

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Committee met on Oct. 3 and Nov. 2, 2016 to review the work of the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) and recommendations from the two advisory panels. The Committee discussed and made some recommendations to the Council on preferred alternatives in draft Framework Adjustment 56 (FW 56), the notice of intent for scoping for a groundfish monitoring action, and developed a prioritized list of 2017 priorities. The Recreational Advisory Panel met on Oct. 26, 2016 and the Groundfish Advisory Panel met on Nov. 1, 2016 to provide recommendations to the Groundfish Committee regarding FW 56. The Groundfish PDT met on Sept. 27, Oct. 25, and Nov. 10.
- B. Framework Adjustment 56 (specifications/management measures): This action would set specifications for U.S./CA stocks on Georges Bank (cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder) for fishing years 2017 and witch flounder for fishing years 2017-2019, establish a sub-annual catch limit for northern windowpane flounder in the scallop fishery, increase the Georges Bank sub-annual catch limit in the mid-water trawl Atlantic herring fishery, modify the trigger for the Georges Bank yellowtail flounder accountability measures in the scallop fishery, and modify the process used to set recreational management measures. The Council will take final action on the measures with the exception of witch flounder specifications. Final action on witch flounder specification will occur at the January Council meeting.
- C. Amendment 18 (accumulation limits/fleet diversity): Council staff completed the preliminary submission of the draft EIS to GARFO in October 30, 2015. GARFO sent comments on the preliminary submission on June 17, 2016. The formal submission was sent to GARFO on August 12, 2016.
- D. Groundfish Monitoring Action: At its September 2016 meeting, the Council directed staff to develop a draft notice of intent for scoping for a Groundfish Monitoring Amendment. The Council will review the draft document.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Take final action on most of the Framework Adjustment 56 measures.
- B. Review a draft notice of intent for scoping for a Groundfish Monitoring Action.

III. INFORMATION

1. Groundfish Committee meeting motions, November 2, 2016
2. Presentation: Groundfish Committee Report (Council staff, *to be provided*)
3. Framework Adjustment 56
 - a. Draft action plan for FW 56 version 4, Nov. 4, 2016
 - b. Draft FW 56 alternatives for consideration, Nov. 10, 2016
 - c. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re development of alternatives for FW 56 and sub-component analysis with attachments, version 2, Nov. 10, 2016
 - d. Draft impact analysis for FW 56, Nov. 10, 2016.
4. Groundfish monitoring action
 - a. Draft notice of intent for scoping, Nov. 10, 2016
5. Past meeting summaries
 - a. Groundfish Advisory Panel, meeting motions, Nov. 1, 2016
 - b. Groundfish Committee, meeting motions, Oct. 3, 2016
6. Correspondence