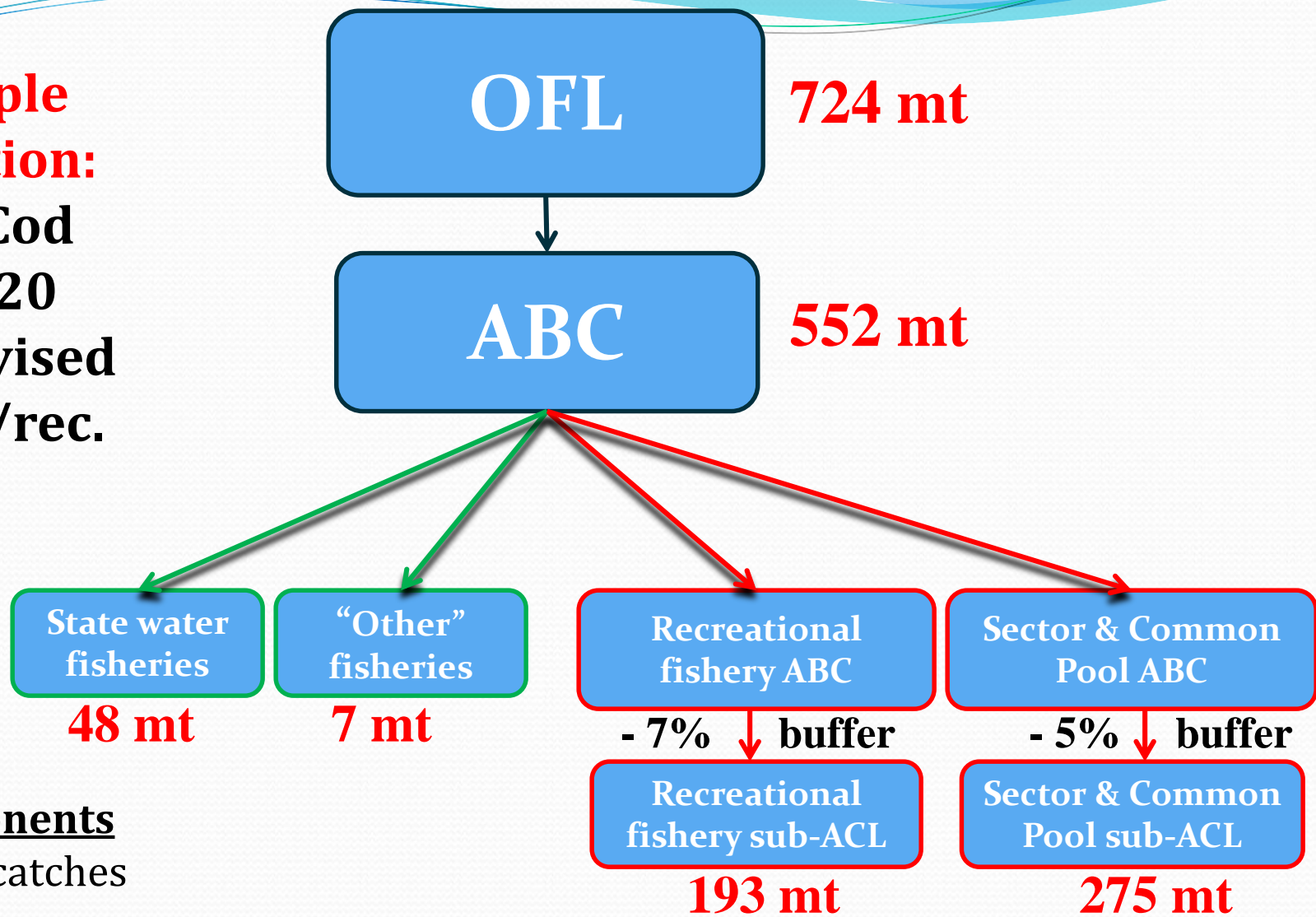
Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

Example Allocation:
GOM Cod
FY2020
with revised
comm./rec.



Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

Example Allocation:

**GB Cod
FY2020
with rec. catch
target of
138mt**

OFL

unknown

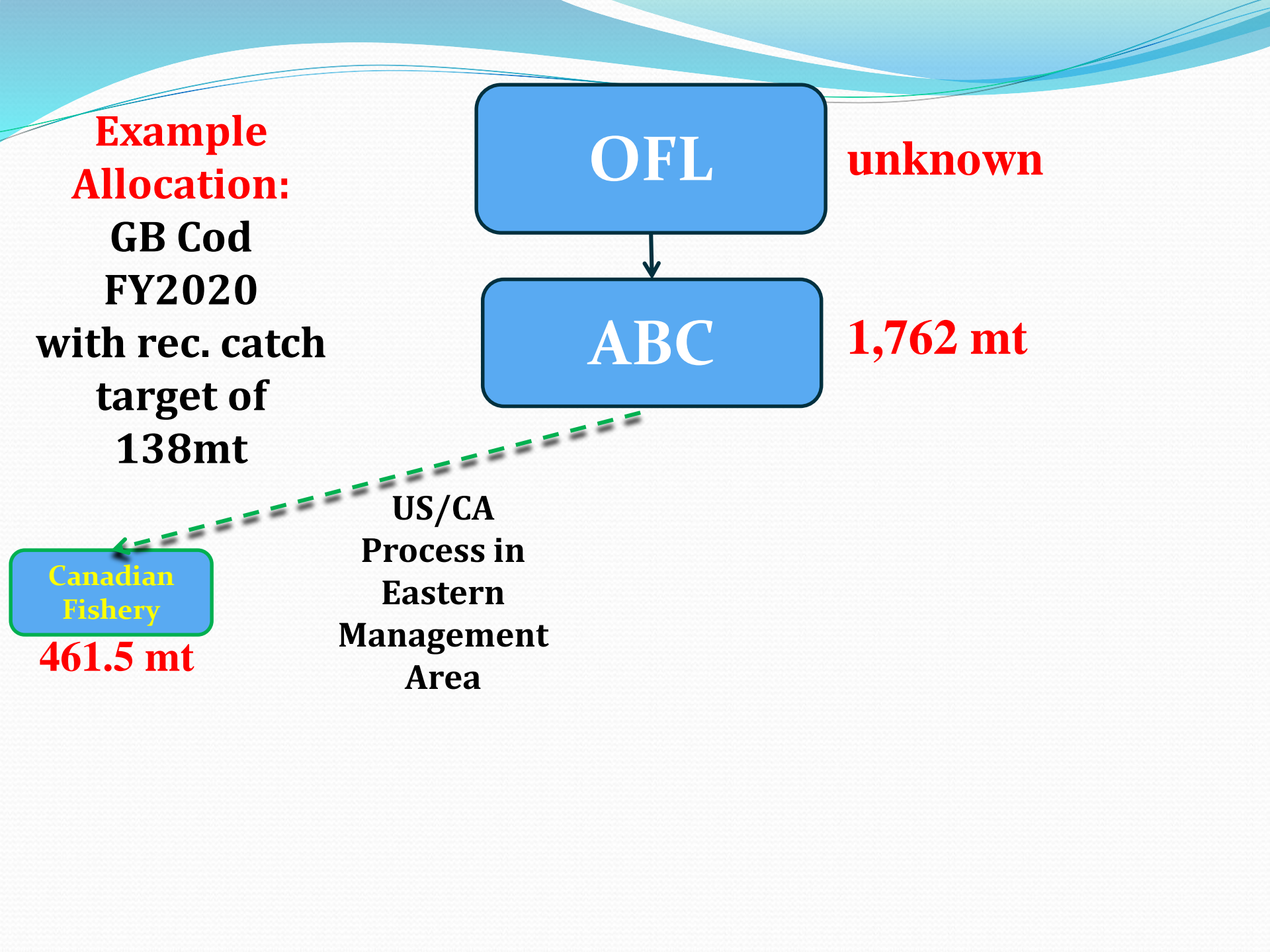
ABC

1,762 mt

**US/CA
Process in
Eastern
Management
Area**

**Canadian
Fishery**

461.5 mt



Example Allocation:

**GB Cod
FY2020
with rec. catch
target of
138mt**

OFL

unknown

ABC

1,762 mt

**Canadian
Fishery**

461.5 mt

**State water
fisheries**

20 mt

**“Other”
fisheries**

143 mt

[Includes rec. catch target]

Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Example Allocation:
GB Cod
FY2020
with rec. catch
target of
138mt

OFL

unknown

ABC

1,762 mt

Canadian Fishery

461.5 mt

State water fisheries

20 mt

"Other" fisheries

143 mt

[Includes rec. catch target]

Sector & Common Pool ABC

- 5% ↓ buffer

Sector & Common Pool sub-ACL

1,081 mt

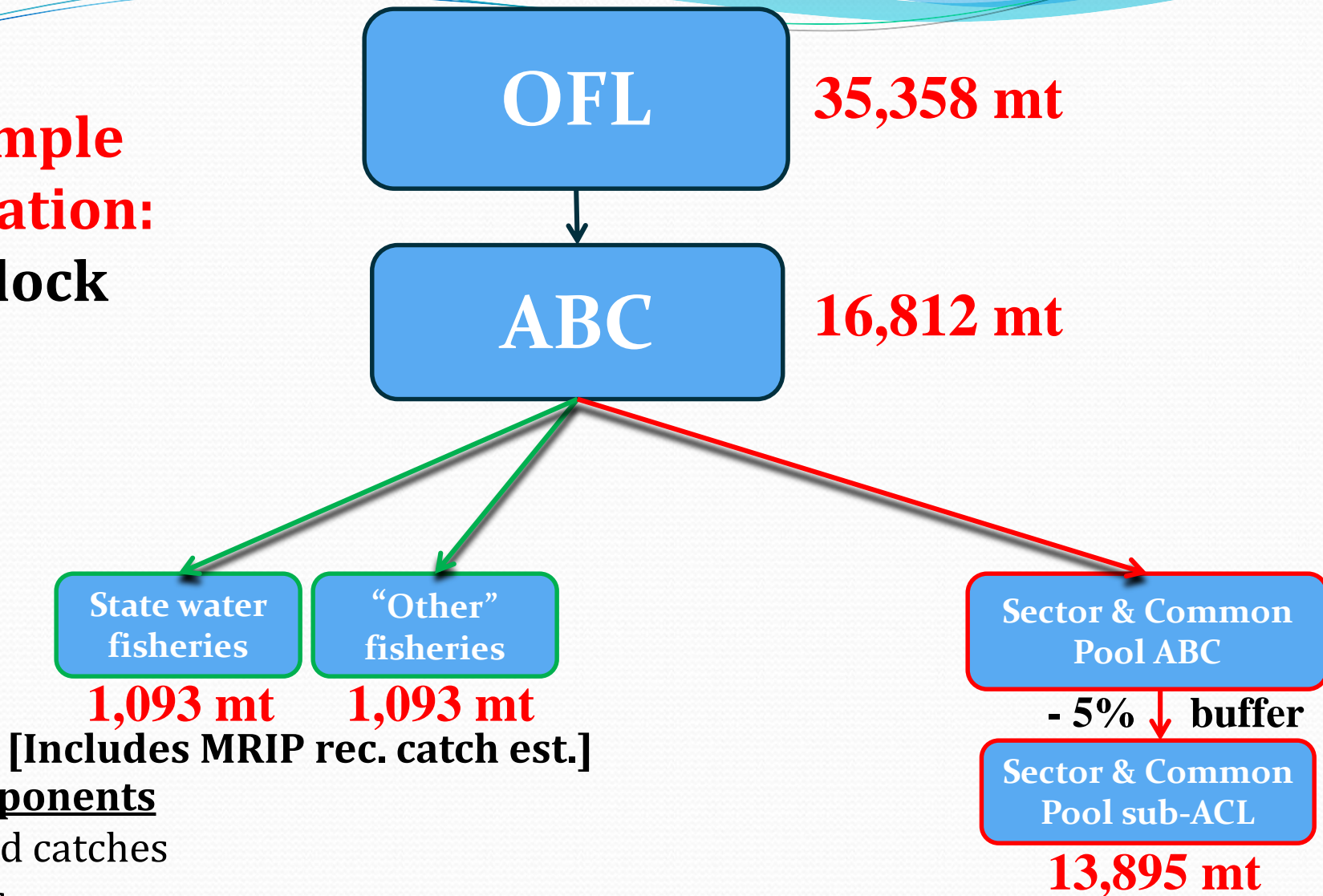
Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

**Example Allocation:
Pollock**



Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Sub-ACL's

- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment

Groundfish Advisors- Oct. 30, 2019

The Advisors ask the Committee to have the Recreational Advisory Panel and Committee review the recreational management measures on pollock and propose and consider a possession limit and catch target.

Rationale: Concern by some in industry that the increase of the recreational landings could be bait.

Motion carried 5/1/0.

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends the Committee ask the Council to ask Enforcement to investigate the allegation made at this meeting of misreporting of recreational pollock catch.

Motion 5 carried 6/0/0.

Recreational Advisors- Nov. 12, 2019

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends the Groundfish Committee adopt the Groundfish Plan Development Team's recommendation to "Continue to monitor recreational catches of pollock and utilization of pollock in future assessments and monitoring, especially in relation to the allocation criteria identified in A16. If utilization relative to the ACL becomes high, consider creating a sub-ACL for the recreational fishery." (see pp. 13 of Groundfish PDT memo to Committee, October 23, 2019, re: Analysis for the priority to address allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data).

Motion carried 5/0/0.

Decision point #1:

Do you recommend the state waters and other sub-component changes as described in the PDT memo (Doc. 3a) and included in the draft alternatives provided by the PDT (Doc. 3a, Version 2)?

Decision point #2:

Make recommendations on preferred alternatives in each section.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.1 Option A – Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target

4.1.2.2 Option B – Allocation between Commercial and Recreational Fisheries for Gulf of Maine Cod and Gulf of Maine Haddock

4.1.2.3 Option C – Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program

4.1.2.4 Option D– Midwater Trawl Atlantic Herring Fishery sub-ACL for Georges Bank Haddock

4.1.2.5 Option E – Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder

4.2 ACTION 2 – RECREATIONAL FISHERY MEASURES FOR GEORGES BANK COD

4.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Temporary Administrative Measure to Allow the Regional Administrator Authority to Adjust the Recreational Measures for Georges Bank Cod

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

- Incorporates results of 2019 stock assessments and SSC recommendations
- Updates FY2020-FY2022 specifications for 15 groundfish stocks
- Includes US/CA quota for Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
- Includes results of PDT's sub-component review
- Options A through E can also be selected

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.1 Option A – Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target

Option A1: No Action - 138 mt only for FY2020

Option A2: Recreational fishery GB cod catch target – 138 mt for FY2020-FY2022

Groundfish Advisors- Oct. 30, 2019

The Advisors recommend to the Committee for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021.

Motion carried 6/o/o.

Groundfish Committee- Oct. 30, 2019

Committee recommends to the Council for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021.

Motion carried 8/o/o.

Recreational Advisors- Nov. 12, 2019

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee updating the recreational catch target for GB cod:

- using the post-calibration (new) MRIP data average of recreational catches in CY2012-CY2016 (406 mt) from the 2019 stock assessment,
- then reduce this value by the percent change from fishing year 2019 to proposed fishing year 2020 in the US ABC (a decrease of 29%),
- resulting in a recreational catch target of 288 mt for FY2020-FY2022.

Rationale: This approach was developed with the understanding that an average of more recent data, which includes the post-calibration (new) MRIP data, would likely be used by NMFS when setting Georges Bank cod recreational measures.

Motion carried 5/0/0.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.2 Option B – Allocation between Commercial and Recreational Fisheries for Gulf of Maine Cod and Gulf of Maine Haddock

Option B1: No Action

Stock	Years	Recreational Allocation
GOM cod	2001-2006	33.7%
GOM haddock	2001-2006	27.5%

Option B2: Revise the allocation between commercial and recreational fisheries for GOM cod and GOM haddock.

Stock	Years	Recreational Allocation
GOM cod	2001-2006	37.5%
GOM haddock	2001-2006	33.9%

Groundfish Advisors- Oct. 30, 2019

The Advisors recommend to the Committee no changes to the commercial and recreational allocation percentages for GOM cod and GOM haddock.

Rationale: GOM cod and GOM haddock are the current stocks with recreational allocation. Too much uncertainty in these numbers from MRIP, reallocation is a food fight and could detract from too many other problems – Make rather work at shared problems.

Motion carried 5/0/1.

Recreational Advisors- Nov. 12, 2019

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee updating the recreational and commercial data for years 2001-2006 to determine the Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock allocations, based on the 2019 stock assessments, in Framework Adjustment 59.

Motion 2 carried 5/0/0.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.3 Option C – Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program

Option C1: No Action

Option C2: Revise the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation for the CAI HGH SAP.

	GB Cod Incidental Catch TAC - % of Common Pool sub-ACL	B DAS Program- % of GB Cod Incidental Catch TAC	Eastern US/CA Haddock SAP- % of GB Cod Incidental Catch TAC	CAI HGH SAP- % of GB Cod Incidental Catch TAC
Option C1/No Action	2% (0.77 mt)	50% (0.38 mt)	34% (0.26 mt)	16% (0.12 mt)
Option C2 – Remove CAI HGH SAP allocation	1.68% (0.64 mt)	60% (0.39 mt)	40% (0.26 mt)	0% (0 mt)

Groundfish Committee- Sep. 17, 2019

Groundfish Committee Consensus Statement

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council Option 2: Revise the Georges Bank cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation for the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP) as a preferred alternative under the draft options for Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.4 Option D– Midwater Trawl Atlantic Herring Fishery sub-ACL for Georges Bank Haddock

Option D1: No Action – remains at 1.5% of the U.S. ABC

Option D2: Increase the MWT Atlantic herring fishery sub-ACL for GB haddock to 2 percent

Groundfish Advisors- Oct. 30, 2019

The GAP recommends to the Committee no change in the GB haddock sub-ACL for the Atlantic herring MWT fishery from the current 1.5% for the sub-ABC of the US ABC.

Motion carried 5/1/0.

Groundfish Committee Oct. 30, 2019

The Committee recommends to Council the GB haddock sub-ACL for the Atlantic herring MWT fishery be raised to 2% (from 1.5%) for the sub-ABC of the US ABC.

Motion carried 5/3/0.

Draft Alternatives

4.1 ACTION 1 – SPECIFICATIONS

4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

4.1.2.5 Option E – Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder

Option E1: No Action – 16 mt for FY2020, then not specified

Option E2: Set the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder using 90% of projected scallop fishery catch

- Results in a 2 mt sub-ACL
- Placeholder depends on final action on Scallop FW32
- Should all three years be held constant at 2 mt?

Draft Alternatives

4.2 ACTION 2 – RECREATIONAL FISHERY MEASURES FOR GEORGES BANK COD

4.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

Current measures stay in place unless Council recommends changes

4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Temporary Administrative Measure to Allow the Regional Administrator Authority to Adjust the Recreational Measures for Georges Bank Cod

Measures could be adjusted to not exceed the recreational catch target, only for FY2020 and FY2021

Groundfish Advisors- Oct. 30, 2019

The Advisors recommend to the Committee for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021.

Motion carried 6/o/o.

Groundfish Committee- Oct. 30, 2019

Committee recommends to the Council for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021.

Motion carried 8/o/o.

Recreational Advisors- Nov. 12, 2019

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee extending the NMFS Regional Administrator's temporary authority to adjust management measures for Georges Bank cod for fishing years 2020 and 2021 in Framework Adjustment 59.

Motion carried 5/0/0.

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

Council Staff

**Joint Groundfish Committee/
Advisory Panel Meeting
November 25, 2019
Danvers, MA**



For Today

1. Review what is updated – **NO ACTION NEEDED**
 - Clarified alternative names and limited structure changes
 - Minor tweaks to language for clarification
2. Review 5 outstanding questions on alternatives – **FEEDBACK, MOTIONS MAY OR MAY NOT BE NECESSARY**
 - Modifications needed to clarify certain alternatives (identified in the table provided by the PDT – Doc.#4b)
3. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level option – **POSSIBLE MOTION**
 - Considerations of vessel specific coverage levels (Doc.#4c)
 - Discussion on decoupling NEFOP and ASM coverage
4. Review timeline – **NO ACTION NEEDED**

Timeline - Milestones

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

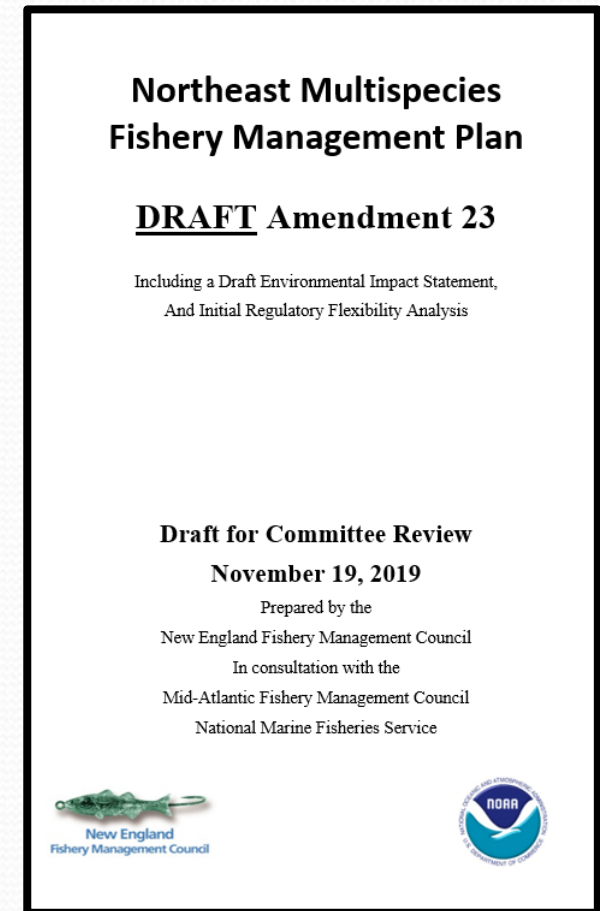
1. Review what is Updated

Oct 30th meeting:

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

For Today:

- Clarified alternative names and limited reorganization
- Clarified language for some alternatives



NO ACTION NEEDED

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 (Sectors and Common Pool)

4.5 Management Uncertainty Buffers for the Commercial Groundfish Fishery (Sectors)

4.6 Remove Groundfish Monitoring Requirements for Certain Vessels Fishing Under Certain Conditions (updated language from “exemptions”)

2. Review outstanding questions on alternatives

Issue #1: Section 4.1.2 Sector Monitoring Tools

- If the Council selects one or more of the sector monitoring tool options (e.g. audit model EM) in this action what happens to the existing Regional Administrator authority to deem EM technology sufficient for a specific trip type based on gear type and area fished?
- Is the intent to leave that authority in place, or would that be eliminated if these options are selected in A23?

FEEDBACK?

2. Review outstanding questions on alternatives

Issue #2: Section 4.1.4.2 Review Process for Sector Monitoring Coverage

- Should the sector monitoring review process be more specific (e.g. specify measurable metrics or standards), or should it remain general?
- The PDT has provided some additional text the Committee can consider.
- The review process will be further developed when the Council select its preferred alternative for the monitoring standard that sets coverage levels.

FEEDBACK?

2. Review outstanding questions on alternatives

Issue #3: Section 4.2.2.3 Reconciling Discrepancies between Dealer Reports and Dockside Monitor Reports

- The Enforcement Committee, PDT and within the Regional Office all prefer that the dealer record remain the official record, with the ability to compare to DSM (Option B). Therefore, is it necessary to consider Option A (use whichever record is higher)? The DSM alternative can be clarified to specify what should be done if there is a discrepancy.
- The PDT recommends that this section be folded into the overall dockside monitoring program alternative in Section 4.2.1.2.
- The PDT also recommends the language be updated to clarify that differences in species reporting is also part of this issue, not just differences in weights reported. DSM records should also be used to compare and verify species reported.

FEEDBACK?

2. Review outstanding questions on alternatives

Issue #4: Section 4.2.2.4 Lower DSM Coverage for Small, Remote Ports and Small, Low Volume Vessels

- Should the sub-options for lower coverage levels of 20% by port or vessel landings be linked to who funds monitoring (dealer or vessel), or does the Committee want to maintain full flexibility to select either or both options regardless of who is responsible for funding, as currently drafted?
- Currently the document is structured with full flexibility (lower DSM by port and/or vessel, and funding by dealer or vessel).

FEEDBACK?

2. Review outstanding questions on alternatives

Issue #5: The PDT has reviewed a few sections that should be clarified - mostly in Sections: 4.1.2 (Sector Monitoring Tools); and 4.6 (Remove monitoring requirements for certain vessels fishing under certain conditions).

- Are these revisions consistent with intent (specific clarifications within sections noted in the table attached to the PDT memo)?

FEEDBACK?

3. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level option

- *The Committee recommended the Council include an option to develop vessel-specific coverage levels.*

Substitute motion to task the PDT to develop and analyze an option for vessel-specific coverage levels.

(Motion to substitute carried 6/o/o.)

(Motion carried 6/o/o.)

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

3. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level

PDT memo: considerations for vessel specific coverage levels (Doc. #4c)

- 1) A vessel specific coverage level option would likely necessitate updates to the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) to address concerns about uneven vessel coverage;
- 2) Even if equal target coverage levels across vessels are set, there is no guarantee that equal coverage can be realized across vessels;
- 3) The relatively new “2nd stage” selection process added to PTNS in May 2018 may help mitigate some of the concerns about unequal coverage;

3. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level

PDT memo: considerations for vessel specific coverage levels (Doc. #4c)
cont.

- 4) The details of a vessel specific coverage level option depend on the overall monitoring standard and program adopted, so it may be more practical to develop after A23 identifies the overall monitoring structure;
- 5) The PDT is already overloaded with A23 and FW59 analyses that are due in the next several weeks. There may not be sufficient time before the January meeting to develop and analyze vessel specific coverage level options that could be coupled with all the various monitoring alternatives in A23; and
- 6) Attaining vessel specific coverage levels in-season with NEFOP and ASM coverage combined is not feasible – due to differential NEFOP coverage across vessels.

3. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level

PDT memo: pros/cons of decoupling NEFOP and ASM coverage – Atch. 2

- Development of a vessel specific coverage level would necessitate separating the programs so that this would be a vessel coverage level for ASM
- Simplify the process of at-sea monitor selection - target coverage rate in an ASM monitoring stratum (sector, gear, area, and Exempted Fishing Permit program) will no longer depend on NEFOP strata coverage rates through the course of a fishing year
- More cost equitability across sectors – given differential NEFOP coverage rates by sector because of different NEFOP stratification
- When decoupled, NEFOP coverage is added onto the target ASM coverage – increases ancillary compliance benefit
- Would not address the inherent difference in total coverage between vessels related to differing observer coverage for different SBRM fleets

3. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level

Staff memo: draft text to consider for a vessel specific coverage level alternative in A23

Vessel specific coverage level:

Under this option the target ASM coverage level would be vessel specific, and each vessel within a sector would have the same target coverage for ASM. ASM coverage would be decoupled from NEFOP coverage. Under this alternative, the target monitoring coverage rate selected in Section 4.1.1 would be for ASM coverage only. NEFOP coverage would still take place on trips separate from, and in addition to, ASM, and NEFOP coverage would not count toward the coverage targets under this option. Currently, all other monitoring standard alternatives under consideration in Section 4.1.1 of A23 have ASM and NEFOP coverage combined to achieve a total coverage rate.

POSSIBLE MOTION

4. Review timeline

Date	Meeting	Purpose of meeting
11/5	PDT meeting	Identify and provide input on outstanding issues with alternatives, review vessel specific analysis
11/12	PDT develops DEIS	
11/25	AP/Committee	Clarify any outstanding issues
12/4	Council	Possible addition of vessel level coverage option? Clarify any outstanding issues
Mid Jan.	PDT meeting/call?	Finalize DEIS analyses
Mid Jan.	AP/Committee (1 or 2 days)	Review draft analyses and select preferred alternatives
1/28	Council	Review draft analyses and select preferred alternatives; approve DEIS for public hearings

NO ACTION NEEDED TODAY

For Today

1. Review what is updated – **NO ACTION NEEDED**
 - Clarified alternative names and limited structure changes
 - Minor tweaks to language for clarification
2. Review 5 outstanding questions on alternatives – **FEEDBACK, MOTIONS MAY OR MAY NOT BE NECESSARY**
 - Modifications needed to clarify certain alternatives (identified in the table provided by the PDT – Doc.#4b)
3. Review analysis and development of possible vessel specific coverage level option – **POSSIBLE MOTION**
 - Considerations of vessel specific coverage levels (Doc.#4c)
 - Discussion on decoupling NEFOP and ASM coverage
4. Review timeline – **NO ACTION NEEDED**

**Summary of
Possible Limited Access Program for
the Recreational Groundfish
Party and Charter Fishery
*Public Listening Sessions and
Public Comment*
Council Staff**

**Joint Groundfish Committee/
Advisory Panel Meeting
November 25, 2019
Danvers, MA**



Public Listening Session Schedule

(2 hour duration each session)

Seabrook, NH – Thursday, April 4, Seabrook Public Library, 5:45pm

Avalon, NJ– Monday, April 8, ICONA Golden Inn (following MAFMC meeting), 6pm

Wells, ME – Thursday, April 18, Wells Public Library, 5:45pm

Narragansett, RI– Tuesday, April 23, University of Rhode Island, 6pm

Chatham, MA– Tuesday, May 7, Chatham Community Center, 6pm

Plymouth, MA– Wednesday, May 8, Hampton Inn, 6pm

Gloucester, MA– Thursday, May 9, Sawyer Free Library, 5:45pm

Webinar– Friday, May 10, 1 pm

Public comments were invited

The New England Fishery Management Council is considering the possibility of developing an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The Council was seeking comments from the public on the management of the recreational groundfish fishery.

Why was the Council seeking public input?

The Council was seeking public input on the possibility of initiating an amendment to develop a limited access program for the recreational groundfish party and charter fishery.

The Council heard from some recreational fishery participants indicating interest in developing a program, while others in the fishery did not agree with pursuing a program.

Given this split in views, the Council sought feedback from the public on interest in developing a program, in order to assist the Council in deciding how to proceed.

What actions have already been taken?

In January 2018 at its first meeting of the year, the Council recommend refreshing the control date in the party/charter fishery.

The control date in the party/charter fishery was refreshed to March 19, 2018.

Requested Comments

- **Goals and Objectives-** What would the goals and objectives of a limited access program be?
- **Definitions-** Would limited entry apply to all or a portion of the fleet? How would groundfish recreational for-hire be defined?
- **Permits/Vessels-** What would happen to the permits? Should the for-hire fleet be all limited access, or should there be an open access component with other constraints? Should there be vessel upgrade restrictions?
- **Measures-** What range of management measures would be considered for limited entry?
- **History-** How will history be used – would it be simple or complex?
- **New Entrants-** What opportunities will there be for new entrants?

Several opportunities for public comment

- At the listening sessions
- In writing: fax, email and mail
- Closed: Friday, May 17, 2019, by 5pm



Overview of summary document

- Summary Report
 - Introduction
 - Background
 - Description of Commenters
 - Comment Summary
 - Overall Summary
 - Specific Comments and Themes
 - Next Steps
- Appendix A – Listening Session Summaries
- Appendix B – Background Document
- Appendix C- Written Comments



What happens next?

The Groundfish Committee will consider possibly recommending to the Council an initiation of an amendment as a future Council priority, with input from Advisory Panels.

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

Possible Council Priorities for 2020

Council Staff

**Joint Groundfish Committee/
Advisory Panel Meeting
November 25, 2019
Danvers, MA**



Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?
<u>Set ABCs/ACLs for half of groundfish stocks for FY2021-2023 and US/CA stocks for FY 2021</u>			Y
Complete Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring action	Ongoing	Y	
Cod Stock Structure Working Group: review results and develop management approach	Ongoing	Y	
Amendment to adopt limited access for the party/charter fishery		Y	
Possible recreational sub-ACL for GB cod			
Address SDC issue when analytic assessments fail		Y	
Address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data	Ongoing	Y	
Modify the GF control rule for stocks without analytical models – i.e., empirical and index-based (see SSC list below, item 7 above)			
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	Ongoing		
Consider sub-ACL of haddock for the small-mesh multispecies fishery			
Explore alternative ways to manage yellowtail flounder for the groundfish and scallop fisheries			
US/CA trading provisions			
Action to adopt electronic reporting for party/charter vessels			
Complete sector five-year review	Ongoing	Y	
Groundfish operational assessments			
TRAC/TMGC			

Groundfish Advisors- Sep. 16, 2019

Possible 2020 Priorities:

Groundfish Advisory Panel Consensus Statement:

The GAP recommends that the Groundfish Committee requests the Groundfish Plan Development Team prepare a White Paper that provides a summary of the types and number of federal fishery permits connected to a federal multispecies permit and the steps that would need to be taken to consider permit splitting of the federal multispecies permit from other federal permits.

Intent: There has been prior support by the GAP and more recent interest by the industry to consider permit splitting of northeast multispecies permit from other federal permits. In order to understand what this would entail - the permits that are involved and the process for other fishery management plans, the GAP requests a White Paper to inform next steps.

Recreational Advisors- Nov. 12, 2019

The Recreational Advisory Panel lost its quorum in the midst of discussing its recommendations for possible Council priorities for 2020. Therefore, the following summary of the discussion from the remaining members is forwarded to the Groundfish Committee for consideration of possible 2020 priorities.

1. Revise accountability measures process (proactive and reactive) to allow for regulation stability and account for uncertainty in the MRIP data
2. Review Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group results and develop management approach
3. Develop an amendment for limited entry for party and charter in the recreational Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) fishery.

For Today:

- Make final recommendations on possible 2020 Council priorities for groundfish.