

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Groundfish Committee**

**I. STATUS**

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) met on November 12, 2015 and developed recommendations on Framework Adjustment 55 (FW 55) and priorities. The Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) met November 17, 2015 and developed recommendations on FW 55 and FY 2016 Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock recreational measures and priorities. The Groundfish Committee then met the following day on November 18, 2015. The Committee made recommendations to the Council on FW 55 and FY 2016 Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock recreational measures. Due to time constraints, the Committee deferred the majority of its discussion on priorities to the Council meeting. The Groundfish PDT held meetings on October 8 and 29 and November 5 and 16.
- B. Framework Adjustment 55 – Specifications, Groundfish Monitoring Program, and Other Management Measures: The scope of FW 55 is to incorporate any status changes for groundfish stocks and set specifications for all groundfish stocks in order to meet regulatory requirements to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the fishery. The action also aims to modify the groundfish monitoring program (at-sea monitoring) and includes other management measures for the commercial and recreational groundfish fishery.
- C. Amendment 18 – Accumulation Limits/Fleet Diversity: The Council took final action on Amendment 18 at its September/October 2015 meeting. The preliminary submission to NMFS was made on October 30, 2015.

**II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. Develop final recommendations for Gulf of Maine haddock and Gulf of Maine cod recreational measures for fishing year 2016 to NMFS.
- B. Final action on FW 55 - select final alternatives for submission to NMFS.

**III. INFORMATION**

- 1. FY 2015 Groundfish Catch Reports
- 2. Memo from Executive Director Nies to Council, re remanding recommendations back to the SSC, November 24, 2015
- 3. Framework Adjustment 55
  - a. Draft Action Plan for FW 55, November 10, 2015
  - b. Draft Framework Adjustment 55 Alternatives, November 20, 2015
  - c. Stock Assessment Update of 20 Northeast Groundfish Stocks through 2014, including the peer review reports for each stock (NEFSC, October 2015)
  - d. PDT memo to SSC and CC the Groundfish Committee re Groundfish ABCs and OFLs for FY 2016- FY 2018, October 9, 2015
  - e. Scallop PDT to the Groundfish PDT re projections of bycatch in Scallop FW 27, dated November 9, 2015
  - f. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee, re FW 55, November 16, 2015
  - g. Draft Framework Adjustment 55 Environmental Impact Analysis, November 25, 2015
  - h. Council Decision Document for FW 55, November 25, 2015

- i. FW 55 Presentation (*to be provided*)
- 4. Recreational Measures in the Gulf of Maine for FY 2016
  - a. Recreational Catch Summary, NEFSC, November 2, 2015
  - b. FY 2016 Simulations, NEFSC, November 2, 2015
  - c. Recreational Measures Presentation , NEFSC, November 17, 2015
  - d. FY 2016 Gulf of Maine Recreational Management Measures Presentation (*to be provided*)
- 5. Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) meeting summary, September 2, 2015
- 6. FY 2014 Final Year-End Groundfish Catch Report, GARFO
- 7. Recreational Fisheries Regional Implementation Plan
  - a. Letter from GARFO soliciting input, October 1, 2015
  - b. Regional Recreational Fisheries Action Agenda 2014-2015, March, 2014
- 8. Final Groundfish Committee meeting motions, November 18, 2015
- 9. Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) meeting summary, January 22, 2015
- 10. Final GAP meeting motions, November 12, 2015
- 11. Final RAP meeting motions, November 17, 2015
- 12. Correspondence