



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116

John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 23, 2020
TO: Groundfish Committee
FROM: Groundfish Plan Development Team
SUBJECT: **Sub-Component Review for Framework Adjustment 61**

The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) met on November 12 and 16, 2020 by webinar to discuss the plan for the sub-component review for Framework Adjustment 61 (FW61). The PDT then worked via correspondence to complete the review.

Annual Catch Limits

The PDT completed the sub-component review for all stocks. The PDT confirmed its approach of using the three-year recent average (i.e., the average of data in the final year-end catch reports from GARFO from FY2017-FY2019) for determining state and other sub-components, in the absence of other information (e.g., Scallop PDT estimates, changes in state regulations, Georges Bank (GB) cod recreational catch target.). Generally, the PDT compared the current other fisheries or state waters sub-component percentage (and associated value) to the updated three-year average catch (FY2017-FY2019) to develop recommendations, with some exceptions which are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1- Comparison by stock of the current sub-component values and the PDT's recommendation using the three-year (FY2017-FY2019) average or alternative approach and justification.

Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC						
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY20	Recommendation	Justification	FY20	Recommendation	Justification
GB cod	1.5% 19mt	1.5% 20mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 18mt, as modified for the 138mt recreational catch target from Framework 59	11% 142mt	10.5% 137mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 135.2mt, as modified for the 138mt recreational catch target from Framework 59
GOM cod (<i>Percentage of commercial ABC</i>)	14% 48mt	14% 48mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 45.4mt	2% 7mt	3.5% 12mt	Increase by 1.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 11.7mt
GB haddock	0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (11.4mt) that sub-component can remain at 0mt	0.5% 658mt	0.5% 414mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 108.0mt
GOM haddock (<i>Percentage of commercial ABC</i>)	0.5% 65mt	0.5% 56mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 76.9mt	0.5% 65mt	0.5% 56mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 55.7mt
GB yellowtail flounder						
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder	1% 0.2mt	1% 0.2mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 0.5mt	16% 4mt	15% 3.3mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 3.3mt
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder	7% 58mt	7% 58mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 56.6mt	5% 41mt	4.5% 37mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 35.2mt.
Plaice	1% 32mt	1% 29mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 24.1mt	1% 32mt	1% 29mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 27.3mt

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Stock	FY20	Recommendation	Justification	FY20	Recommendation	Justification
Witch flounder	3% 44mt	3% 44mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 32.3mt	4% 59mt	3.5% 52mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 52.4mt
GB winter flounder				4% 22mt	4.5% 27mt	Increase by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 27.1mt
GOM winter flounder	31% 139mt	39% 194mt	Increase by 8% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 195.6mt, using new MRIP data	1.5% 7.5mt	1.5% 7.5mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 7.9mt, using new MRIP data
SNE/MA winter flounder	5% 36mt	4.5% 20.5mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 19.9mt, using new MRIP data	17% 124mt	29% 132mt	Increase by 12% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 133.1mt, using new MRIP data
Redfish	0.5% 60mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (3.9mt) that sub-component can move to 0mt	0.5% 118mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (5.0mt) that sub-component can move to 0mt
White hake	0.5% 11mt	0.5% 11mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 0.7mt	0.5% 11mt	0.5% 11mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 16.7mt Note: The two white hake subcomponents balance each other out (in terms of being too high or too low).
Pollock	4% 1098mt	6.5% 1434mt	Increase by 2.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 1381.0mt	4% 1098mt	5% 1103mt	Increase by 1% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 1090.8mt

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Stock	FY20	Recommendation	Justification	FY20	Recommendation	Justification
Northern windowpane flounder	1% 0.6mt	0.5% 0.8mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 0.4mt	8% 5mt	6% 9.6mt	Decrease by 2% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 9.7mt
Southern windowpane flounder						
<i>Option 1:</i>	6% 26mt	6% 23mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 22.2mt	46% 196mt	56% 215mt	Increase by 10% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 216.5mt. This would result in 7mt sub-ACL for groundfish under current allocations
<i>Option 2:</i>	6% 26mt	6% 23mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 22.2mt	46% 196mt	46% 177mt	Maintain, in order to preserve 43mt sub-ACL for groundfish fishery under current regulations.
Ocean pout	1% 1.3mt	0.5% 0.4mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 0.4mt.	21% 27mt	38% 33.1mt	Increase by 17% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 33.2mt
Atlantic halibut	20% 21mt	20% 20mt	Maintain, despite not covering the 2017-2019 average of 28.1mt. FW57 established precedent that the state-water subcomponent should not exceed 20%.	4% 4mt	3.5% 3.5mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2017-2018 average catch of 3.4mt
Atlantic wolffish	1% 0.9mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (0.1mt) that sub-component can move to 0mt	1% 0.9mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (0.1mt) that sub-component can move to 0mt