

DECISION DOCUMENT

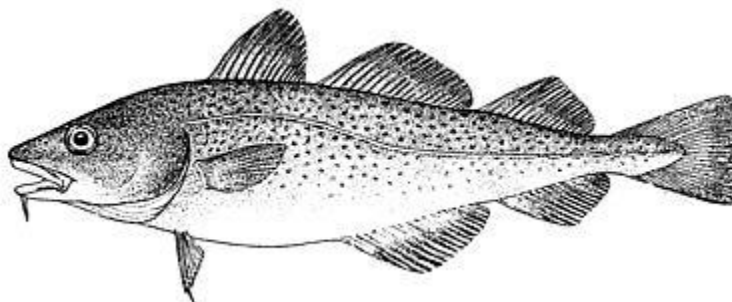
for

Framework Adjustment 58

to the

Northeast Multispecies

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)



Council Meeting
December 4-6, 2018

The following decision tables in this document appear in the same order as the sections in the Draft Framework 58 Alternatives document, dated November 26, 2018 (Document 3b-Draft EA with Appendices). The draft FW58 Environmental Impacts Analysis, dated November 26 (Document 3b-Draft EA with Appendices), November 24 (Document 3c- Scallop PDT memo), and November 29, 2018 (Document 3d-Draft EA Addendum) are also referenced. Page numbers are provided for reference, but please note that documents 3b and 3d are pulled from a master document and therefore page numbers within each document reflect the pages at the time of extraction.

Section 4.1.1 – Formal Rebuilding Plans

Georges Bank Winter Flounder Rebuilding Strategy (p. 29)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 8, 2018: In the Rebuilding Plans section, the Groundfish Committee recommends for each stock adding Sub-Option B's from Attachment # 1 from the Groundfish PDT memo (dated November 7, 2018) with the following refinements to the rebuilding options under Sub-Option B's:

- Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 6.9\%$ and 7% exploitation rates and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 9/0/2).

Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates. To develop options for:

- Stocks with projections (Georges Bank winter flounder and Southern New England/Mid -Atlantic yellowtail flounder) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, up to 10 years.
- Stocks without projections (witch flounder, Northern windowpane flounder, and ocean pout) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, consider undefined. (Motion carried 6/1/1).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options and Option 2 has three sub-options. The Council must select one option.
Option 1	No Action
Option 2/Sub-Option A	Revised rebuilding strategy for Georges Bank winter flounder - T_{target} of 10 years, rebuilding by 2029, at $F_{rebuild}$ of $50\%F_{MSY}$
Option 2/Sub-Option B	Revised rebuilding strategy for Georges Bank winter flounder - T_{target} of 10 years, rebuilding by 2029, at $F_{rebuild}$ of $70\%F_{MSY}$
Option 2/Sub-Option C	Revised rebuilding strategy for Georges Bank winter flounder - T_{target} of 10 years, rebuilding by 2029, at $F_{rebuild}$ of $75\%F_{MSY}$
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee made recommendations for which rebuilding plan options to include, but did not recommend preferred alternatives.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
<p>Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends that the Committee adopt the following rebuilding options as preferred (see Groundfish PDT memo, dated November 7, 2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 7\%$ exploitation rate and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 7/0/0). <p>Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates rather than fixed rebuilding time periods. (Motion carried 6/0/0).</p>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p>See Appendix I and Appendix III (Draft FW58 EA). Biological impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 160-167 Habitat impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 202 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 203-204 Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p.221-224. Social impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 239-240</p>	

Section 4.1.1 (cont.) –

Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder Rebuilding Strategy (p. 30)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 8, 2018: In the Rebuilding Plans section, the Groundfish Committee recommends for each stock adding Sub-Option B's from Attachment # 1 from the Groundfish PDT memo (dated November 7, 2018) with the following refinements to the rebuilding options under Sub-Option B's:

- Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 6.9\%$ and 7% exploitation rates and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 9/0/2).

Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates. To develop options for:

- Stocks with projections (Georges Bank winter flounder and Southern New England/Mid -Atlantic yellowtail flounder) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, up to 10 years.
- Stocks without projections (witch flounder, Northern windowpane flounder, and ocean pout) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, consider undefined. (Motion carried 6/1/1).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options and Option 2 has three sub-options. The Council must select one option.
Option 1	No Action
Option 2/Sub-Option A	Revised rebuilding strategy for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - T_{target} of 10 years, rebuilding by 2029, at $F_{rebuild}$ of $50\%F_{MSY}$
Option 2/Sub-Option B	Revised rebuilding strategy for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - T_{target} of 10 years, rebuilding by 2029, at $F_{rebuild}$ of $70\%F_{MSY}$
Option 2/Sub-Option C	Revised rebuilding strategy for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - T_{target} of 10 years, rebuilding by 2029, at $F_{rebuild}$ of $75\%F_{MSY}$
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee made recommendations for which rebuilding plan options to include.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
<p>Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends that the Committee adopt the following rebuilding options as preferred (see Groundfish PDT memo, dated November 7, 2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 7\%$ exploitation rate and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 7/0/0). <p>Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates rather than fixed rebuilding time periods. (Motion carried 6/0/0).</p>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p>See Appendix I and Appendix III (Draft FW58 EA). Biological impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 167-171 Habitat impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 203 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 205-206 Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 225-227 Social impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 240-241</p>	

**Section 4.1.1 (cont.) –
Witch Flounder Rebuilding Strategy (p. 32)**

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 8, 2018: In the Rebuilding Plans section, the Groundfish Committee recommends for each stock adding Sub-Option B's from Attachment # 1 from the Groundfish PDT memo (dated November 7, 2018) with the following refinements to the rebuilding options under Sub-Option B's:

- Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 6.9\%$ and 7% exploitation rates and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 9/0/2).

Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates. To develop options for:

- Stocks with projections (Georges Bank winter flounder and Southern New England/Mid -Atlantic yellowtail flounder) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, up to 10 years.
- Stocks without projections (witch flounder, Northern windowpane flounder, and ocean pout) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, consider undefined. (Motion carried 6/1/1).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options and Option 2 has two sub-options. The Council must select one option.
Option 1	No Action
Option 2/Sub-Option A	Revised rebuilding strategy for witch flounder - $F_{rebuild}$ is an exploitation rate of 5.9 percent and T_{target} is undefined
Option 2/Sub-Option B	Revised rebuilding strategy for witch flounder - $F_{rebuild}$ is an exploitation rate of 6 percent and T_{target} is undefined
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee made recommendations for which rebuilding plan options to include.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
<p>Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends that the Committee adopt the following rebuilding options as preferred (see Groundfish PDT memo, dated November 7, 2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 7\%$ exploitation rate and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 7/0/0). <p>Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates rather than fixed rebuilding time periods. (Motion carried 6/0/0).</p>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p>See Appendix I and Appendix III (Draft FW58 EA). Biological impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 172-173 Habitat impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 203 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 206-207 Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 227-228 Social impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 241-242</p>	

Section 4.1.1 (cont.) –

Northern Windowpane Flounder Rebuilding Strategy (p. 33)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 8, 2018: In the Rebuilding Plans section, the Groundfish Committee recommends for each stock adding Sub-Option B's from Attachment # 1 from the Groundfish PDT memo (dated November 7, 2018) with the following refinements to the rebuilding options under Sub-Option B's:

- Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 6.9\%$ and 7% exploitation rates and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 9/0/2).

Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates. To develop options for:

- Stocks with projections (Georges Bank winter flounder and Southern New England/Mid -Atlantic yellowtail flounder) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, up to 10 years.
- Stocks without projections (witch flounder, Northern windowpane flounder, and ocean pout) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, consider undefined. (Motion carried 6/1/1).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options and Option 2 has three sub-options. The Council must select one option.
Option 1	No Action
Option 2/Sub-Option A	Revised rebuilding strategy for northern windowpane flounder - $F_{rebuild}$ is $50\% F_{MSY}$ and T_{target} is undefined
Option 2/Sub-Option B	Revised rebuilding strategy for northern windowpane flounder - $F_{rebuild}$ is $70\% F_{MSY}$ and T_{target} is undefined
Option 2/Sub-Option C	Revised rebuilding strategy for northern windowpane flounder - $F_{rebuild}$ is $75\% F_{MSY}$ and T_{target} is undefined
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee made recommendations for which rebuilding plan options to include.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
<p>Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends that the Committee adopt the following rebuilding options as preferred (see Groundfish PDT memo, dated November 7, 2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 7\%$ exploitation rate and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 7/0/0). <p>Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates rather than fixed rebuilding time periods. (Motion carried 6/0/0).</p>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p>See Appendix I and Appendix III (Draft FW58 EA). Biological impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 173-174 Habitat impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 203 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 208-209 Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 228-229 Social impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 242</p>	

Section 4.1.1 (cont.) –

Ocean Pout Rebuilding Strategy (p. 34)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 8, 2018: In the Rebuilding Plans section, the Groundfish Committee recommends for each stock adding Sub-Option B's from Attachment # 1 from the Groundfish PDT memo (dated November 7, 2018) with the following refinements to the rebuilding options under Sub-Option B's:

- Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years)
- Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 6.9\%$ and 7% exploitation rates and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined)
- Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\% F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 9/0/2).

Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates. To develop options for:

- Stocks with projections (Georges Bank winter flounder and Southern New England/Mid -Atlantic yellowtail flounder) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, up to 10 years.
- Stocks without projections (witch flounder, Northern windowpane flounder, and ocean pout) at $50\%F_{MSY}$ and $75\%F_{MSY}$, consider undefined. (Motion carried 6/1/1).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options and Option 2 has three sub-options. The Council must select one option.
Option 1	No Action
Option 2/Sub-Option A	Revised rebuilding strategy for ocean pout - $F_{rebuild}$ is $50\% F_{MSY}$ and T_{target} is undefined
Option 2/Sub-Option B	Revised rebuilding strategy for ocean pout - $F_{rebuild}$ is $70\% F_{MSY}$ and T_{target} is undefined
Option 2/Sub-Option C	Revised rebuilding strategy for ocean pout - $F_{rebuild}$ is $75\% F_{MSY}$ and T_{target} is undefined
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee made recommendations for which rebuilding plan options to include.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
<p>Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends that the Committee adopt the following rebuilding options as preferred (see Groundfish PDT memo, dated November 7, 2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georges Bank winter flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder – Sub-Option B2 ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} = 10$ years) • Witch flounder– Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 7\%$ exploitation rate and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Northern windowpane – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) • Ocean pout – Sub-Option B ($F_{rebuild} = 70\%F_{MSY}$ and $T_{target} =$ undefined) (Motion carried 7/0/0). <p>Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates rather than fixed rebuilding time periods. (Motion carried 6/0/0).</p>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p>See Appendix I and Appendix III (Draft FW58 EA). Biological impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 174-175 Habitat impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 204 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 209-211 Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 229-230 Social impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 242-243</p>	

Section 4.1.2. – Annual Catch Limits (p. 36)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council to select as preferred:

- In Section 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits: 4.1.2.2, Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications
- In Section 4.2.1 Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area, Option 2 Exempt vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and
- In Section 4.3.1 Atlantic Sea Scallop AM Implementation Policy, Option 2 Temporary change to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery AM implementation policy for the GB yellowtail flounder stock (Motion carried 8/0/3).

Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Committee For the stocks examined by the Plan Development Team (PDT), the Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that the state waters sub-component percentages remain at status quo and recommends the PDT further refine the other sub-components. (Motion carried 5/0/3).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two options. The Council must select one option.
Option 1	No Action option
Option 2	Revised annual catch level specifications.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee made recommendations for changes to some of the sub-component values from those determined by the PDT.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
<p>Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Committee to select as preferred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Section 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits: 4.1.2.2, Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications • In Section 4.2.1 Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area, Option 2 Exempt vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and • In Section 4.3.1 Atlantic Sea Scallop AM Implementation Policy, Option 2 Temporary change to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery AM implementation policy for the GB yellowtail flounder stock (Motion carried 7/0/0). <p>Motion on September 18, 2018: For the stocks examined by the Plan Development Team (PDT), the Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the state waters component percentages remain at status quo and accept the PDT recommendations (Table 1 of PDT memo dated September 14, 2018) for the other components (i.e., other federal fisheries) except for the use of research catch of GOM cod in 2017 in the evaluation. (Motion carried 6/0/0).</p>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations	
<p>Biological impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 176-180, Document 3c (Scallop PDT memo)</p> <p>Habitat impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 204-205</p> <p>Endangered and other protected species impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 211-214</p> <p>Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 230-251, Document 3c (Scallop PDT memo)</p> <p>Social impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 243-245</p>	

**Section 4.2.1 –
Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area
(p. 42)**

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council to select as preferred:

- In Section 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits: 4.1.2.2, Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications
- In Section 4.2.1 Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area, Option 2 Exempt vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and
- In Section 4.3.1 Atlantic Sea Scallop AM Implementation Policy, Option 2 Temporary change to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery AM implementation policy for the GB yellowtail flounder stock (Motion carried 8/0/3).

Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council to add in Section 4.2.1.2 Option 2: Exempt vessels fishing in NAFO waters from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes. It would be clarified under Option 2 that the minimum fish sizes would be as specified in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) – which may change on an annual basis. NAFO regulations would still apply. (Motion carried 8/0/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two options. The Council must select one option.
Option 1	No Action option
Option 2	Exempt vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
<p>Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Committee to select as preferred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Section 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits: 4.1.2.2, Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications • In Section 4.2.1 Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area, Option 2 Exempt vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and • In Section 4.3.1 Atlantic Sea Scallop AM Implementation Policy, Option 2 Temporary change to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery AM implementation policy for the GB yellowtail flounder stock (Motion carried 7/0/0). <p>Motion on September 18, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to support in Section 4.2.1.2 Option 2: Exempt vessels fishing in NAFO waters from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes. (Motion carried 6/0/0)</p>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations	
<p>Biological impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 181-184 Habitat impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 205-206 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 214-215 Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 252 Social impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 245-246</p>	

**Section 4.3.1 –
Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery AM Implementation Policy
(p. 44)**

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council to select as preferred:

- In Section 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits: 4.1.2.2, Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications
- In Section 4.2.1 Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area, Option 2 Exempt vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and
- In Section 4.3.1 Atlantic Sea Scallop AM Implementation Policy, Option 2 Temporary change to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery AM implementation policy for the GB yellowtail flounder stock (Motion carried 8/0/3).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two options. The Council must select one option.
Option 1	No Action option
Option 2	Temporary change to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery AM implementation policy for the Georges Bank yellowtail flounder stock
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee recommended the temporary change to the AM implementation policy be in place only for FY2019 and FY2020.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
Motion on November 8, 2018: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Committee to select as preferred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Section 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits: 4.1.2.2, Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications • In Section 4.2.1 Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area, Option 2 Exempt vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and • In Section 4.3.1 Atlantic Sea Scallop AM Implementation Policy, Option 2 Temporary change to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery AM implementation policy for the GB yellowtail flounder stock (Motion carried 7/0/0). 	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations	
Biological impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW 58EA) p. 184-200, Document 3c (Scallop PDT memo) Habitat impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 206 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 215-216 Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft FW58 EA ADDENDUM) p. 252-253, Document 3c (Scallop PDT memo) Social impacts: Document 3b (Draft FW58 EA) p. 246-247	