

DECISION DOCUMENT

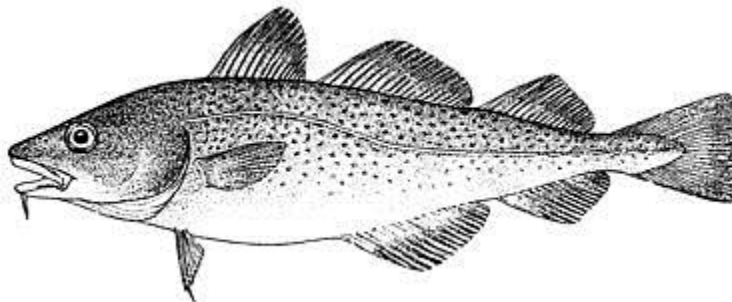
for

Framework Adjustment 57

to the

Northeast Multispecies

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)



**Council Meeting
December 5-7, 2017**

The following decision tables in this document appear in the same order as the sections in the Draft Framework 57 Alternatives document, dated December 1, 2017 and Draft FW 57 Environmental Impacts Analysis, dated December 4 and 5, 2017. Due to time constraints, biological and economics impacts analysis were prioritized for completion. Other sections of impacts analysis will be completed prior to submission. Page numbers are provided for reference.

Section 4.1.1 – Annual Catch Limits (p. 30)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 29, 2017: For Framework 57, the Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.1.1 Annual Catch Limits to select as preferred 4.1.1.2 Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications with the following adjustments:

1. Gulf of Maine cod percentage value for the state sub-component of 10% for FY2018-FY2020,
2. 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 50 mt for FY2018-FY2020, and
3. Gulf of Maine winter flounder remains at the FY2017 percentage value for the state subcomponent of 15% for FY2018-FY2020. (Motion carried 10/0/2).

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends that the Council accept the SSC's recommendations once made and without objection for Atlantic halibut for FY2018-FY2020. (Motion carried 9/0/3).

Motion on November 9, 2017: Using the most recent 5-year (CY2012-CY2016) average catch (landings and discards) from the 2017 operational assessment for Georges Bank cod for the recreational fishery, arrive at a catch target for fishing years 2018-2020 and task the Plan Development Team to work with the Recreational Advisory Panel to develop measures designed to meet the target, to possibly be used to modify management measures in Framework Adjustment 57 or as a basis for Emergency Action. (Motion carried 9/1/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	Revised annual catch limit specifications
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee made recommendations for changes to some of the sub-component values from those determined by the PDT.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
<p>Motion on November 28, 2017: For Framework 57, the Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the sub-component for Gulf of Maine cod remain at the FY2017 percentage values for the state sub-components of 8% for FY2018-FY2020 (Motion carried 9/0/0).</p> <p>Motion on November 28, 2017: For Framework 57, the Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the subcomponent for Atlantic halibut remain 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 50 mt for FY2018-FY2020. (Motion carried 8/1/0).</p> <p>Motion on November 28, 2017: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the state waters sub-component of Gulf of Maine winter flounder remain at 15% of the ABC (Motion carried 8/0/1).</p>	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
<p>Motion on November 14, 2017: The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that for Georges Bank cod to use the five-year recent average (138.4 mt) as a catch target for FY2018 - FY2020 (Motion carried 7/0/2).</p> <p>Motion on November 14, 2017: The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that in the Annual Catch Limits section of Framework Adjustment 57 to select Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limits for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock (Motion carried 8/0/0).</p>	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p>A range of Atlantic halibut specifications for FY2018-FY2020 is provided in the draft alternatives for the purpose of analysis in this action. The SSC will convene in December after the Council meeting to discuss Atlantic halibut OFL and ABC recommendations for FY2018-FY2020. The Council may choose to accept the specifications for Atlantic halibut, prior to the SSC's recommendations.</p> <p>Biological impacts: Document 3k (Additional draft impacts analysis – biological) p. 2</p> <p>Habitat impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i></p> <p>Endangered and other protected species impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i></p> <p>Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft economic impacts analysis part 1) p. 1, Document 3k (Additional draft impacts analysis – economic-QCM) p. 1, and Document 3m (Additional draft impacts analysis – economic-halibut) p. 1</p> <p>Social impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i></p>	

Section 4.1.1 (cont.) –
Sub-Option 1: Updates to Common Pool Vessel Accountability Measures - Target (Trimester)
Total Allowable Catch (TAC)
(p. 38)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.1.1 Annual Catch Limits /4.1.1.2.1 Sub-Option 1: Updates to Common Pool Vessel Accountability Measures -Target (Trimester) Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to select as preferred 4.1.1.2.1.2 Option 2: Revised Common Pool Vessel Trimester Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Apportionments (Motion carried 10/0/2).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action option
Option 2	Revised common pool trimester TAC apportionments
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
Motion on November 28, 2017: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to select 4.1.1.2.1.2 Option 2: Revised Common Pool Vessel Trimester Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Apportionments (Motion carried 3/0/6).	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations	
Biological impacts: Document 3k (Additional draft impacts analysis – biological) p. 12 Habitat impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Endangered and other protected species impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft economic impacts analysis part 1) p. 8 Social impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i>	

**Section 4.1.1 (cont.) –
Sub-Option 2: Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic
Yellowtail Flounder (p. 40)**

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.1.1 Annual Catch Limits to select as preferred 4.1.1.2.2 Sub-Option 2: Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder (Motion carried 11/0/1).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action option
Option 2	Specify scallop fishery sub-ACLs for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder based on 90% of the scallop fishery's projected catch
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Decision of whether to continue to base sub-ACL on 90% of projected scallop fishery's catch, as has been done in previous actions, or choose a different approach.	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee did not recommend an approach different from using 90% of scallop fishery's projected catch.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
Motion on November 28, 2017: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to select 4.1.1.2.2 Sub-Option 2: Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder (Motion carried 9/0/0).	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations	
Biological impacts: Document 3k (Additional draft impacts analysis – biological) p. 13 Habitat impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Endangered and other protected species impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft economic impacts analysis part 1) p. 10 Social impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i>	

Section 4.2.1 – Authority for Common Pool Trimester Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Apportionment Changes (p. 41)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.2.1 Authority for Common Pool Trimester Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Apportionment Changes to select as preferred 4.2.1.2 Option 2: Broaden Regional Administrator Authority to Modify Common Pool Trimester TACs and/or AM Closures (Motion carried 9/0/3).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action option
Option 2	Broaden Regional Administrator Authority to Modify Common Pool Trimester TACs and/or AM Closures
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
N/A	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations	
Biological impacts: Document 3k (Additional draft impacts analysis – biological) p.13 Habitat impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Endangered and other protected species impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft economic impacts analysis part 1) p.11 Social impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i>	

Section 4.3.1.– Revised Atlantic Halibut Accountability Measures for Federal Fisheries (p. 42)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.3.1.1 Atlantic Halibut Accountability Measures for Federal Fisheries to modify and select as preferred 4.3.1.1.2.2 Sub-Option 2B: Modified Gear Restricted Areas to exempt longline gear from the fixed gear AM areas (Fixed Gear Area 1 and 2) and allow in Fixed Gear Area 2 (on Platts Bank) fishing by gillnets from November to February (Motion carried 9/0/3).

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.3.1.1 Atlantic Halibut Accountability Measures for Federal Fisheries to modify and select as preferred 4.3.1.1.2.2 Sub-Option 2B: Modified Gear Restricted Areas to remove the Fixed Gear AM Area 1 (on Stellwagen Bank) (Motion carried 9/0/3).

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.3.1.1 Atlantic Halibut Accountability Measures for Federal Fisheries to modify and select as preferred 4.3.1.1.2.2 Sub-Option 2B: Modified Gear Restricted Areas to allow standard trawl gear from April 1 through July 31 in the area between 41 degrees 40 minutes and 42 degrees (Motion carried 10/0/2).

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.3.1.1 Atlantic Halibut Accountability Measures for Federal Fisheries to select as preferred 4.3.1.1.2.1 Sub-Option 2A: Reactive AM of No Possession Would Apply to All Federal Permit Holders while in federal waters, with the addition of exempting party/charter permits (Motion to table until the Council meeting on December 6, 2017, carried by consensus and without objection).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Three Alternatives The Council may select Sub-Option 2A and Sub-Option 2B.
Option 1	No Action option
Sub-Option 2A	Reactive AM of no possession would apply to all federal permit holders
Sub-Option 2B	Modified gear restricted areas
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee made recommendations for the modified gear restricted areas, but not for the reactive AM of no possession.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
Motion on November 28, 2017: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to select 4.3.1.1.2.1 Sub-Option 2A: Reactive AM of No Possession Would Apply to All Federal Permit Holders. (Motion carried 9/0/0).	
Motion on November 28, 2017: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to modify the Atlantic halibut accountability measures to allow in Fixed Gear Area 2 (on Platts Bank) fishing by gillnets and longlines from November to February. (Motion carried 7/0/2).	
Motion on November 28, 2017: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to modify the Atlantic halibut accountability measures to allow standard trawl gear from April 1 through July 31 in the area between 41 degrees 40 minutes and 42 degrees.) (Motion carried 5/0/2).	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
Consensus statement on November 14, 2017: The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that in the Atlantic halibut accountability measures section of Framework Adjustment 57 that if the Committee/Council recommends applying the reactive accountability measures to all federal permit holders that recreational party/charter and other recreational permits (e.g., Highly Migratory Species) be exempt. Atlantic halibut are a trophy fish which has no recreational allocation. The Recreational Advisory Panel suggests to the Groundfish Committee that these fish not be taken away from the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations	
Biological impacts: Document 3k (Additional draft impacts analysis – biological) p. 14 Habitat impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Endangered and other protected species impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Economic impacts: Document 3m (Additional draft impacts analysis – economic-halibut) p. 3 Social impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i>	

**Section 4.3.1 (cont.) –
Southern Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measures for Large-Mesh Non-Groundfish
Fisheries
(p. 45)**

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.3.1.2 Southern Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measures for Large-Mesh Non-Groundfish Fisheries to select as preferred: 4.3.1.2.2.1 Sub-Option 2A: Extension of FW 52 Provisions to Large-Mesh Non- Groundfish Trawl Fisheries, and 4.3.1.2.2.2 Sub-Option 2B: Modified Gear Restricted Areas (Motion carried 12/0/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Three Alternatives The Council may select Sub-Option 2A and Sub-Option 2B.
Option 1	No Action option
Sub-Option 2A	Extension of FW 52 provisions to large-mesh non-groundfish trawl fisheries
Sub-Option 2B	Modified gear restricted areas
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
Motion on November 28, 2017: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to select 4.3.1.2.2.2 Sub-Option 2B: Modified Gear Restricted Areas (Motion carried 4/0/5).	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations	
Biological impacts: Document 3k (Additional draft impacts analysis – biological) p. 22 Habitat impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Endangered and other protected species impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft economic impacts analysis part 1) p.12 Social impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i>	

**Section 4.3.1 (cont.) –
Scallop Fishery AM Implementation Policy
(p. 52)**

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.3.1.3.1 Scallop Fishery AM Implementation Policy to select as preferred 4.3.1.3.1.2 Option 2: Extend the Temporary Change to the Scallop Fishery AM Implementation Policy to the SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder Stock (Motion carried 10/0/2).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action option
Option 2	Extend the temporary change to the scallop fishery AM implementation policy to the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder stock
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee recommended the temporary change to the AM implementation policy be in place only for FY2018.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
Motion on November 28, 2017: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to select in the section 4.3.1.3.1 Scallop Fishery AM Implementation Policy 4.3.1.3.1.1 Option 1: No Action (Motion carried 8/0/1).	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations	
Biological impacts: Document 3k (Additional draft impacts analysis – biological) p. 31 Habitat impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Endangered and other protected species impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft economic impacts analysis part 1) p. 16 Social impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i>	

**Section 4.3.1 (cont.) –
Recreational Management Measures - Georges Bank Cod Management Measures for the
Recreational Fishery
(p. 53)**

Groundfish Committee Motions:

Motion on November 29, 2017: The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that in 4.3.1.4 Recreational Fishery Measures to select as preferred 4.3.1.4.2.2 Option 2 Temporary Administrative Measure To Allow the Regional Administrator Authority to Adjust the Recreational Measures for Georges Bank Cod. (Motion carried 11/0/1).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Two Alternatives
Option 1	No Action option
Option 2	Temporary administrative measure to allow the Regional Administrator authority to adjust the recreational measures for Georges Bank cod
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
See above. The Committee recommended the temporary authority for only FY2018 and FY2019.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
Motion on November 28, 2017: The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to select 4.3.1.4.2.2 Option 2: Allow the Regional Administrator Authority to Adjust the Recreational Measures for Georges Bank Cod. (Motion carried 9/0/0).	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A	
Other Important Considerations	
Biological impacts: Document 3k (Additional draft impacts analysis – biological) p. 33 Habitat impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Endangered and other protected species impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i> Economic impacts: Document 3d (Draft economic impacts analysis part 1) p.18 Social impacts: <i>to be completed prior to submission</i>	