

DECISION DOCUMENT
For
Framework 61 to the
Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)
Fishery Management Plan



This document was developed to help the Council select final preferred alternatives for Framework 61.

November 27, 2020

Version - Committee

Anticipated Council Action:

Prior to selecting final preferred alternatives, Council staff will present the measures under consideration in Framework Adjustment 61 (FW61). Council staff will also answer questions, as needed, about the document including measures under consideration in FW61 and their draft analyzed impacts on target species, non-target species, and human communities (economic impacts) Analyzed impacts on protected resources, the physical environment (EFH), and human communities (social impacts) are to be prepared.

1. Select the *preferred alternative* for Action 1 – Status Determination Criteria (Section 4.1).
2. Select the *preferred alternative* for Action 2 – Formal Rebuilding Program (Section 4.2)
3. Select the *preferred alternative* for Action 3 - Specifications
4. Select the *preferred alternative* for Action 4 – Commercial Fishery Measures – (Section 4.4) – *anticipated final action in January*
5. Motion to submit FW 61 to NOAA Fisheries – *anticipated in January*

Action 1- Status Determination Criteria

Section 4.1 – Action 1 – Status Determination Criteria <i>Choose one alternative.</i>		Preferred by	
		AP	Cte
4.1.1 – Alternative 1	No Action		
4.1.2 – Alternative 2	Updated Status Determination Criteria <i>Adopt revised SDCs for GB winter flounder and SNE/MA winter flounder</i>		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Document #3a for the draft alternatives • Refer to Document #3c for draft biological and economic impacts 			
Other important Considerations/ Impacts Analysis References			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on Regulated Groundfish and Other Species - Biological: Document #3c • Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: <i>to be prepared</i> • Impacts on Endangered and Other Protected Species: <i>to be prepared</i> • Impacts on Human Communities - Economic: Document #3c • Impacts on Human Communities - Social: <i>to be prepared</i> 			

Action 2- Formal Rebuilding Program

Section 4.2 – Action 2 – Formal Rebuilding Program <i>Choose one alternative. Choose one of the options under 4.2.2</i>		Preferred by	
		AP	Cte
4.2.1 - Alternative 1	No Action		
4.2.2 - Alternative 2	Revised Rebuilding Strategy for White Hake <i>Revise the rebuilding plan for white hake to one of the options below. For all options, $T_{target} = T_{max}$, which is 10 years (2031).</i>		
Option A	T_{target} of 10 years, rebuilding by 2031, at $F_{rebuild}$ of 50% $F_{MSY} = 0.084$, which results in a 98.6% probability of achieving B_{MSY}		
Option B	T_{target} of 10 years, rebuilding by 2031, at $F_{rebuild}$ of 70% $F_{MSY} = 0.117$, which results in a 87.4% probability of achieving B_{MSY}		
Option C	T_{target} of 10 years, rebuilding by 2031, at $F_{rebuild}$ of 75% $F_{MSY} = 0.126$, which results in a 81.7% probability of achieving B_{MSY}		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Document #3a for the draft alternatives • Refer to Document #3c for draft biological and economic impacts • Refer to PDT memo to SSC on white hake rebuilding plan: https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/5b_200821-GF-PDT-memo-to-SSC-re-white-hake.pdf 			
Other important Considerations/ EIS References			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on Regulated Groundfish and Other Species - Biological: Document #3c • Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: <i>to be prepared</i> • Impacts on Endangered and Other Protected Species: <i>to be prepared</i> • Impacts on Human Communities - Economic: Document #3c • Impacts on Human Communities - Social: <i>to be prepared</i> 			

Action 3- Specifications

Section 4.3 – Action 3 – Specifications <i>Choose one alternative.</i>		Preferred by	
		AP	Cte
4.3.1 - Alternative 1	No Action		
4.3.2 - Alternative 2	Revised Specifications <i>Revise the annual specifications for FY2021 – FY2022 for GB cod, GOM cod, GB haddock, GOM haddock, GB yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, American plaice, witch flounder, white hake, and pollock, and FY2021-FY2023 for GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, redfish, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder, ocean pout, Atlantic halibut, and Atlantic wolffish. Specify total allowable catches (TACs) for the U.S./Canada Management Area for FY2021 for Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder.</i>		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Document #3a for the draft alternatives • Refer to Document #3b for the PDT's sub-components analysis • Refer to Document #3c for draft biological and economic impacts • Refer to Scallop PDT memo (attached to Document #3c) for information on groundfish bycatch in the scallop fishery • Refer to PDT memo to SSC on possible groundfish OFLs/ABCs for FY2021-FY2023: https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/A8_201009-GF-PDT-memo-to-SSC-re-possible-OFLs-and-ABCs-several-groundfish-stocks-with-Appendicies.pdf • Refer to Document #3f for the SSC memo on groundfish OFLs/ABCs for FY2021-2023 			
Other important Considerations/ EIS References			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on Regulated Groundfish and Other Species- Biological: Document #3c • Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: <i>to be prepared</i> • Impacts on Endangered and Other Protected Species: <i>to be prepared</i> • Impacts on Human Communities - Economic: Document #3c • Impacts on Human Communities - Social: <i>to be prepared</i> 			

Action 4- Commercial Fishery Measures - Council to take final action in January.

Section 4.4 – Action 4 – Commercial Fishery Measures <i>Choose one alternative.</i>		Preferred by	
		AP	Cte
4.4.1 - Alternative 1	No Action		
4.4.2 - Alternative 2	Add a Universal Sector Exemption for Redfish, Pollock, and Haddock		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 			
Other important Considerations/ EIS References			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on Regulated Groundfish and Other Species - Biological: • Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: • Impacts on Endangered and Other Protected Species: • Impacts on Human Communities - Economic: • Impacts on Human Communities - Social: 			