

Conservation Law Foundation's Petition for Rulemaking on Atlantic Cod – Groundfish Plan Development Team Report

**Recreational Advisory Panel, Groundfish Advisory Panel,
and Groundfish Committee meetings**

August 17-19, 2020



New England
Fishery Management Council

GARFO Letter

June 10, 2020

- “On February 13, 2020, the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) submitted a petition for rulemaking to the Secretary of Commerce to implement all necessary and appropriate conservation and management measures to end overfishing of Atlantic cod immediately and rebuild the fishery (see enclosure). I am requesting that the Council carefully consider the petition, and if it determines there is merit to the petition, that it include appropriate management and conservation measures in an upcoming action.”
- “We intend to take into account the Council’s decision on addressing the CLF petition when we determine (1) whether the petition has merit, and (2) whether to proceed with rulemaking through Secretarial action. If we determine that a Secretarial action is necessary, we may consult with the Council, but development, approval, and implementation would be NMFS’s responsibility.”

Council Motion

June 25, 2020

To place the CLF petition on the agendas of the next appropriate Recreational Advisor's, Groundfish Advisor's and Groundfish Committee's meetings for discussion to be reported back to the full Council in September. Work on Amendment 23, TRAC, and Framework Adjustment 61 should still take priority.

Carried 16/1/0

Measures Identified by CLF in the Petition

“New Conservation and Management Measures Are Necessary and Appropriate to End Overfishing and Rebuild Atlantic Cod” pp. 50-56 of the petition, Feb. 13, 2020

- 100% at-sea monitoring on all commercial groundfish trips
- A prohibition on directed commercial and recreational fishing for Atlantic cod
- Area closures to protect all identified Atlantic cod spawning locations and favorable habitat for juvenile and adult cod
- Use of modified fishing gear throughout the U.S. range of Atlantic cod to reduce incidental catch
- Additional measures to reduce the mortality of incidental catch of Atlantic cod in recreational fisheries

Groundfish PDT Qualitative Analysis Plan

- Summarize the qualitative impacts analysis of the measures identified by CLF, with focus on Atlantic cod:
 - Biological
 - Habitat
 - Economic, and
 - Social
- Refer to analysis in previous actions, as available
- Present a summary table for each measure proposed at the September Committee meeting

For Today

Discussion of the petition and possible recommendations on Atlantic cod management.