

New England Fishery Management Council
Groundfish Committee Report
January Council Meeting – by Webinar
January 28-29, 2026

Meeting Motions

Action Required: based on Fishing Year 2025 Wave 5 MRIP data that became available after the Recreational Advisory Panel and Groundfish Committee meetings, the Committee's recommended measures do not meet the criteria of remaining below both cod and haddock sub-ACLs. The Council will need to develop a different set of measures to recommend to GARFO. Staff are working with the Groundfish Committee Chair to bring forward options for possible measures for the Council to discuss and consider during the Groundfish Committee Report.

Recreational Management Measures

Motion 1: [Committee Motion]

The Council recommends to GARFO for recreational measures (status quo measures proposed in FY2025) for:

Western Gulf of Maine Cod:

- Open season: May 1 – 31 and September 1 - October 31,
- Minimum size: 23 inches, and
- Possession limit: 1 fish per day

Gulf of Maine Haddock:

- Open season: May 1 - February 28/29 and April 1 – 30,
- Minimum size: 17 inches, and
- Possession limit: 15 fish per day