

**Groundfish Committee Meeting**

#4a

Portsmouth, NH

November 9, 2017

**Consensus Statements and Motions**

**Framework Adjustment 57**

**Consensus Statement #1**

By consensus, the Groundfish Committee recommends the Status Determination Criteria section be removed from Framework Adjustment 57.

**Motion 1: Griffin/Etrie**

Move to extend the temporary accountability measure trigger provisions for the scallop fishery (to trigger only when the sub-annual catch limit for the scallop fishery and total annual catch limit for the groundfish stock are exceeded) to the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder stock for fishing year 2018.

Motion 1 *carried* by unanimous consent and without objection.

**Motion 2: Alexander/McKenzie**

The Groundfish Committee recommends no change to the midwater trawl directed Atlantic herring fishery sub-annual catch limit for Georges Bank haddock (i.e., the sub-annual catch limit would remain at 1.5%), based on Committee's review of the Plan Development Team's analysis.

Motion 2 *carried*. (7/2/1)

**Consensus Statement #2**

By consensus, the Groundfish Committee recommends striking #2 and #3 from 4.2.1.2 Option 2: Broaden NMFS Authority to Modify Common Pool Trimester TACs and/or AM Closures.

"Under Option 2, the Regional Administrator would have broader authority to modify common pool trimester TACs or AM closures. The scope for this authority would include:

1. Adjusting trimester TACs for stocks that have experienced early closures (e.g., trimester 1 or 2 closures),
2. ~~Adding new or expanding existing TAC closure areas as needed (e.g., expanding the GB cod TAC AM area to cover Southern New England waters where catch of cod has increased), and~~

3. ~~Creating common pool trimester TAC apportionments and AMs for stocks which are allocated but not managed under the Trimester TAC system (e.g. SNE/MA winter flounder). The apportionment would follow the process outlined in Amendment 16 or other Council approved method.~~

**Motion 3:** Kendall/Pappalardo

The Groundfish Committee recommends in the Atlantic halibut accountability measures section to stop work and remove Sub-Option 2B: Modified Gear Restricted Area Off the Eastern Maine Coast for All Federal Permit Holders

Motion 3 *carried*. (8/1/1)

**Motion 4:** Pappalardo/Bellavance

Move that the Groundfish Committee tasks the Plan Development Team to apply the “windowpane accountability measure refinement approach” to the No Action Atlantic halibut gear restricted areas/accountability measures. This means the Plan Development Team can suggest options that reduce the current size and duration of the area-based accountability measures based on its analysis of the No Action alternative.

Motion 4 *carried*. (10/0/0)

**Motion 5:** Etrie/Alexander:

Using the 10-year (CY2007-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.

**Motion 5 as friendly amended:**

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 5 *carried*. 9/1/0

**Motion 6:** Etrie/Kendall

The Groundfish Committee recommends the addition of a temporary administrative measure in Framework Adjustment 57 that allows the Regional Administrator to adjust the recreational measures for Georges Bank cod in consultation with the Council for FY2018 and FY2019 only.

Motion *carried* 9/1/0.