



New England Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 21, 2019
TO: Groundfish Committee
FROM: Groundfish Plan Development Team
SUBJECT: **Sub-Component Review for Framework Adjustment 59**

The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) met on November 5, 2019 in Gloucester, MA to discuss the plan for the sub-component review for Framework Adjustment 59 (FW59). 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 FY2016-FY2018) 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.). However, final year-end data were not available for Atlantic halibut for FY2018. Generally, the PDT compared the current other or state waters sub-component percentage (and associated value) to the updated three-year average catch (FY2016-FY2018) to develop recommendations, with some exceptions which are summarized in Table 1. The PDT did not recommend sub-component changes for GB yellowtail flounder, Southern windowpane flounder, Atlantic halibut, or wolffish based on the review.

The PDT also offers some additional considerations related to the draft alternatives for FW59:

1. GB Cod

The value for the recreational catch target for GB cod is used directly in the sub-component analysis. The Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) proposed a different option at their November 12 meeting. The PDT outlines the RAP’s option for the Committee’s consideration.

If the No Action alternative were selected regarding the GB cod recreational catch target (i.e., the 138 mt catch target expired after FY2020), the sub-components would likely need to be adjusted for 2021 and beyond.

2. Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and GOM haddock

The PDT conducted sub-component analysis for GOM cod and GOM haddock with the current allocation shares between the commercial and recreational fisheries and the option to update the shares.

3. Pollock

The PDT used recreational catches from the 2019 assessment, rather than recreational catch from the year-end catch reports, to conduct the sub-component analysis because it contained the updated MRIP data.

4. Southern Windowpane Flounder

The other sub-component is used to evaluate if an accountability measure is triggered in the non-groundfish large mesh fisheries (e.g., summer flounder and scup).

Summer Flounder - In March 2019, the commercial summer flounder quota increased by 65% (from 6.67 million pounds to 10.98 million pounds). The GARFO quota monitoring site suggests that the fishery quickly responded to this increase by landing more summer flounder (Figure 1)¹. The 2020 summer flounder commercial quota will be identical to the 2019 quota, assuming no deductions are required due to an annual catch limit overage. For this reason, summer flounder fishing effort may be higher in upcoming years than during 2016-2018 (the years used to calculate the other sub-component allocation for southern windowpane flounder). The PDT discussed the potential for increasing the amount of southern windowpane flounder expected to be caught in the summer flounder fishery in the upcoming fishing year, for example by using the 2013-2015 average instead of the 2016-2018 average as the summer flounder quotas were higher in 2013-2015 than in 2016-2018.

Scup - Fishing effort for scup is not expected to change notably compared to 2016-2018.

The PDT also noted that other fisheries may also have increased fishing effort in the upcoming fishing year. If the other sub-component amount were to be increased to account for increased summer flounder effort, a different fishery component would need to decrease (i.e., groundfish and scallops). The PDT could not agree on if changes to the sub-component values were necessary; therefore, they recommended no changes.

¹ See: https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/h/fluke/sf_coast_qm.html

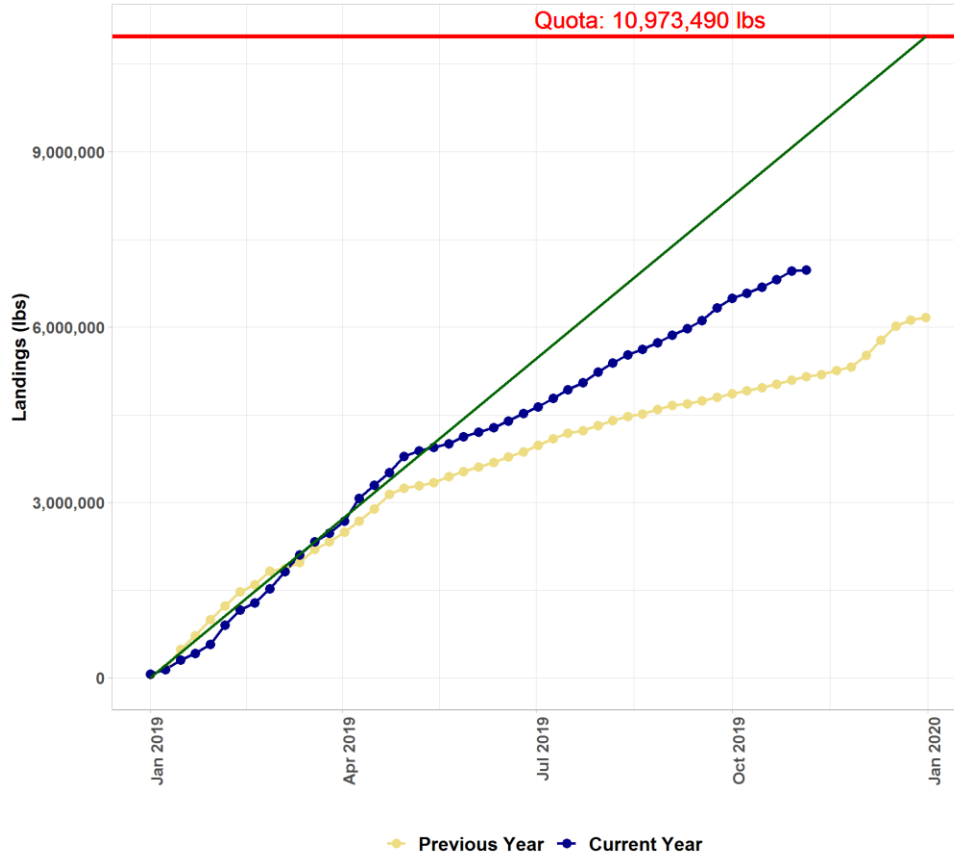


Figure 1- Quota monitoring for summer flounder. Source: GARFO website.

5. Atlantic Halibut

The Council made the following motion related to Atlantic halibut sub-components during final action for Framework Adjustment 57:

Atlantic halibut remains at the FY2017 percentage value for the state sub-component of 20% of U.S. ABC (e.g., at 125mt ABC is 25mt) not to exceed a value of 50mt for FY2018-FY2020.

The PDT considered the motion in its review.

Table 1- Comparison by stock of the current sub-component values and the PDT’s recommendation using the three-year (FY2016-FY2018) average or alternative approach and justification.

Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC						
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY19	Recommendation	Justification	FY19	Recommendation	Justification
GB cod						
Option: Keep catch target at 138mt	1% 18mt	1.5% 20mt	Increase by 0.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 21.3mt, as modified for the 138mt recreational catch target from Framework 57	8.5% 155mt	11% 143mt	Increase by 3.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 280.8mt, as modified for the 138mt recreational catch target from Framework 57
Option: Update catch target to 288mt	1% 18mt	3% 39mt	Increase by 2% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 36.3mt, as modified for the 288mt recreational catch target suggested by RAP	8.5% 155mt	22% 280mt	Increase by 13.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 280.8mt, as modified for the 288mt recreational catch target suggested by RAP
GOM cod <i>(Percentage of commercial ABC)</i>						
No action: Rec/Comm split unchanged	10% 47mt	13% 48mt	Increase by 3% to maintain the 2019 value (~47-48mt)	2% 9mt	2% 7mt	Maintain, despite not covering the 2016-2017 average of 14.2mt (2017 research catch artificially elevated average)
Option: Update Rec/Comm split to 37.5%/62.5%	10% 47mt	14% 48mt	Increase by 4% to maintain the 2019 value (~47-48mt)	2% 9mt	2% 7mt	Maintain, despite not covering the 2016-2017 average of 14.2mt (2017 research catch artificially elevated average)

Table 1- Comparison by stock of the current sub-component values and the PDT's recommendation using the three-year (FY2016-FY2018) average or alternative approach and justification.

Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC						
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY19	Recommendation	Justification	FY19	Recommendation	Justification
GB haddock	1% 581mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (14.5mt) that sub-component can move to 0mt	1% 581mt	0.5% 375mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 188.7mt
GOM haddock <i>(Percentage of commercial ABC)</i>						
No action: Rec/Comm split unchanged	1% 91mt	0.5% 42mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 29.9mt	1% 91mt	1% 84mt	Maintain to cover 2016-2018 average catch of 81.4mt
Option: Update Rec/Comm split to 33.9%/66.1%	1% 91mt	0.5% 38mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 29.9mt	1% 91mt	1% 76mt	Maintain to cover 2016-2018 average catch of 81.4mt
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder	3% 2mt	1% 0.2mt	Decrease by 2%. Used only 2018 catch (0.2mt) as a reference, rather than 3-year average.	25% 17mt	16% 3.5mt	Decrease by 9%. Used only 2018 catch (3.5mt) as a reference, rather than 3-year average.
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder	10% 51mt	7% 58mt	Decrease by 3% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 60.4mt.	8% 41mt	5% 41.2mt	Decrease by 3% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 37.2mt.
Plaice	2% 32mt	1% 38mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 32.8mt	2% 32mt	1% 38mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 32.6mt
Witch flounder	4% 40mt	3% 45mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 41mt	5.5% 55mt	4% 59.3mt	Decrease by 1.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 56.5mt

Table 1- Comparison by stock of the current sub-component values and the PDT's recommendation using the three-year (FY2016-FY2018) average or alternative approach and justification.

Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC						
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY19	Recommendation	Justification	FY19	Recommendation	Justification
GB winter flounder				1.5% 12mt	4% 22mt	Increase by 2.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 20.9mt
GOM winter flounder	15% 67mt	31% 139mt	Increase by 16% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 140.3mt	1.5% 7mt	1.5% 7mt	Maintain to cover 2016-2018 average catch of 7.2mt
SNE/MA winter flounder	10% 73mt	5% 36mt	Decrease by 5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 33.4mt	15% 109mt	17% 124mt	Increase by 2% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 122.4mt
Redfish	1% 118mt	0.5% 60mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 3.8mt	1% 118mt	0.5% 60mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 7.7mt
White hake	1% 29mt	.5% 10.7mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 0.9mt	1% 29mt	0.5% 10.7mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 12.2mt
Pollock	1% 402mt	6.5% 1093mt	Increase by 5.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 1134.5mt, based on new MRIP data	1% 402mt	6.5% 1093mt	Increase by 5.5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 1099.7mt, based on new MRIP data
Northern windowpane flounder	2% 2mt	1% 0.6mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 0.6mt.	3% 3mt	8% 4.7mt	Increase by 5% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 4.9mt
Southern windowpane flounder	6% 28mt	6% 26mt	Maintain to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 26.4mt	46% 218mt	46% 196mt	Maintain to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 194.7mt

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Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC						
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY19	Recommendation	Justification	FY19	Recommendation	Justification
Ocean pout	2% 3mt	1% 1.3mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 0.4mt.	18% 23mt	21% 27mt	Increase by 3% to cover the 2016-2018 average catch of 26.2mt
Atlantic halibut	20% 21mt	20% 21mt	Maintain, despite not covering the 2016-2017 average of 39.8mt (FY2018 year-end not yet available). FW57 established precedent that the state-water subcomponent should not exceed 20%.	4% 4mt	4% 4mt	Maintain to cover the 2016-2017 average catch of 5.4mt (2018 year end not yet available)