

# **Groundfish Framework Adjustment 55**

## **Draft Action Plan**

**Council:** New England Fishery Management Council

**Fishery:** Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

**Title of Action:** Framework Adjustment 55 (FW55)/ Multispecies Specifications

**Scope:** To incorporate any status changes for groundfish stocks and set specifications for all groundfish stocks.

### **Problem Statement/Objective of Action:**

To meet regulatory requirements to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the fishery. These include:

#### **Regulatory Requirements**

- Stock status changes, if any
- Specifications for all groundfish stocks

### **Likely Range of Alternatives:**

- 4.1 Updates to status determination criteria, formal rebuilding programs and annual catch limits
  - 4.1.1 Revised Status Determination Criteria
  - 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits

**Type of NEPA Analysis (CE/EA/EIS):**

This action is expected to require an Environmental Assessment.

**Type of Endangered Species Act Consultation Expected (Informal/Formal):**

An informal consultation is expected for this action.

**Applicable Laws/Issues:**

***Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act:***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***Administrative Procedure Act:***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***National Environmental Policy Act:***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***Regulatory Flexibility Act:***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***Paperwork Reduction Act:***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***Coastal Zone Management Act:***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***Endangered Species Act:***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***Marine Mammal Protection Act:***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***E.O. 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review)***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***E.O. 13132 (Federalism):***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

***Information Quality Act:***

Typical issues and analyses expected at this time

## Plan Development Team (PDT) Membership and Other Individuals:

**PDT Chair/NEFMC Project Manager:** Jamie M. Cournane, PhD

**GARFO Project Manager:** Sarah Heil

	Organization	Name	Role and Responsibility
Plan Development Team	NEFMC	Jamie Cournane	Chair of Groundfish PDT, Groundfish FMP Coordinator. Collaborate on Biological and Economic Impact Analyses. Oversee document preparation and submission.
	NEFMC	Jonathon Peros	Consultation on development of measures and data analysis. Coordinate updating of the Affected Environment. Complete Protected Species Impact Analyses. Coordinate on Essential Fish Habitat Impact Analyses. Document preparation.
	NEFMC	Rachel Feeney	Collaborate on Social Impact Analyses.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Sarah Heil	Primary point of contact in NMFS for FW55. Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs. Prepare document for rule-making.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	William Whitmore	Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Aja Szumylo	Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs.
	NMFS GARFO Analysis & Program Support Division	Dan Caless	Support data requests. Identify potential monitoring issues during development and review.
	NMFS GARFO NEPA	Tim Cardiasmenos	Review document for completeness in terms of NEPA requirements during development and review.
	NMFS GARFO Protected Resources Division	Danielle Palmer	Consultation on Protected Species Impact Analyses. Consultation on development of measures and impacts on protected resources
	NMFS NEFSC Population Dynamics Branch	Paul Nitschke	Consultation on development of measures, data analysis, and biological impact analyses.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Br.	Chad Demarest	Consultation on development of measures. Complete data requests for the PDT. Complete Economic Impact Analyses.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Br.	Greg Ardini	Consultation on development of measures. Complete data requests for the PDT. Collaborate on Economic Impact Analyses.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Br.	Anna Henry	Consultation on development of measures. Collaborate on Social Impact Analyses.
	Maine DMR	Sally Sherman	Consultation on development of measures and data analysis.
	Mass. DMF	Steve Correia	Consultation on development of measures, data analysis, and biological impact analyses.
Other Individuals	NEFMC	Michelle Bachman	Complete Essential Fish Habitat Impact Analyses.
	NEFMC	Deirdre Boelke	Support impacts of sub-ACLs on the scallop fishery
	NEFMC	Lori Steele	Support impacts of sub-ACLs on the herring fishery
	NMFS GCNE	Mitch MacDonald	Consultation on potential legal issues and questions.
	NMFS GARFO Habitat Conservation Div.	David Stevenson	Consultation on development of measures and impacts on habitat.

**NMFS Implementation Membership:****Implementation Team Chair:** Sarah Heil, GARFO Staff

Organization	Name	Role
NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Sarah Heil	Implementation Team, Chair
NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Liz Sullivan	Assist with issues and measures affecting sector operations
NMFS GARFO Analysis and Program Support Division (Statistics)	Dan Caless	Implementation of specifications, new sub-ACLs, and other related catch monitoring issues
NMFS GARFO Protected Resources Division	Danielle Palmer	Consultation on measures and impacts on protected resources
NMFS Northeast General Counsel—Enforcement	Joe Heckwolf	Consultation on development of measures with enforcement considerations including any new area/gear restrictions
NMFS Office of Law Enforcement	Don Frei Eric Provencher Ross Lane	Consultation on development of measures with enforcement considerations including any new area/gear restrictions
NMFS Office of Law Enforcement—VMS	Bill Semrau	Consultation on development of measures with VMS considerations including any new area restrictions

**Implementation Team Issues:***None identified at this time*

## Worksheet 1: Groundfish PDT Resources and Work Schedule

(Section leads as indicated.)

Section	Date Due	Council Staff	Other Staff	Estimated Time to Complete (Days)
Review of Alternatives and Discuss Potential Impacts Analysis	10/XX/15	<u>Jamie, Jonathon</u>	Groundfish PDT	1
Draft Alternatives and Impacts Analysis Template Distributed	10/XX/15	<u>Jamie</u>		1
Data Requests			<u>Dan</u>	
- Estimates of CY 2015 catches	08/XX/15		<u>Dan</u>	10-12
Impacts Analysis				
-Biological Impacts	10/XX/15	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon, Deirdre	Steve, Paul, Sarah, Sally, Tim	7-14
-Social Impacts	10/XX/15	<u>Rachel</u>	<u>Anna</u> , Tim	7-14
-Economic Impacts	10/XX/15	Jamie, Deirdre	<u>Chad</u> , Sarah, Tim	7-14
-Habitat Impacts (EFH)	10/XX/15	<u>Michelle/Fiona, Johnathon</u>	Tim	7-14
-Protected Resources	10/XX/15	Jamie, <u>Jonathon</u>	Tim, Danielle	7-14
Updating Affected Environment	10/XX/15	Jamie, <u>Jonathon</u>	Sarah	5
Introduction, Purpose and Need	10/XX/15	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Sarah	2
Decision Document	11/XX/15 (Committee) 11/XX/15 (Council)	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Sarah	1
Applicable Laws	12/XX/15	<u>Jamie</u>	<u>Chad</u> , Sarah	4
Cumulative Impacts	12/XX/15	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Sarah	2
PDT receives full document for review	12/XX/15	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Groundfish PDT	
Review of full document: comments due from PDT	12/XX/15	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon	Groundfish PDT	7
Council Staff Final Review	12/XX/15	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon, Chris Kellogg		3
Preliminary Submission	12/XX/15	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon		
Formal Submission	1/XX/16	<u>Jamie</u> , Jonathon		

**Worksheet 2: Planned Council milestones for FW 55**

<b>MILESTONES</b>	<b>PLANNED</b>
<b>1. Council initiates framework</b>	<b>JUN 2015</b>
2. TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including GB yellowtail flounder	JUL 2015
3. SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder	AUG – SEP 2015
4. Groundfish assessment updates for all stocks except for GB yellowtail flounder	SEP 2015
5. TMGC recommends TACs for US/CA stocks	SEP 2015
6. SSC completes ABC recommendations	OCT 2015
7. PDT analyzes alternatives	AUG - NOV 2015
<b>8. Council approves framework /specifications</b>	<b>DEC 2015</b>
<b>9. Final submission of framework document to NMFS</b>	<b>JAN 2016</b>
<b>10. Implementation</b>	<b>MAY 2016</b>

**Version Control:**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Change Description</b>
1	5/20/2015	J.Cournane	Initial Version
1.1	5/29/2015	S. Heil	Minor updates to initial version