

Groundfish Advisory Panel

Boston, Massachusetts

November 28, 2017

Meeting Motions

Framework Adjustment 57

Motion 1: Raymond/Odell

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee (in the next available regulatory action) to agree to change the way the Gulf of Maine cod and haddock sub-ACLs be calculated. That is, the recreational sub-ACL should be calculated in the same way the groundfish sub-ACL is calculated, after the state waters and other sub component catch is deducted.

Motion 1a: Soule/

To table Motion 1 until later in the day.

Motion 1a *failed* for lack of second.

Motion 1 carried 9/0/0

Motion 2: Odell/Russo

For Framework 57, the Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the subcomponents for Atlantic halibut and Gulf of Maine cod remain at the FY2017 percentage values for the state sub-components, namely 20% and 8% respectively.

Rationale:

1. It is understood that the subcomponent analysis, and process to set aside fish, is intended to account for all sources of mortality.
2. It is understood that Magnuson ACL and AM requirements apply differently to other components and states.
3. However, putting more fish aside will not incentivize the states to adjust management within their states to reflect the reported status of the stock.
4. Amendment 16 originally considered the other subcomponents to be minor (1-4%). But these values have been increasing (for some stocks) overtime. Some values now represent a significant source of mortality, notably because federal fisheries have been constrained by the ACLs.
5. The proportions recommended for GOM cod and Atlantic Halibut are quite large given the current reported status of the stock.

Motion 2a to split Motion 2: Soule/Smith

Motion 2a *carried* 9/0/0.

Motion 2b, as friendly amended:

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 2b *carried* 9/0/0.

Motion 2c, as friendly amended

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 2c *carried* 8/1/0.

Motion 3: Goethel/Soule

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 3 *carried* 8/0/1.

Motion 4: Raymond/Smith

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends that the Groundfish Committee agree to endorse a Council letter to the States describing the sub component groundfish catch amounts for State waters and requesting the States take complementary and/or additional measures to keep State waters catch levels to those amounts.

Motion 4 *carried* 9/0/0.

Motion 5: Odell/Goethel

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that a revised process be established for the PDT sub-component analysis that expands upon the three-year average catch to include flagging stocks whereby the three-year average catch lies outside of a reasonable range of change in the approved ACL and reported status of the stock.

Motion 5 carried 8/0/1.

Motion 6: Raymond/Soule

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to select 4.1.1.2 Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications with the changes recommended today to the sub-components/specifications by the Groundfish Advisory Panel (see previous motions).

Motion 6 carried 8/1/0.

Motion 7: Goethel/Odell

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 7 carried 3/0/6.

Motion 8: Goethel/Raymond

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 8 carried 9/0/0.

Motion 9: Soule/Raymond

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee for Atlantic halibut to select 4.3.1.1.2.1 Sub-Option 2A: Reactive AM of No Possession Would Apply to All Federal Permit Holders.

Motion 9 carried 9/0/0.

Motion 10: Raymond/Russo

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 10 carried 7/0/2.

Motion 11: Raymond/Russo

To modify the Atlantic halibut accountability measures to allow standard trawl gear from April 1 through June 30 in the area between 41 degrees 40 minutes and 42 degrees.

Motion 11 *carried* 5/0/4.

Motion 12: Goethel/Soule

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee for southern windowpane flounder to select 4.3.1.2.2.2 Sub-Option 2B: Modified Gear Restricted Areas.

Motion 12 *carried* 4/0/5.

Motion 13: Raymond/Russo

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 13 *carried* 8/0/1

Motion 14: Odell/Raymond

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 14 *carried* 9/0/0.

Motion 15 to reconsider **Motion 11:** Raymond/Goethel

Motion 15 *carried* 7/0/0.

Motion 15a

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 15a *carried* 5/0/2.

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

Motion 16: Weirsma/Smith

To include an Optimized Retention approach for EM, where EM runs on 100% of trips and a subset of hauls or trips is reviewed to verify vessel trip reported (VTR)-reported discards. The optimized retention model would eliminate minimum fish size restrictions, but fishermen could choose which fish to keep based on their marketability, and/or the difficulty handling and sorting on deck—modeled upon the West Coast EM program.

Rationale: The justification is to provide additional flexibility for vessels when choosing an EM option. Based on our outreach efforts for Max retention (full retention GF), many fishermen and dealers that are concerned about the marketability of small fish. There is also concern about the extra fish handling and sorting efforts (e.g. gutting) small, unmarketable fish on board, especially haddock. An optimized retention option would still require fish identification via cameras, as well a process to estimate weights of discards (e.g. volumetric approach), but would not require individual fish measurements. Fishermen would be allowed to optimize their catch by discarding unmarketable fish. In addition, similar to the Max Retention approach, a DSM program would likely be required for catch verification and/or sub-sampling.

Motion 16 *carried* 5/1/2.

Motion 17: Weirsma/

Establish an ‘EM Set aside’, carved out of the management uncertainty buffers, in order to help support the adoption/expansion of operationalized EM programs in New England (where cameras are running on 100% of the trips).

Motion 17 *failed* for lack of second.

Motion 18: Goethel/Odell

That the amendment includes a cost-benefit analysis of all aspects of monitoring.

Motion 18 *carried* 6/0/2.

Georges Bank Cod

Motion 19: Raymond/Odell

The Groundfish Advisory Panel does not recommend to the Groundfish Committee that the Council recommend Emergency Action on Georges Bank cod for the recreational fishery in FY2017, provided that the provisions within FW57 to allow the Regional Administrator the authority to adjust measures in FY2018 and FY 2019 would be approved.

Motion 19 carried 8/0/0.

Priorities for 2018

Motion 20: Raymond/Smith

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends that the Committee convene the Groundfish Advisory Panel on an annual basis for the purpose of developing a fishery performance report (modeled after the reports produced by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council) as a priority for 2018.

Motion 20 carried 8/0/0.

Motion 21: Soule/Odell

The Groundfish Advisory Panel votes to express great concern (i.e., volatility in highs and lows, lack of stability) in the latest round of groundfish stock assessments.

Rationale: The results of the latest round of stock assessments are not only divorced from the reality of what fishermen are seeing on the water, they are now increasingly at odds with prior assessments and show decreasing predictive ability.

Motion 21 carried 8/0/0.