

## New England Fishery Management Council

### Groundfish Advisory Panel

Meeting by Webinar

December 1, 2022

### **DRAFT Discussion and Meeting Motions**

#### **Attendance**

	Present	Absent
Ben Martens (Chair)		X
Jackie Odell (Vice-Chair)		X
Bonnie Brady	X	
Gib Brogan		X
Cassie Canastra	X	
David Goethel	X	
Nick Muto		X
Maggie Raymond	X	
Hank Soule	X	

The Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting was chaired by the Groundfish Committee chair, Mr. Rick Bellavance. The chair and vice-chair had scheduling conflicts.

*The meeting started at 1:33 pm.*

The Groundfish Advisory Panel did not have a quorum at the start of the meeting. A summary of the what the Advisors in the room support follows in each section. A quorum was reached at 2:45 pm and the summary reflects the change at that time.

#### **Framework Adjustment 65/ Specifications and Management Measures**

##### ***Discussion Summary: Gulf of Maine Cod Rebuilding Strategy***

**The Groundfish Advisors in the room supported** in Section 4.1.2 Revised rebuilding for GOM Cod: Alternative 2- Revised rebuilding strategy for GOM Cod, Option B.

**Alternative 2-** Revised rebuilding strategy for GOM Cod

**Option B.**  $T_{\text{target}}$  of 10 years, rebuilding by 2033, at  $F_{\text{rebuild}}$  of 70%FMSY= 0.121, which results in a 62% probability of achieving  $B_{\text{MSY}}$ , or

**The Groundfish Advisors in the room supported moving to considered but rejected in Section 4.1.2 Revised rebuilding for GOM Cod: Alternative 2- Revised rebuilding strategy for GOM Cod, Option A.**

**Alternative 2-** Revised rebuilding strategy for GOM Cod

**Option A.**  $T_{\text{target}}$  of 10 years, rebuilding by 2033, at  $F_{\text{rebuild}}$  of  $50\%F_{\text{MSY}} = 0.087$ , which results in a 77% probability of achieving  $B_{\text{MSY}}$ ,

***Discussion Summary: Revised Specifications***

**The Groundfish Advisors in the room supported in Section 4.2.2 Revised specifications: Alternative 2 with Option A2 for Georges Bank Cod and Option B both Options B1 and B2 for management uncertainty.**

**Alternative 2** – Revised specifications

**Option A** – Georges Bank cod ABC for FY2023 and FY2024

- **Option A2** – 904 mt

**Option B** – Remove the management uncertainty buffer for sectors when ASM target coverage rate is set at 99% or greater

- **Option B1-** Gulf of Maine haddock
- **Option B2-** White hake

A quorum of Advisory Panel members was reached at 2:45 pm.

### ***Recreational Catch Target for Georges Bank Cod***

#### **Motion 1: Raymond/Goethel**

**The Groundfish Advisors recommends as preferred** in Section 4.3 Recreational Catch Target for Georges Bank Cod: Option 4.2.3.3, Option 3 Revised recreational GB cod catch target based on recent catches.

#### **Alternative 3 – Recreational Catch Target for Georges Bank Cod**

##### ***Option 3 - Revised Recreational GB Cod Catch Target Based on Recent Catches***

The GB cod recreational catch target would be set for fishing year 2022 using the method as follows:

- The 3-year (CY2019-CY2021) average of recreational catch (233mt), reduced by the percent change between FY2021 US ABC to the proposed FY2023 US ABC (40%).
- Under a 904 mt ABC, this results in a GB cod recreational catch target of 92 mt.

In addition, the recreational GB cod catch target should be at least 75 mt.

*Motion 1 carried by consensus and without objection.*

### ***ABC Control Rules***

#### **Motion 2: Raymond/ Goethel**

The Groundfish Advisory Panel feels it should be a priority to revise the ABC controls to lessen the large fluctuations in ABCs from one assessment to the next.

*Rationale:* To work on this for the next specifications cycle. The Advisors are concerned about the substantial changes in GOM haddock and GB haddock ABCs for example this year.

*Motion 2 carried by consensus and without objection.*

### ***Additional Measures to Promote Stock Rebuilding of GOM cod***

#### **Motion 3: Raymond/Soule**

The GAP believes that the recreational uncertainty buffer for GOM cod is not sufficient because the fishery is not monitored. The GAP does not have a specific recommendation for increasing the uncertainty buffer, but does strongly recommend that the buffer not be reduced.

*Motion 3 carried by consensus and without objection.*

*The meeting ended at approximately 4 pm.*