

DECISION DOCUMENT

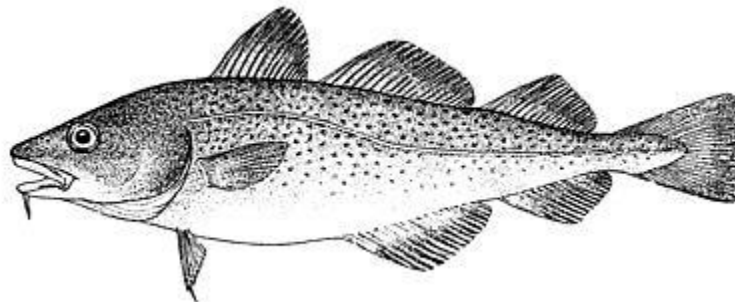
for

Framework Adjustment 59

to the

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)



Council Meeting

December 3-5, 2019

The following decision tables in this document appear in the same order as the sections in the Draft FW59 Alternatives document, dated November 25, 2019 (Council – Groundfish Doc. 3A) and Draft FW59 Environmental Impacts Analysis, dated November 29, 2019, December 2, 2019, and December 3, 2019 (Council – Groundfish Docs. 3B, 3B1, and 3B2). Page numbers are provided for reference.

4.1 Action 1 - Specifications (p. 11)

Groundfish Committee Recommendation:

NOV 25: In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Committee recommends to the Council 4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications as its preferred alternative, with the exception of Gulf of Maine cod, Gulf of Maine haddock, Georges Bank haddock, American plaice, and pollock. *Motion carried 9/0/1.*

Alternatives Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives (Choose one)
Alternative 1	No Action
Alternative 2	Revised specifications (<i>Options A, B, C, D or E may also selected – see next</i>)
Groundfish Committee Motions (Additional)	
SEP 17: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council to accept the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) recommendations for US/CA 2020 total allowable catches for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder (162mt), Eastern Georges Bank cod (650mt), and Eastern Georges Bank haddock (30,000mt). <i>By consensus and without objection.</i>	
Groundfish Advisory Panel Recommendations	
NOV 25: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the Committee recommend that the Council remand back to the Scientific and Statistical Committee the ABC recommendations for plaice, both haddock stocks (GOM and GB), and pollock. <i>Motion carried 6/1/0.</i>	
NOV 25: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to the Council to remand the GOM cod catch advice back to the SSC to consider: that the model averaging for GOM cod include the 3 model runs put forward by the Groundfish PDT which include: M=0.2 75%FMSY (843mt), M=0.2 75%Fmsy Rho Adjusted (526mt) and Mramp=0.4 75% FMSY (577 mt). Model averaging results in an ABC of 649 mt for FY2020-FY2022. <i>Motion carried 6/1/0.</i>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Recommendations	
None.	
Draft Environmental Assessment References	
Biological impacts: Doc 3B1, pp. 2-29 Habitat impacts: Doc 3B, A2- EFH pp. 1-3 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Doc 3B, A2-PR pp. 1-4 Economic impacts: Doc 3B, A2-ECON pp. 1-8 and Doc 3B2 quota-change model results Social impacts: Doc 3B, A2-SOC pp. 5-8	

4.1 Action 1 – Specifications

4.1.2.1 Option A – Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target (p. 19)

Groundfish Committee Recommendation:

NOV 25: In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Committee recommends to the Council 4.1.2.1 Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target Option A2: Recreational fishery GB cod catch target as its final preferred alternative. *Motion carried 4/3/3.*

Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options (Choose one)
Option A1	No Action
Option A2	Recreational fishery GB cod catch target
Groundfish Committee Motions (Additional)	
<p>NOV 25: The Groundfish Committee recommends adding an option for consideration in the draft alternatives in Section 4.1.2.1 Option A -Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target that would update the recreational catch target for GB cod:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using the post-calibration (new) MRIP data average of recreational catches in CY2012-CY2016 (406 mt) from the 2019 stock assessment, • then reduce this value by the percent change from fishing year 2019 to proposed fishing year 2020 in the US ABC (a decrease of 29%), • resulting in a recreational catch target of 288 mt for FY2020-FY2022. <i>Motion carried 6/0/4.</i> <p>OCT 30: Committee recommends to the Council for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021. <i>Motion carried 8/0/0.</i></p>	
Groundfish Advisory Panel Recommendations	
<p>OCT 30: The Advisors recommend to the Committee for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021. <i>Motion carried 6/0/0.</i></p> <p>NOV 25: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that under FW 59 in Section 4.1.2.1 (Option A-Recreational Fishery Georges Bank Cod Catch Target) include an option (Option A3) that revises the recreational catch target to 152 mt for FY2020-FY2022. Calculation: 152 mt represents a 2 x increase from the most recent 2018 fishing year MRIP revised catch estimate of 76 mt. <i>Motion carried 7/0/0.</i></p>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Recommendations	
<p>NOV 12: The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee updating the recreational catch target for GB cod:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using the post-calibration (new) MRIP data average of recreational catches in CY2012-CY2016 (406 mt) from the 2019 stock assessment, • then reduce this value by the percent change from fishing year 2019 to proposed fishing year 2020 in the US ABC (a decrease of 29%), • resulting in a recreational catch target of 288 mt for FY2020-FY2022. <i>Motion carried 5/0/0.</i> 	
Draft Environmental Assessment References	
<p>Biological impacts: Doc 3B1, pp. 29-33 Habitat impacts: Doc 3B, A2- EFH pp. 3 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Doc 3B, A2-PR pp. 4 Economic impacts: Doc 3B, A2-ECON pp. 9-10 Social impacts: Doc 3B, A2-SOC pp. 8</p>	

4.1 Action 1 – Specifications

4.1.2.2 Option B – Allocation between Commercial and Recreational Fisheries for Gulf of Maine Cod and Gulf of Maine Haddock (p. 19)

Groundfish Committee Recommendation:

NOV 25: In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Committee recommends to the Council 4.1.2.2 Option B – Allocation between Commercial and Recreational Fisheries for Gulf of Maine Cod and Gulf of Maine Haddock Option B2: Revise the allocation between commercial and recreational fisheries for GOM cod and GOM haddock as its preferred alternative. *Motion carried 5/4/1.*

Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options (Choose one)
Option B1	No Action
Option B2	Revise the allocation between commercial and recreational fisheries for GOM cod and GOM haddock
Groundfish Advisory Panel Recommendations	
OCT 30: The Advisors recommend to the Committee no changes to the commercial and recreational allocation percentages for GOM cod and GOM haddock. <i>Motion carried 5/0/1.</i>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Recommendations	
NOV 12: The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee updating the recreational and commercial data for years 2001-2006 to determine the Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock allocations, based on the 2019 stock assessments, in Framework Adjustment 59. <i>Motion carried 5/0/0.</i>	
Draft Environmental Assessment References	
Biological impacts: Doc 3B1, pp. 33-37 Habitat impacts: Doc 3B, A2- EFH pp. 3 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Doc 3B, A2-PR pp. 5 Economic impacts: Doc 3B, A2-ECON pp. 10-12 Social impacts: Doc 3B, A2-SOC pp. 9	

4.1 Action 1 – Specifications

4.1.2.3 Option C – Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (p. 20)

Groundfish Committee Recommendation:

NOV 25: In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Committee recommends to the Council 4.1.2.3 Option C – Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program Option C2: Revise the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation for the CAI HGH SAP as its preferred alternative. *Motion carried 9/0/1.*

Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options (Choose one)
Option C1	No Action
Option C2	Revise the GB Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation for CAI HGH SAP
Groundfish Committee Motion (Additional)	
SEP 17: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council Option 2: Revise the Georges Bank cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation for the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP) as a preferred alternative under the draft options for Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP. <i>By consensus and without objection.</i>	
Groundfish Advisory Panel Recommendations	
None.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Recommendations	
None.	
Draft Environmental Assessment References	
Biological impacts: Doc 3B1, pp. 37-38 Habitat impacts: Doc 3B, A2- EFH pp. 3 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Doc 3B, A2-PR pp. 5 Economic impacts: Doc 3B, A2-ECON pp. 13 Social impacts: Doc 3B, A2-SOC pp. 9	

4.1 Action 1 – Specifications

4.1.2.4 Option D – Midwater Trawl Atlantic Herring Fishery sub-ACL for Georges Bank Haddock
(p. 21)

Groundfish Committee Recommendation:

OCT 30: The Committee recommends to Council the GB haddock sub-ACL for the Atlantic herring MWT fishery be raised to 2% (from 1.5%) for the sub-ABC of the US ABC. *Motion carried 5/3/0.*

Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options (Choose one)
Option D1	No Action
Option D2	Increase the MWT Atlantic herring fishery sub-ACL for GB haddock to 2 percent
Groundfish Advisory Panel Recommendations	
OCT 30: The GAP recommends to the Committee no change in the GB haddock sub-ACL for the Atlantic herring MWT fishery from the current 1.5% for the sub-ABC of the US ABC. <i>Motion carried 5/1/0.</i>	
NOV 25: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that if the Council's remanding back of the GB haddock ABCs to SSC leads to ABCs that are significantly increased, the Committee would need to reevaluate if a 2% sub-ACL for GB haddock in the midwater trawl Atlantic herring fishery would be necessary. <i>Motion carried 6/0/1.</i>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Recommendations	
None.	
Draft Environmental Assessment References	
Biological impacts: Doc 3B1, pp. 38-48. Habitat impacts: Doc 3B, A2- EFH pp. 3 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Doc 3B, A2-PR pp. 5-7 Economic impacts: Doc 3B, A2-ECON pp. 13-15 Social impacts: Doc 3B, A2-SOC pp. 10	

4.1 Action 1 – Specifications

4.1.2.5 Option E – Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder (p. 22)

Groundfish Committee Recommendation:

NOV 25: In Section 4.1 Action 1 – Specifications, the Committee recommends to the Council 4.1.2.5 Option E – Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder Option E2: Set the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder using 90% of projected scallop fishery catch as its preferred alternative and maintain at 2mt for FY2020-FY2022. *Motion carried 9/0/1.*

Options Under Consideration	Description Two Options (Choose one)
Option E1	No Action
Option E2	Set the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery sub-ACL for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder using 90% of projected scallop fishery catch
Groundfish Advisory Panel Recommendations	
None.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Recommendations	
None.	
Draft Environmental Assessment References	
Biological impacts: Doc 3B1, pp. 48-49. Habitat impacts: Doc 3B, A2- EFH pp. 3-4 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Doc 3B, A2-PR pp. 7-8 Economic impacts: Doc 3B, A2-ECON pp. 15-16 Social impacts: Doc 3B, A2-SOC pp. 10-11	

4.2 Action 2 – Recreational Fishery Measures for Georges Bank Cod (p. 24)

Groundfish Committee Recommendation:

OCT 25: Committee recommends to the Council for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021. *Motion carried 8/0/0.*

Alternatives Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives (Choose one)
Alternative 1	No Action
Alternative 2	Temporary Administrative Measure to Allow the Regional Administrator Authority to Adjust the Recreational Measures for Georges Bank Cod
Groundfish Advisory Panel Recommendations	
OCT 30: The Advisors recommend to the Committee for GB cod in the recreational fishery to retain the management catch target at 138mt for FY2020-FY2022 and to extend the temporary NMFS authority to adjust management measures for FY2020 and FY2021. <i>Motion carried 6/0/0.</i>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Recommendations	
NOV 12: The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee extending the NMFS Regional Administrator’s temporary authority to adjust management measures for Georges Bank cod for fishing years 2020 and 2021 in Framework Adjustment 59. <i>Motion carried 5/0/0.</i>	
Draft Environmental Assessment References	
Biological impacts: Doc 3B1, pp. 49-51 Habitat impacts: Doc 3B, A2- EFH pp. 4 Endangered and other protected species impacts: Doc 3B, A2-PR pp. 8-9 Economic impacts: Doc 3B, A2-ECON pp. 16-17 Social impacts: Doc 3B, A2-SOC pp. 11	