

Recreational Advisory Panel

South Portland, Maine

November 14, 2017

Motions and Consensus Statements**Framework Adjustment 57****Motion 1: Sterrit/Gibson**

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that in the Recreational Management Measures section of Framework Adjustment 57 that “No Action” be taken (no changes to the accountability measures).

Motion 1 *carried.* (8/0/1)

Consensus Statement # 1

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.

Motion 2: Tower/Plaia

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 2 *carried.* (8/0/0)

Motion 3: Plaia/Tower

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 3 *carried.* (7/0/2)

Motion 4: Twombly/Gibson

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that for Georges Bank cod that the accountability measures first consider adjustments to seasons, then increases in the minimum fish size, followed by changes to bag limits. The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends exploring options for a boat limit as well.

Motion 4 *failed*. (2/3/4)

Consensus Statement #2:

The Recreational Advisory Panel does not feel the Georges Bank cod recreational catches in fishing year 2016 warrant an emergency action or the establishment of a sub-annual catch limit in Framework Adjustment 57.

Council Priorities for 2018

Consensus Statement #3:

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that for 2018 Council priorities for groundfish that the Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock recreational allocation proportions be reviewed consistent with provisions in Amendment 16 using the most recent five-years of data (see Amendment 16 Section 4.2.5 Allocation of Groundfish to the Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Fisheries) and that the review consider the results of the MRIP calibrations.

Motion 5: Depersia/Twombly

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that for 2018 Council priorities for groundfish the development a limited access program for the party/charter fishery.

Motion 5 *carried*. (5/4/1)

(Note: The chair broke the tie and voted in favor of the motion.)

Consensus Statement #4:

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that for 2018 Council priorities for groundfish include getting input on different ways to manage recreational fishery given highly variable catch estimates.