

Windowpane Flounder Discussion Paper

Jonathon Peros, NEFMC Staff

**Groundfish Committee Meeting
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New England
Fishery Management Council

Document #4a

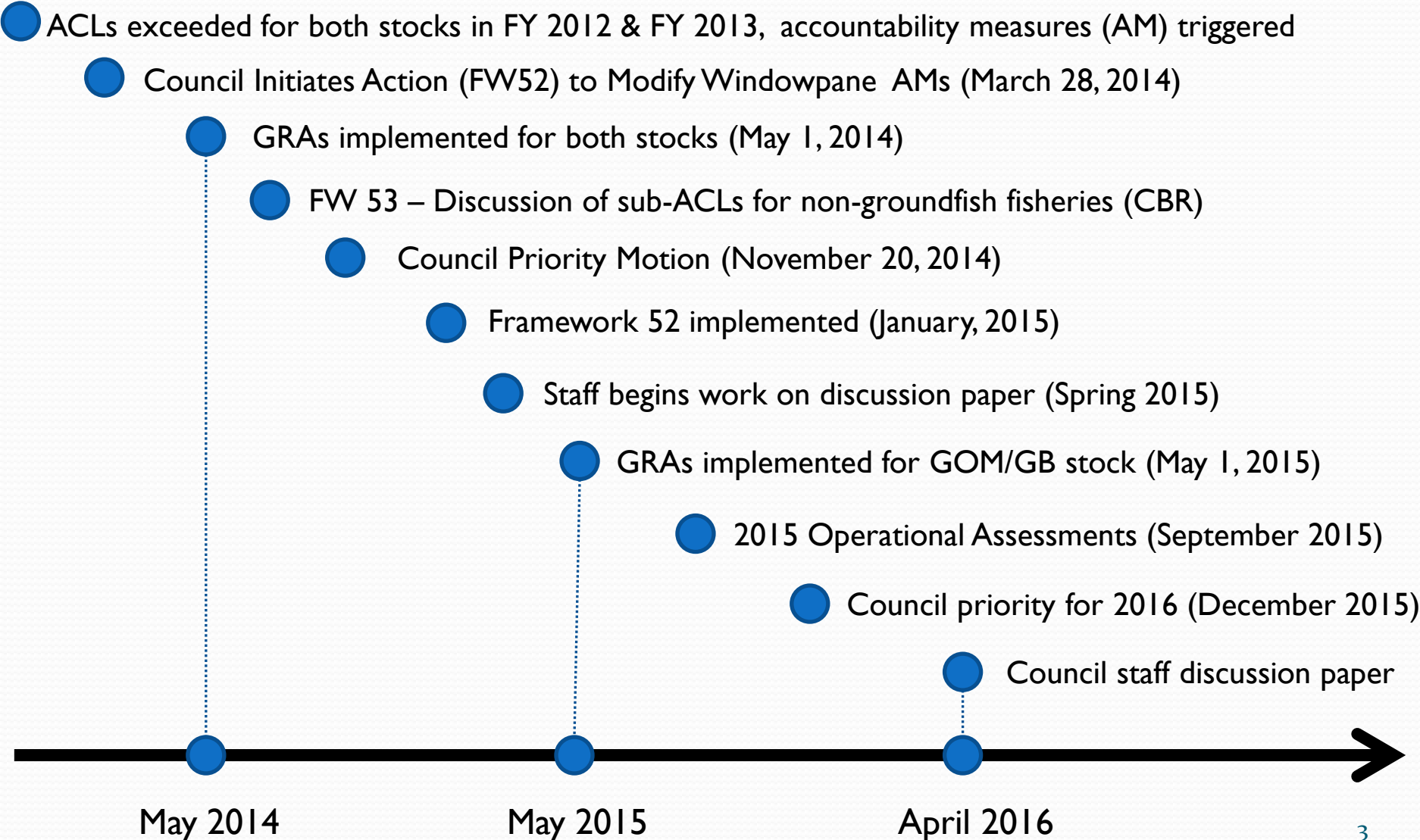
- Section 2.0 – **DRAFT** Problem Statement (p.5)
- Section 3.0 – Background (p.5)
- Section 4.0 – Management
- Section 5.0 – **DRAFT** Objectives
- Section 6.0 – Potential Approaches

- **Goal of Meeting Today**

Receive input on next steps for windowpane discussion paper



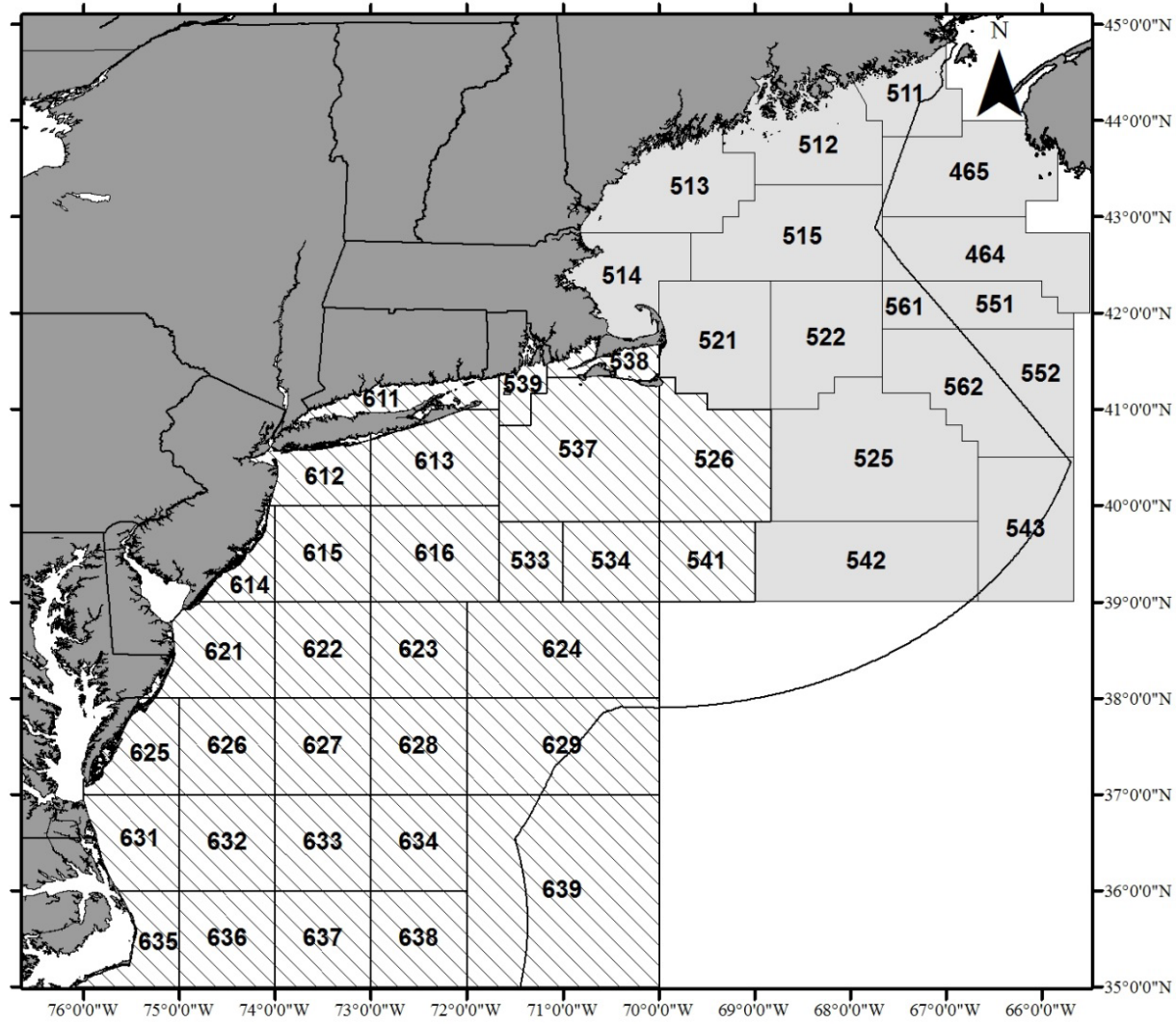
Background on Windowpane Issues



Section 2.0 DRAFT Problem Statement

- When triggered, accountability measures restrict the ability of each impacted fishery to target and catch marketable species, resulting in adverse economic impacts to a range of fleets.
- Southern Windowpane overages in FY2012 and FY2013
 - AM in place for most of FY 2014
- Northern Windowpane overages in FY 2012, FY 2013, FY 2014
 - AM in place FY 2014 & FY 2015

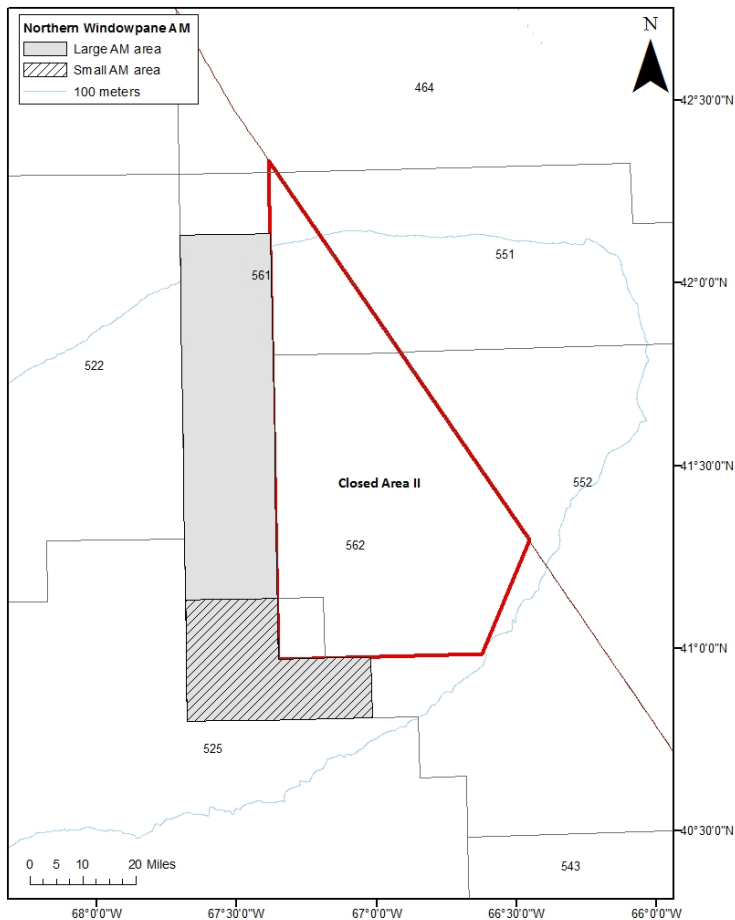
Windowpane Flounder Stock Areas



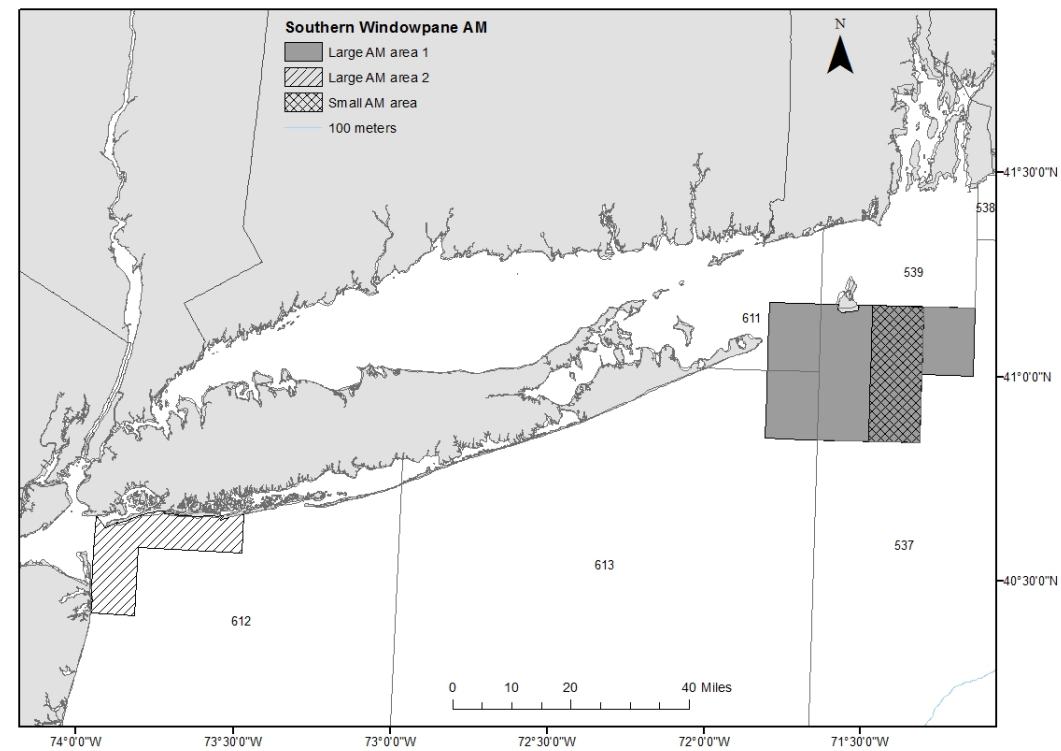
- GOM/GB (Northern) Windowpane Flounder Stock Area
- ▨ SNE/MA (Southern) Windowpane Flounder Stock Area

Windowpane AM areas

Northern (GOM/GB)
Groundfish



Southern (SNE/MA)
Groundfish and Large Mesh Bottom Trawl



Overview of Windowpane Status and Management

| | GOM/GB Windowpane Flounder (Northern) | SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder (Southern) |
|---|--|---|
| Stock Status | Overfished, Not overfishing | Not overfished, overfishing not occurring, rebuilt |
| Last assessed | 2015 Operational Updates | 2015 Operational Updates |
| Reactive AM? | Yes - Restricted Gear Areas | Yes - Restricted Gear Areas |
| Fisheries with reactive Windowpane AMs | Groundfish only | Scallop, and Groundfish and Other fisheries using 5" mesh or greater (Fluke and Scup) |
| Can Groundfish sectors request exemptions from AMs? | No | No |
| Fisheries with >1mt catch of windowpane in a year (FY2012 - FY2014) | Groundfish, Scallop, Lobster/Crab | Groundfish, Scallop, Fluke, Herring, Scup, Squid, Whiting |
| AM triggered for FY2015? | Yes - Large AM area in FY 2015 | No |

Southern Windowpane Flounder

FY2016, %=share of ABC

OFL



ABC



State Waters (6%)



ACL

Sub-ACLs

Groundfish (18%)

Scallop (36%)

Other (40%)

Catch by
Fishery/Fleet

Sectors

Common
Pool

Limited Access

Limited Access
General Cat. IFQ

Fluke

Scup

Squid/Whiting

'Unknown'

AM

Year Round GRA

Year Round GRA

Year Round GRA
for codend mesh $\geq 5''$

Fishery/Fleet
Impacted
By AM

Sectors

Common
Pool

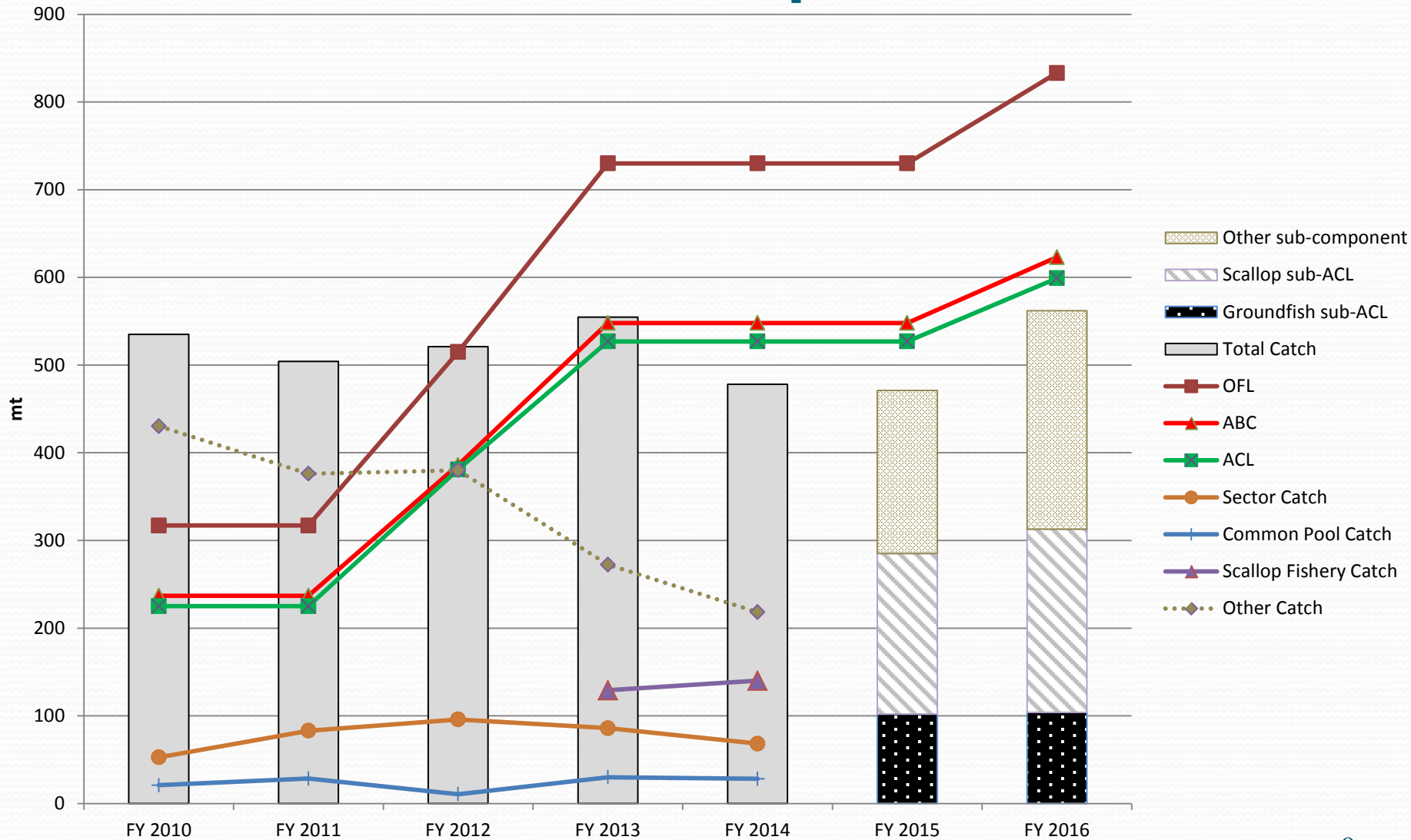
Limited Access

Limited Access
General Cat. IFQ

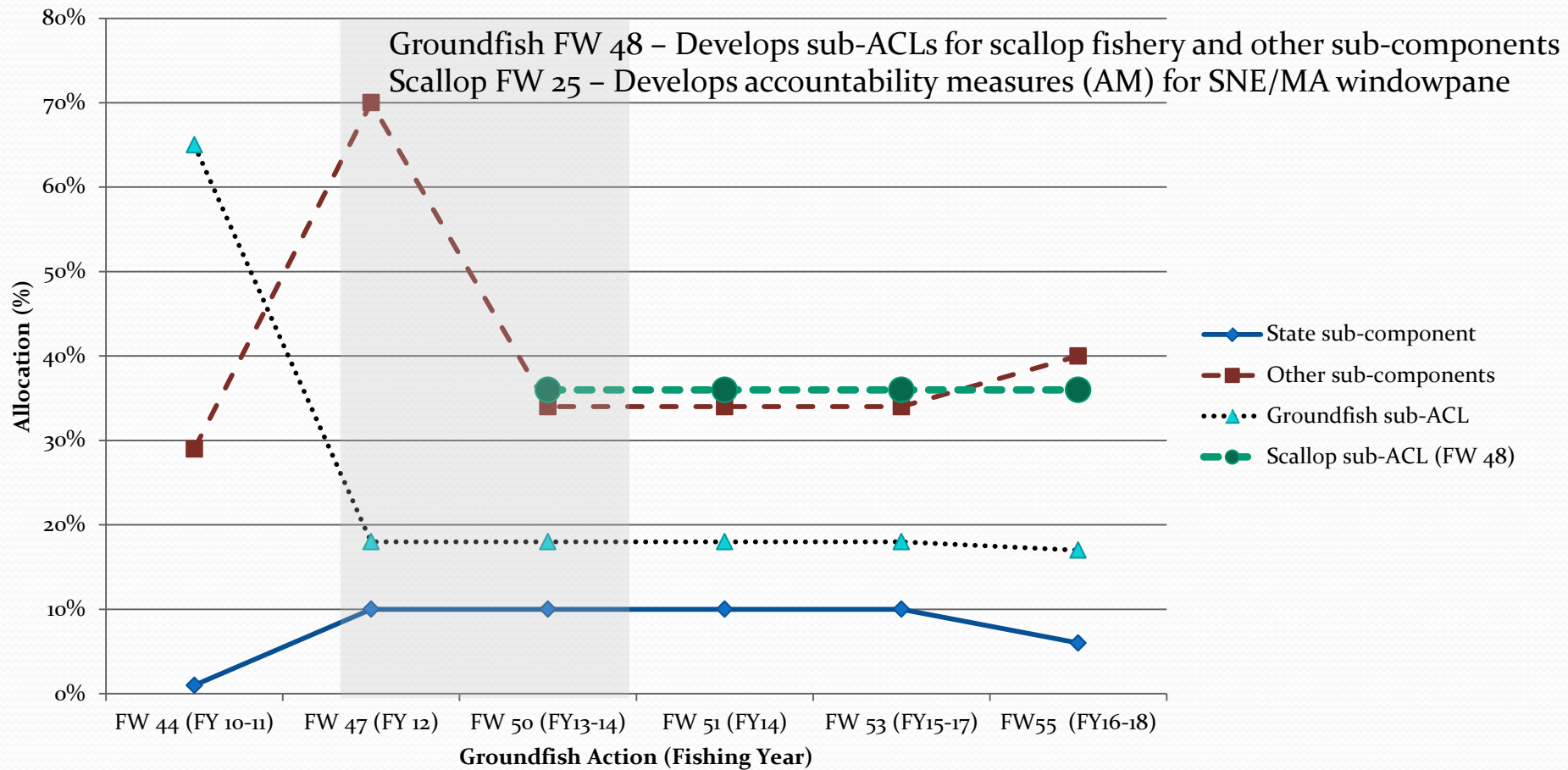
Fluke

Scup

Southern Windowpane Catch



Southern Windowpane Allocations



Northern Windowpane Flounder

FY2016, %=share of ABC

OFL



ABC



State Waters (1%) and Other Sub-Components (60%)

Scallop – LA and LAGC IFQ catch,
Squid, Herring, Whiting, Lobster catches



ACL



Groundfish (39%)

Sub-ACL

Catch by
Fishery/Fleet

Sectors

Common
Pool

AM

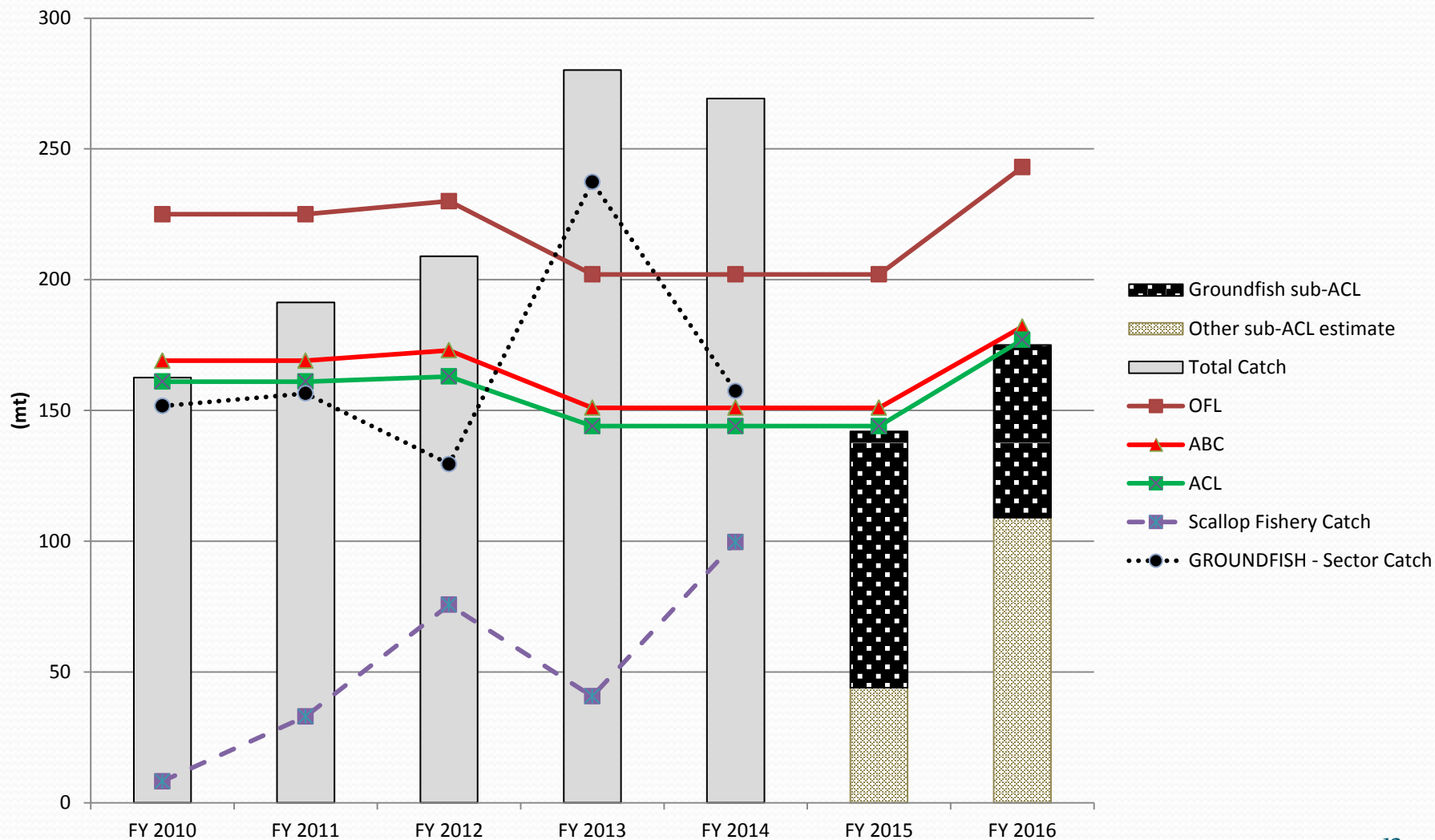
Year Round GRA

Fishery/Fleet
Impacted
By AM

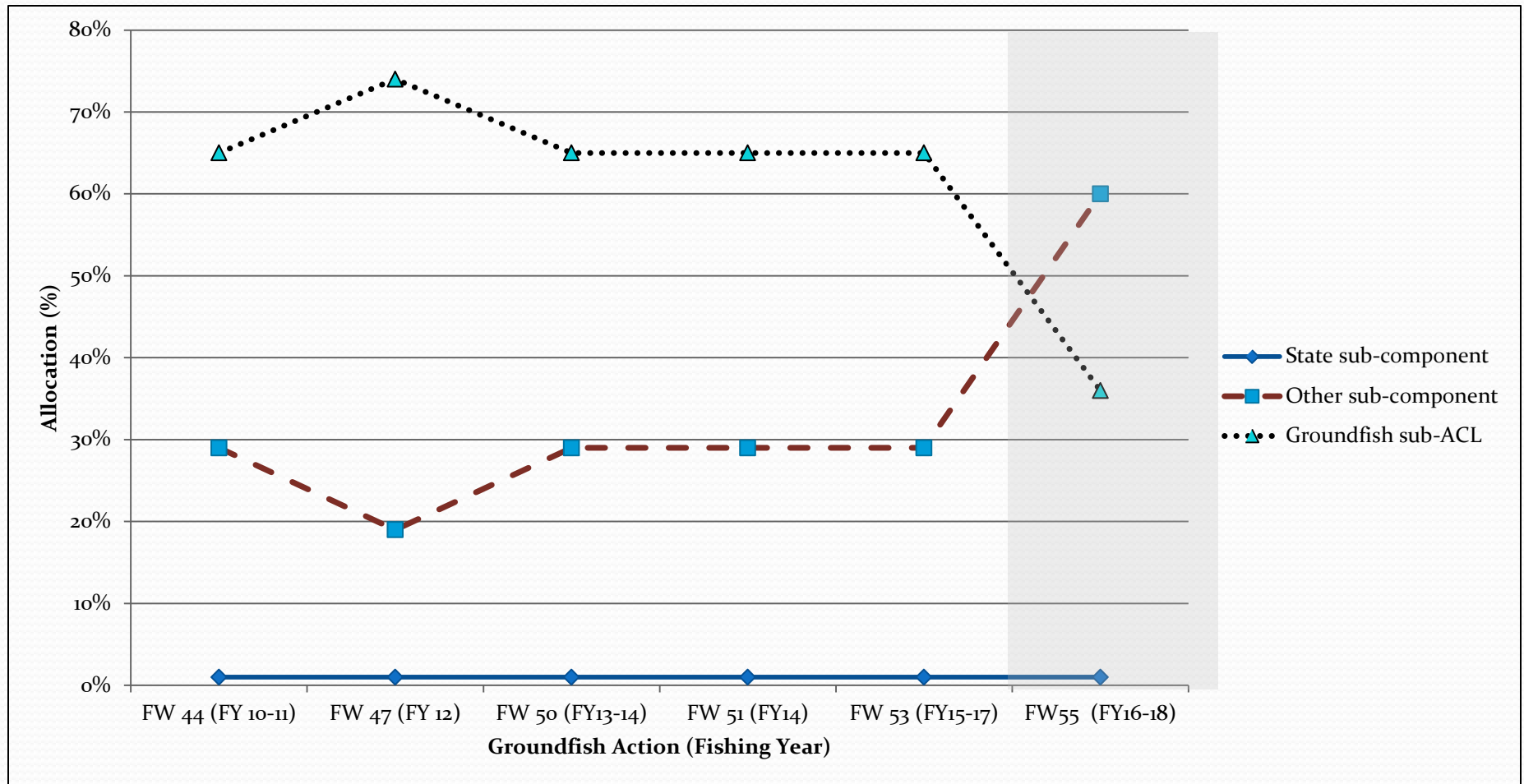
Sectors

Common
Pool

Northern Windowpane Catch



Northern Windowpane Allocations



FY 2015 Preliminary Groundfish Catch Estimates (Sector and Common Pool)



Section 5.0 DRAFT Objectives

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- Minimize the economic impact of accountability measures (GRAs) triggered by windowpane flounder catch overages.
- Create accountability for fisheries catching relatively large amounts of windowpane flounder.
- Create additional accountability within fisheries catching windowpane flounder.
- Modify management measures to reflect changes in the status, abundance and/or distribution of the resource.
- **Other objectives that would address the problem statement?**

Section 6.0 Potential Approaches

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Developed for discussion purposes

Will not be developed further without a Committee recommendation to do so

- 6.1 – No Action/Status Quo
- 6.2 – Allocate the stock
- 6.3 – Evaluate the performance of existing AM areas
- 6.4 – Evaluate as candidate for ecosystem component
- **Other approaches?**

6.1 - Status Quo (No Action)

- No changes would be made to current windowpane flounder management in Groundfish FMP
 - Same accountability measures for both stocks
- **FY2015 Catch:**
 - Northern Windowpane catch ~70% of sub-ACL (end of March)
 - Southern Windowpane catch ~110% of sub-ACL (end of March)
 - Groundfish sub-ACL only 20% of overall ACL
- AM(s) may not be triggered for FY2016

6.2 – Allocate the stock

- **Several potential approaches in the document - Need Committee Guidance (if interested in pursuing this further)**
 - Sub-ACL for non-groundfish fisheries
 - 6.2.1 – Scallop fishery sub-ACL for GOM/GB windowpane
 - 6.2.3 – Additional fishery specific sub-ACLs for SNE/MA windowpane
 - Allocation/share to components of the groundfish fleet (sector and common pool) or permit holders (as PSC)
 - 6.2.2.1 - PSC Proxy Approach

6.3 – Evaluate the Performance of AM areas

- Recent catch has been above and below the ACLs

See Table 7 & Table 12

- Several potential approaches
 - Percentage of hauls with windowpane catch before and after AM
 - Discard/Total Kept Catch (d/Kall) and CPUE before and after AM implementation
 - Gear
 - Statistical Reporting Area (finer scale?)
 - Seasonality

6.4 – Evaluate as ecosystem component

| Criteria | Northern Windowpane | Southern Windowpane |
|---|--|--|
| Be a non-target species or a non-target stock | Non-target stock. | Non-target stock. |
| Not be determined to be subject to overfishing, approaching overfished, or overfished | Overfished, not subject to overfishing. | Not overfished, not subject to overfishing. |
| Not be likely to become subject to overfishing or overfished, according to the best available information, in the absence of conservation and management measures; | <u>Current Status: overfished.</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilt. Not overfished, not subject to overfishing (2012 & 2015 assessments). • In FY 2010 and FY 2011, catches were 169% and 159% of the OFL. OFL/ABC values increased in FY2012, FY2013, and FY2016. |
| Not generally be retained for sale or personal use. | Generally not retained for sale or personal use. | Generally not retained for sale or personal use. |

Discussion of Next Steps

- The Committee may wish to develop recommendations for next steps, including no action.
- If additional work is recommended, specific feedback is requested on the following:
 - *2.0 Draft Problem Statement*
 - *5.0 Draft Objectives*
 - *6.0 Potential Approaches*