

Groundfish Framework Adjustment 56

DRAFT Action Plan

Council: New England Fishery Management Council

Fishery: Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

Title of Action: Framework Adjustment 56 (FW56)

Scope: To set specifications for FY 2017 for US/Canada stocks (Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder) and FY 2017 – FY 2019 for witch flounder. To allocate northern windowpane flounder to the scallop fishery. To increase the sub-ACL for Georges Bank haddock for the Atlantic herring mid-water trawl fishery. To revise the recreational management measures process. To modify Atlantic halibut management.

Objectives of Action:

To meet regulatory requirements to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the commercial and recreational groundfish fishery. To evaluate an appropriate level of northern windowpane flounder catch in the scallop fishery. To evaluate an appropriate level of Georges Bank haddock catch in the mid-water Atlantic herring fishery.

Likely Range of Alternatives:

- 4.1 Updates to status determination criteria stock status and annual catch limits
 - 4.1.1 Revised status determination criteria
 - 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits
 - 4.1.3 Establish a Sub-Annual Catch Limit for northern windowpane flounder for the scallop fishery
 - 4.1.4 Increase the Sub-Annual Catch Limit for Georges Bank haddock for the Atlantic herring mid-water trawl fishery
- 4.2 Commercial and Recreational Fishery Management Measures
 - 4.2.1 Revise the recreational management measures process
 - 4.2.2 Modify Atlantic halibut management

Applicable Laws/Issues:

NEPA Analysis (EIS/EA/CE/SIR): This action is expected to require an Environmental Assessment.

Endangered Species Act/Marine Mammal Protection Act

Type of ESA Consultation Expected (Informal/Formal): This action is expected to have an informal ESA consultation.

Other Applicable Laws and Regulatory Requirements: Typical issues and analysis are expected at this time.

Groundfish Plan Development Team Membership and Other Individuals:

	Organization	Name	Responsibility
Plan Development Team	NEFMC	Dr. Jamie Cournane	NEFMC Project Manager, Chair of Groundfish PDT, Groundfish FMP Coordinator Collaborate on Biological and Economic Impact Analyses. Oversee document preparation and submission.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Aja Szumylo	GARFO Project Manager, Primary point of contact in NMFS for FW56. Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs. Prepare document for rule-making.
	NEFMC	Maria Jacob	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. Prepare document for rule-making.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Mark Grant	Collaborate on the development of the alternatives.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Brett Alger	Collaborate on the development of the alternatives.
	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 Branch	Chad Demarest	Consultation on development of measures. Complete data requests for the PDT. Complete Economic Impact Analyses.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Branch	Greg Ardini	Consultation on development of measures. Complete data requests for the PDT. Collaborate on Economic Impact Analyses.
	NMFS NEFSC Social Science Branch	Dr. Matthew Cutler	Collaborate on Social Impact Analyses.
	Maine DMR	Sally Sherman	Consultation on development of measures, data analysis, and biological impact analyses.
	Massachusetts DMF	Dr. Gregory DeCelles	Consultation on development of measures, data analysis, and biological impact analyses.

	Organization	Name	Responsibility
Other Individuals	NEFMC	Michelle Bachman	Complete Essential Fish Habitat Impact Analyses
	NEFMC	Jonathon Peros	Support analysis of impacts of groundfish sub-ACLs on the scallop resource and fishery.
	NEFMC	Deirdre Boelke	Support analysis of impacts of groundfish sub-ACLs on the Atlantic herring resource and fishery.
	NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Carrie Nordeen	Primary point of contact in NMFS for the Atlantic herring FMP. Identify potential policy, regulatory, and administrative issues during development and review. Support with data needs and development of document.
	NMFS GCNE	Mitch MacDonald	Consultation on potential legal issues and questions.
	NMFS GARFO Habitat Conservation Division	David Stevenson	Consultation on development of measures and impacts on habitat.

NMFS Implementation Team Membership:

Organization	Name	Responsibility
NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Aja Szumylo	Implementation Team Chair
NMFS GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division	Mark Grant Brett Alger	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; to be adjusted once alternatives are fully developed.

Enforcement:

TBD

Information Resource Management (IRM):

TBD

Statistics:

TBD

Observer Coverage:

TBD

Administrative issues/costs:

TBD

Regulatory clarification/simplification:

TBD

Data Requirements:

TBD

VMS:

TBD

Protected Resources:

TBD

**Plan for How to Measure the Effectiveness of the
Action:**

TBD

Other:

TBD

Worksheet 1: Timeline for Development of FW 56

2016	
MAY 11	Groundfish PDT meeting
JUN 9	Groundfish Committee meeting
JUN 21-23	NEFMC – Initiates framework
JUL 12-14	TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including GB yellowtail flounder, EGB cod, and EGB haddock
JUL 21	Groundfish PDT meeting
JUL 26	Industry Outreach meeting – witch flounder assessment
AUG 2	Recreational Advisory Panel meeting
AUG 3	Groundfish Committee meeting
AUG 10	SSC meeting to recommend OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder
AUG 16	Groundfish PDT meeting
AUG 24	US TMGC meeting
AUG 30	Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) meeting
AUG 31	Groundfish PDT meeting
SEP 7-9	TMGC/SC meeting to recommend TACs for US/CA stocks
SEP 12	Groundfish Committee meeting
SEP 13-16	Working Group meeting – witch flounder – data meeting
SEPT 20-22	NEFMC – Receives an update on the development of the action, approve range of alternatives, including discussing US/CA stocks
SEP 27	Groundfish PDT meeting
OCT 3	Groundfish Committee meeting
OCT 4-7	Working Group meeting – witch flounder – models/biological reference points
OCT 25	Groundfish PDT meeting
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Recreational Advisory Panel meeting</i>
NOV 2	Groundfish Committee meeting
NOV 10	Groundfish PDT meeting
NOV 15-17	NEFMC- Takes final action on framework with the exception of witch flounder specifications
NOV 29-DEC 1	Peer review of witch flounder assessment (SARC 62)
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Groundfish PDT meeting</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>SSC meeting to recommend OFLs/ABCs for witch flounder</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Groundfish Committee meeting</i>
JAN 24-26	NEFMC- Takes final action on framework for witch flounder specifications only
SUBMISSION	
FEB 6, 2017	Preliminary submission of FW 56
FEB 15, 2017	Formal submission of FW 56
MAY 1, 2017	Implementation of FW 56

Worksheet 3: Detailed Implementation Timeline

PROJECT PHASE	STARTING	ENDING
1. Council Meeting to select final measures	1.24.2017	1.26.2017
2. Council staff complete draft document	1.26.2017	2.6.2017
3. Preliminary submission to NMFS GARFO	2.6.2017	2.6.2017
4. NMFS GARFO review of preliminary document (1 week)	2.6.2017	2.10.2017
5. Resubmission (final), if necessary	2.10.2017	2.15.2017
6. Proposed rule submitted to NMFS Headquarters	2.17.2017	2.17.2017
7. Proposed rule publishes in Federal Register	3.3.2017	3.3.2017
8. Proposed rule Public Comment Period (15 days)	3.03.2017	3.17.2017
9. Final rule submitted to NMFS Headquarters	3.31.2017	3.31.2017
10. Final rule publishes in Federal Register	4.14.2017	4.14.2017
11. Approved measures effective	5.1.2017	5.1.2017

Action Plan Versions:

Version	Date	Author	Change Description
1	7/22/2016	J. Cournane and A. Szumylo	Initial version
2			
3			
4			
5			