

Recreational Advisory Panel Meeting

Webinar

January 20, 2026

Recreational Groundfish Fishery Fishing Year 2026 Measures

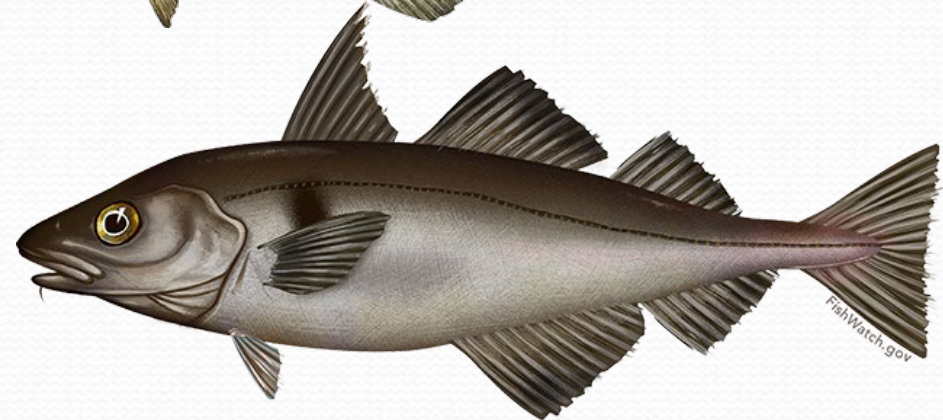
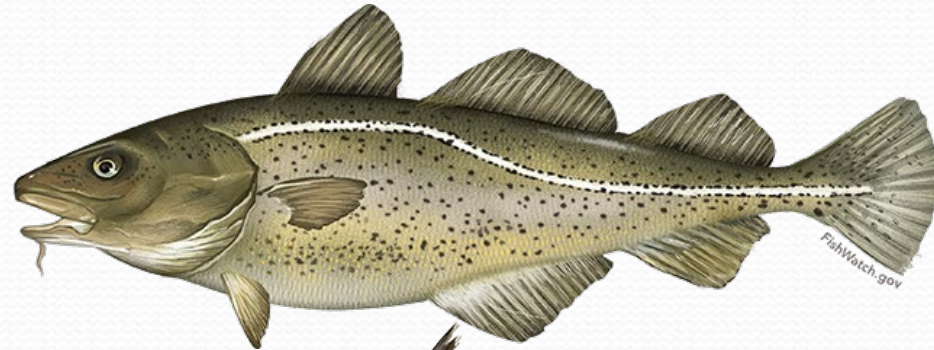


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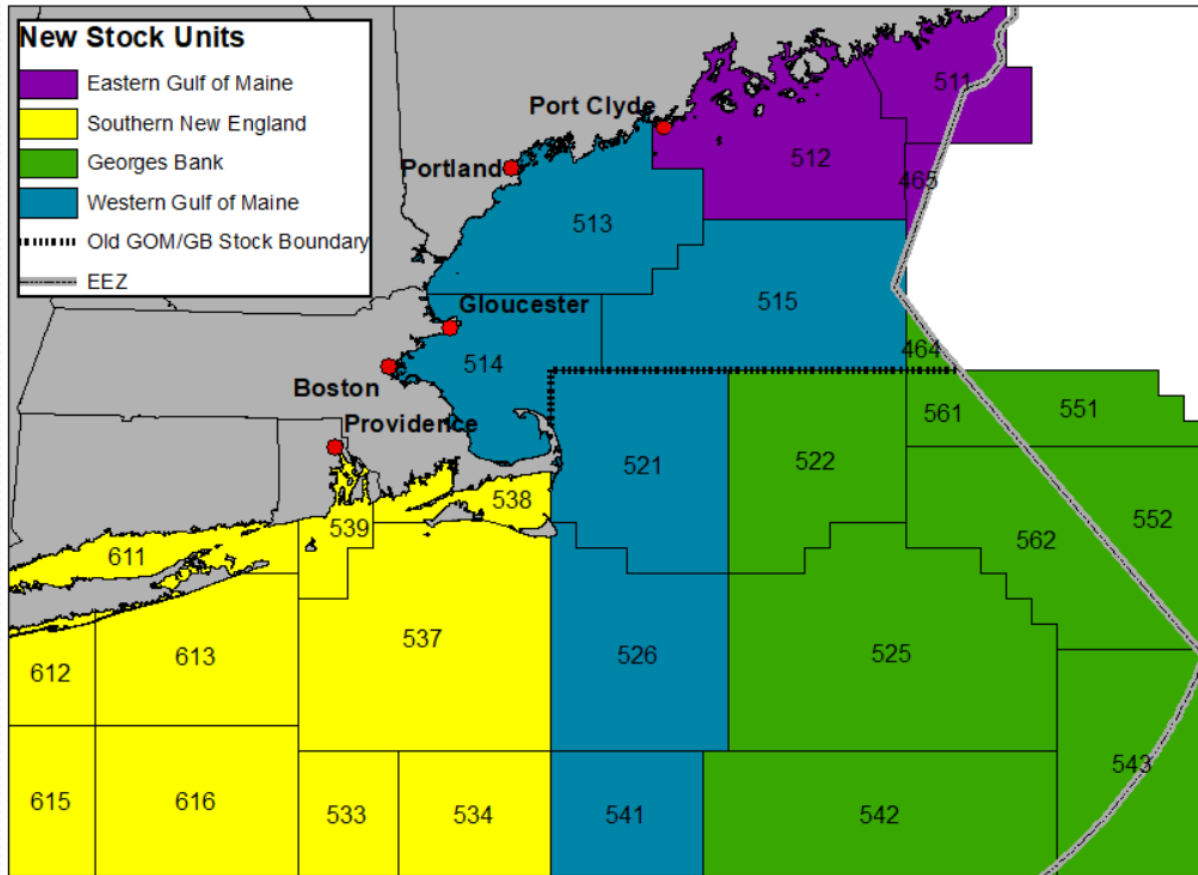
Meeting Goal

Develop recommendations to the Groundfish Committee on fishing year 2026 recreational measures for:

- Western Gulf of Maine cod and
- Gulf of Maine haddock



New Atlantic Cod Stock Structure



Council's Atlantic Cod Management Transition

May 1, 2025

Original planned implementation of new cod stock units

May 18, 2025

Amendment 25 disapproved

Delayed

June 25, 2025

Council reinitiates A25

Sept. 24, 2025

Council final action on A25 (Revised)

Jan. 13, 2026

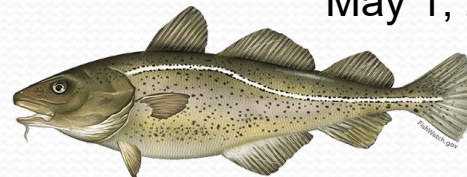
A25 (Revised) Notice of Availability (NOA) published

May 1, 2026

Target implementation of A25 / new cod stock units



Emergency measures in place for FY2025 – under 2 cod stock model



Current Measures – Emergency Rule

Gulf of Maine Cod

Open season: September 1 - October 31

Minimum size: 23 inches

Possession limit: 1 fish per day

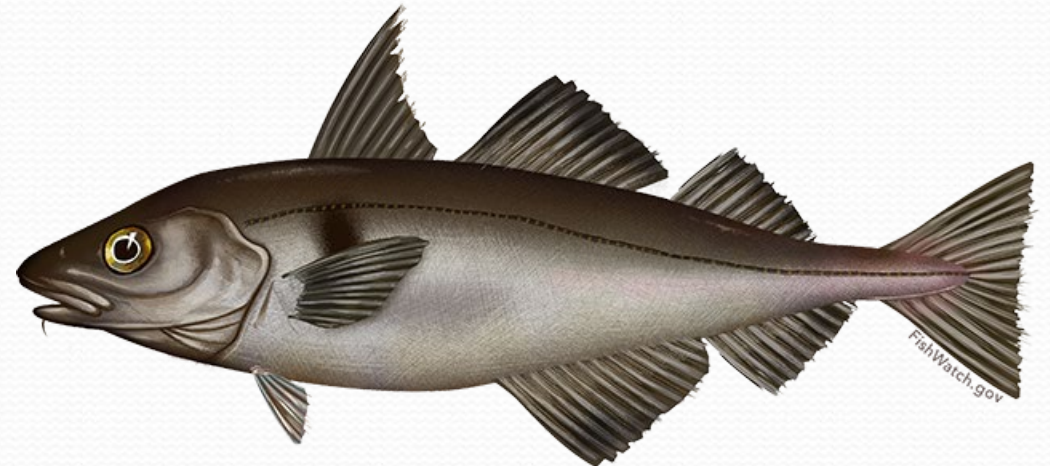
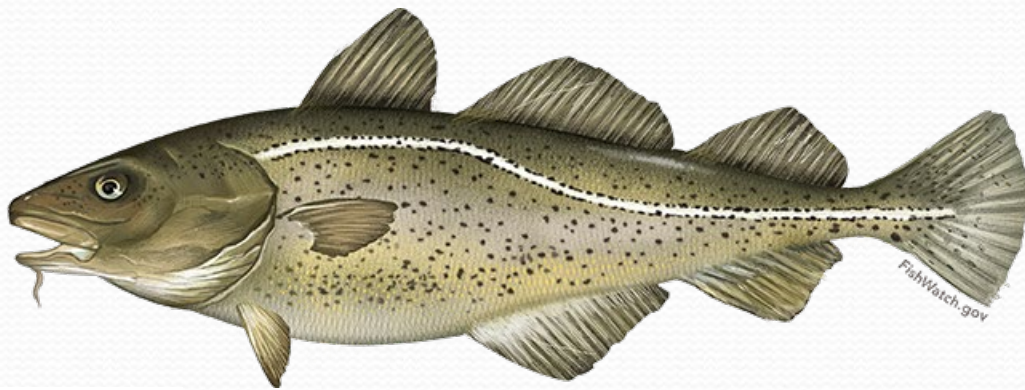
Gulf of Maine Haddock

Open season: May 1 – February 28/29; April 1–30

Minimum size: 18 inches

Possession limit: 15 fish per day

“Status Quo Actual”



Council Proposed Measures for FY25

"Status Quo Proposed"

Gulf of Maine Cod

Open season: **May 1 - 31**, September 1 - October 31

Minimum size: 23 inches

Possession limit: 1 fish per day

Gulf of Maine Haddock

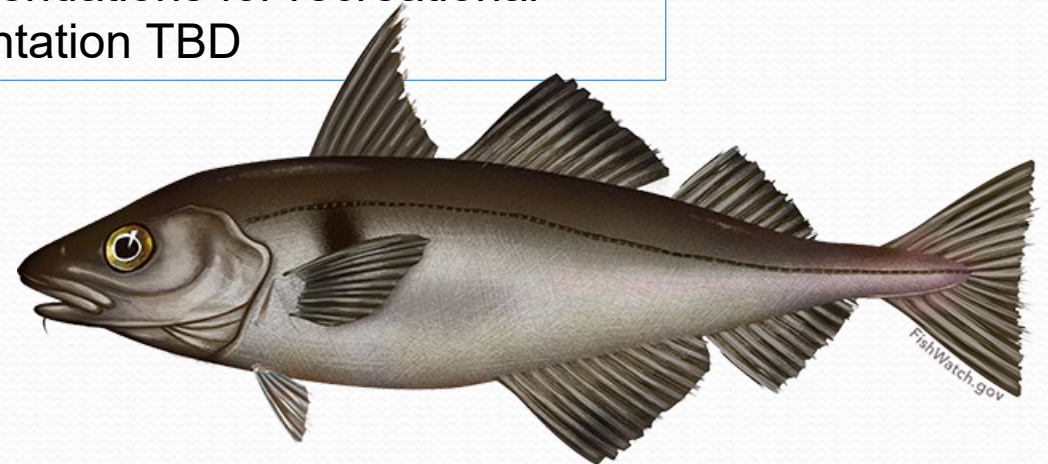
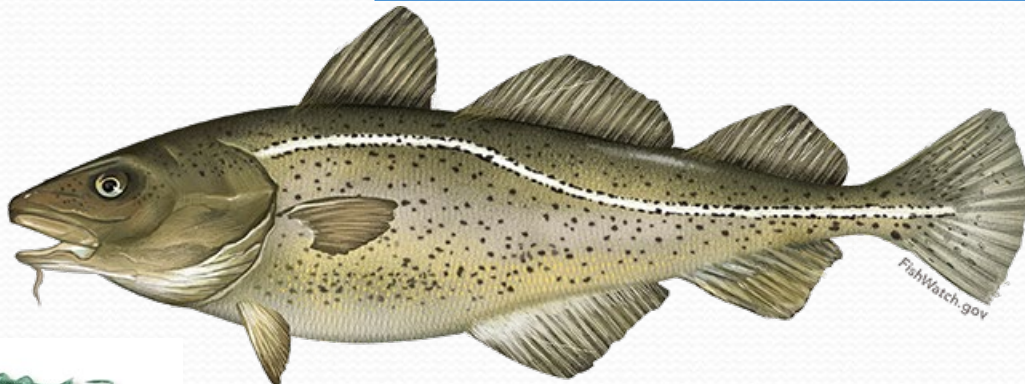
Open season: May 1 – February 28/29; April 1–30

Minimum size: **17 inches**

Possession limit: 15 fish per day

Framework 69 proposed rule - includes the Council's recommendations for recreational measures for GOM cod and GOM haddock - implementation TBD

A25 - includes the Council's recommendations for recreational measures for **WGOM** cod - implementation TBD



Current / Proposed Catch Limits

Stock	Council's Proposed FY2025* sub-ACL (mt)	Council's Proposed FY2026 sub-ACL (mt)	% Change
GOM Haddock	1,075	1,146	+7%

Stock	Council's Proposed FY2025* sub-ACL (mt)	Council's Proposed FY2026 sub-ACL (mt)	% Change
WGOM Cod	99	118	+19%

*In FY2025, NMFS implemented an emergency action which implemented a GOM haddock recreational sub-ACL at 729 mt (from FW66) and set a GOM cod recreational sub-ACL at 120 mt based on converting WGOM, EGOM, and GB cod values from FW69.

Accountability Measures

Proactive

- Can be adjusted by the Regional Administrator to ensure the recreational fishery will achieve, but not exceed, its sub-ACL for the coming year.
- Changes are typically made prior to the start of the fishing year.
- The Regional Administrator consults with the Council, or the Council's designee, and tells the Council, or its designee, what recreational measures are under consideration for the upcoming fishing year.
- If time allows, the Council also provides the RAP an opportunity to meet and discuss the proposed management measures.
- These AMs require development in consultation with the Council, because the appropriate suite of measures (e.g., bag limit, minimum fish size, and season) depends on the sub-ACL specified.

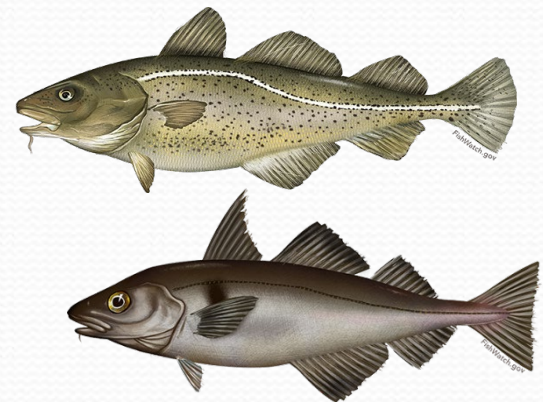
Accountability Measures

Reactive

- If catches exceed the sub-ACL, NMFS determines the measures necessary to prevent exceeding the sub-ACL in future years following consultation with the Council
- Final measures are to be published no later than January.
- The 3-year average of recreational harvest is compared to the 3-year average of the recreational sub-ACL and, if necessary, AMs are to be implemented in the year immediately following.
- The recreational AM is can include adjustments to season, and/or adjustments to minimum size, and/or adjustments to bag limits.
- Separate AMs can be determined for the private boat and party/charter components of the recreational fishery – that is, the AMs may be different for these two components.

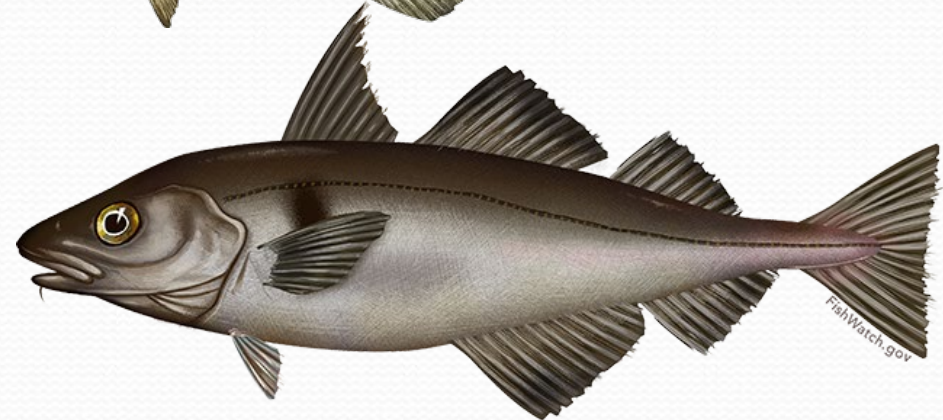
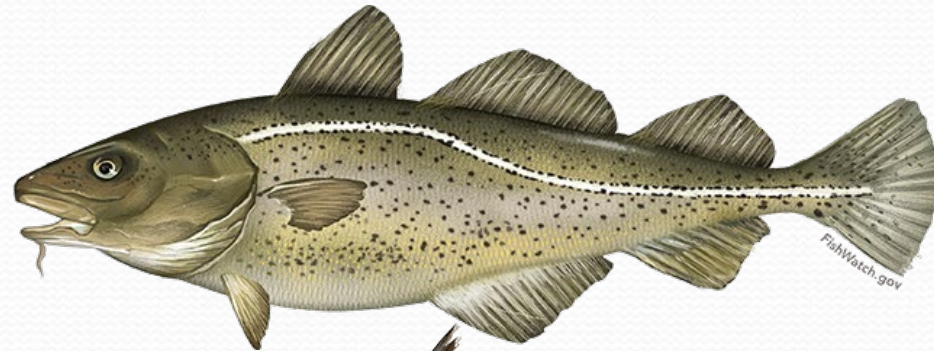
Recreational Decision Support Tool

- NEFSC developed a cloud-based Decision Support Tool (DST)
- New for use last year in developing FY2025 measures
- Automates model process
- Users (recreational advisors and groundfish committee members) can directly run the model to explore possible measures
- 2026 improvements included speed and ability to log off while a model run was underway



Next Steps

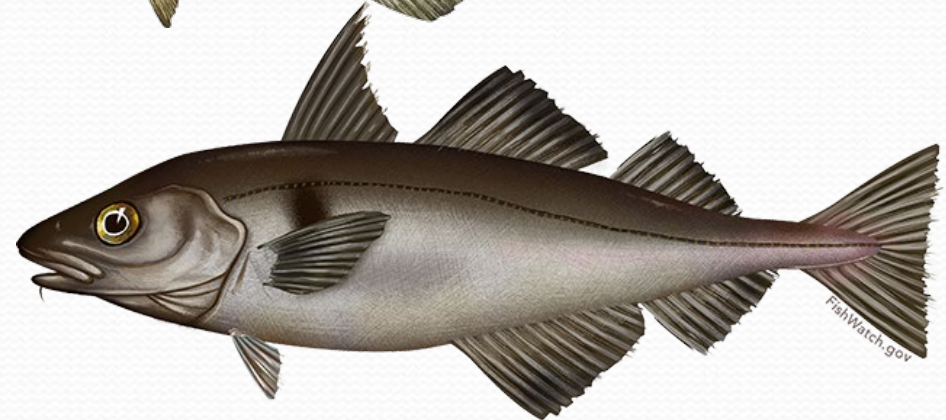
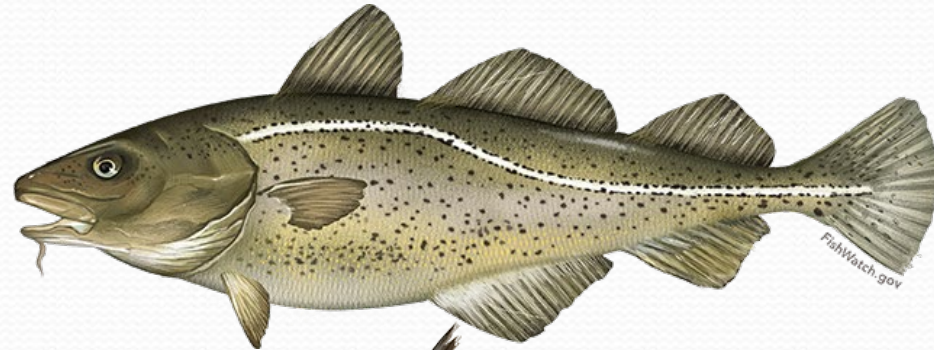
Tuesday, January 20 (this afternoon) – Groundfish Committee
Wednesday, January 28 – Council



Meeting Goal

Develop recommendations to the Groundfish Committee on fishing year 2026 recreational measures for:

- Western Gulf of Maine cod and
- Gulf of Maine haddock



2026 Council Priorities

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Ref #	Plan/Topic	Priority/Task	Estimated Timing
G1	Groundfish	Complete and submit FW72	Complete early 2026
G2	Groundfish	Action to set ABC/ACL for groundfish stocks for FY2027-FY2031; US/CA stocks for FY2027; additional management measures	2026
G3	Groundfish	Groundfish Management Track Assessments (June - Georges Bank haddock; Sept - Gulf of Maine haddock, American plaice) and data updates (halibut, witch flounder, pollock)	2026
G4	Groundfish	Updates for transboundary management (TMGC; cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder)	2026
G5	Groundfish	Review redfish sector exemption program	2026
G6	Groundfish	Amendment 23 monitoring system review including complete development of metrics	2026
G7	Groundfish	Continue work to revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	2026
G8	Groundfish	Review white hake rebuilding plan and reference points	2026

Groundfish Outlook by Quarter in 2026, updated January 6, 2026, NEFMC Staff

Council Priority*	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Amendment 25	Final Submission	GARFO implementation		
Recreational Measures	Develop recommendations for cod & haddock	GARFO implementation		
Framework Adjustment 72	Preliminary & Final Submissions	GARFO implementation		
Amendment 23 Review	Conduct review analyses	Complete review, consider recommendations for follow-up actions		
Redfish Sector Exemption Review	Conduct review analyses	Complete review, consider recommendations for follow-up actions		
ABC Control Rules Framework (68)	Contract work conducted to evaluate integration of revised Risk Policy with revised ABC CRs	Develop revised ABC CRs from simulation testing , conduct analysis	Final action	Implementation of revised ABC CRs for specifications
Framework Adjustment 7X		Develop scope Initiate action	Develop specifications & measures, conduct analysis	Final action
Atlantic Cod Management	Continue to develop transition plan for cod management units; paused pending Amendment 25 decision			
White Hake Rebuilding			Conduct rebuilding plan analyses & review biological reference points	
Stock Assessments		MT- GB haddock (Jun.)	Domestic updates for transboundary mgmt. (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder) (Jul.)	MT- GOM haddock, plaice Data updates- pollock, witch flounder, halibut (Sept.)

*Additional: Participate in TMGC, coordinate on EFH designation updates, and make recommendations for 2027 Council priorities

Other Business



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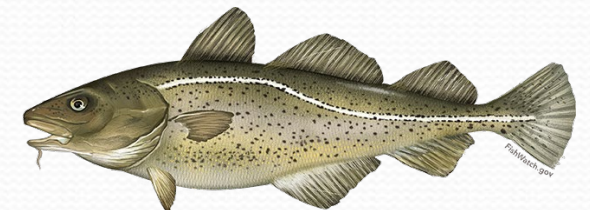
SNE Cod Recreational Measures

FY2025 (for “old GB”)	Proposed FY2026 for SNE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 fish bag limit • Closed year-round 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 fish bag limit • Closed year-round

Emergency measures in place for FY2025 for “old GB” cod

Proposed FY2026 measures for SNE cod included in Amendment 25

Stock	Council's Proposed FY2026 sub-ACL (mt)
SNE Cod	18



MRIP Update at January Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

11:15

Marine Recreational Information Program (Dr. Katherine Papacostas, NOAA Fisheries)

NOAA Fisheries presentation on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey study including updates on the follow-up study, calibration, and peer review

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00

Groundfish Committee Report (John Pappalardo)

Recreational Measures recommendations for Fishing Year 2026 for cod and haddock