

New England Fishery Management Council

Recreational Advisory Panel

Meeting by Webinar

November 29, 2021

Attendance

	Present	Absent
Frank Blount (Chair)	X	
Barry Gibson (Vice Chair)	X	
Joseph Carpino		X
Jasper Coutu		X
Rip Cunningham	X	
Tom DePersia	X	
Keven Niland	X	
Patrick Paquette		X
Michael Plaia	X	
James Reilly	X	
Jonathan Sterritt	X	
William (Tim) R. Tower III	X	

Meeting started at 9:30 am.

Framework Adjustment 63/Specifications and Management Measures

Motion 1: Tower/Gibson

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:

- Slot limit 24 in to 28 in fish size
- 10 fish bag limit
- Closed season July and August (Wave 4)

Motion 1a to amend (as friendly): Cunningham/Niland

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:

- Slot limit 22 in to 28 in fish size
- 5 fish bag limit
- Closed season July and August (Wave 4)

Motion 1b to substitute Motion 1a: Gibson/Sterritt

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:

- Slot limit 22 in to 28 in fish size
- 5 fish bag limit
- Closed season May 15 through July 31

	Yes	No	Abstain
Frank Blount (Chair)			
Barry Gibson (Vice Chair)	X		
Rip Cunningham	X		
Tom DePersia		X	
Keven Niland		X	
Michael Plaia		X	
James Reilly		X	
Jonathan Sterritt	X		
William (Tim) R. Tower III		X	

Motion 1b *failed* 3/5/0.

Motion 1c to substitute: Tower/???

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:

- Slot limit 22 in to 28 in fish size
- 5 fish bag limit
- Closed season July and August (Wave 4) for private mode only
- Open for-hire

Motion 1c *failed* for lack of second.

Motion 1a to amend (as friendly): Cunningham/Niland

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:

- Slot limit 22 in to 28 in fish size
- 5 fish bag limit
- Closed season July and August (Wave 4)

	Yes	No	Abstain
Frank Blount (Chair)			
Barry Gibson (Vice Chair)		X	
Rip Cunningham	X		
Tom DePersia	X		
Keven Niland	X		
Michael Plaia		X	
James Reilly	X		
Jonathan Sterritt	X		
William (Tim) R. Tower III		X	

Motion 1a *carried* 5/3/0.

Motion 1a as main motion

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:

- Slot limit 22 in to 28 in fish size
- 5 fish bag limit
- Closed season July and August (Wave 4)

Motion 1d to amend 1a: Plaia/???

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:

- 22 in min size
- 5 fish bag limit
- Closed season July and August (Wave 4)

Motion 1d *failed* for lack of second.

Motion 1e to amend Motion 1a: Sterritt/Gibson

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:

- Slot limit 22 in to 28 in fish size
- 5 fish bag limit
- To prioritize the closed season measure to achieve conservation goals, as:
 - First choice- May 1 to July 31 (Wave 3 and Partial Wave 4)
 - Second choice- July and August (Wave 4)

	Yes	No	Abstain
Frank Blount (Chair)			
Barry Gibson (Vice Chair)	X		
Rip Cunningham	X		
Tom DePersia	X		
Keven Niland	X		
Michael Plaia	X		
James Reilly	X		
Jonathan Sterritt	X		
William (Tim) R. Tower III	X		

Motion 1e *carried* 8/0/0.

Motion 1e as main motion

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:

- Slot limit 22 in to 28 in fish size
- 5 fish bag limit
- To prioritize the closed season measure to achieve conservation goals, as:
 - First choice- May 1 to July 31 (Wave 3 and Partial Wave 4)
 - Second choice- July and August (Wave 4)

	Yes	No	Abstain
Frank Blount (Chair)			
Barry Gibson (Vice Chair)	X		
Rip Cunningham	X		
Tom DePersia	X		
Keven Niland	X		
Michael Plaia	X		
James Reilly	X		
Jonathan Sterritt	X		
William (Tim) R. Tower III	X		

Motion 1e *carried* 8/0/0.

Motion 2: Gibson/Tower

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee Option 3 (PDT memo)

Option 3 – 71 mt for FY2022-FY2024

The 3-year (CY2018-CY2020) average percentage of recreational catches relative to US fisheries total catches (20.6%) applied to the proposed FY2022 US ABC (343 mt) results in a GB cod recreational catch target of 71 mt.

	Yes	No	Abstain
Frank Blount (Chair)			
Barry Gibson (Vice Chair)	X		
Rip Cunningham	X		
Tom DePersia	X		
Keven Niland	X		
Michael Plaia	X		
James Reilly	X		
Jonathan Sterritt	X		
William (Tim) R. Tower III	X		

Motion 2 carried 8/0/0.

Consensus Statement #1: The Recreational Advisory Panel expresses its disappointment to the Groundfish Committee that the Council did not direct the TMGC to renegotiate the quota for 2022 Eastern Georges Bank cod with Canada.

Passed without objection.

Motion 3: Plaia/Tower

While the Recreational Advisory Panel realizes that the Council has not yet addressed the management actions based on the findings of the Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group, we would like to point out that the best available science says that the codfish we are catching off the south shore of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York are **NOT** from the Georges Bank stock.

Passed without objection.

Motion 4: Gibson/DePersia

The Recreational Advisory Panel supports the Groundfish Advisory Panel's request to the Groundfish Committee to recommend that the Council remand the Georges Bank cod ABC back to the Scientific and Statistical Committee for reconsideration of the position articulated by the minority at the SSC meeting. The new information on FY2020 catch data was not available to SSC. The remand request should be written to avoid delay of the FW (e.g. the Council will accept the SSC's OFL and ABC final recommendations once made and without objection for FY2022-FY2024).

	Yes	No	Abstain
Frank Blount (Chair)			
Barry Gibson (Vice Chair)	X		
Rip Cunningham		X	
Tom DePersia	X		
Keven Niland	X		
Michael Plaia			
James Reilly	X		
Jonathan Sterritt	X		
William (Tim) R. Tower III		X	

Motion 4 *carried* 5/2/0.

Motion 5: Gibson/Tower:

The Council should retain the authority to adjust recreational Georges Bank cod measures and it should be clarified the Georges Bank cod recreational catch target is to achieve but not exceed the target value.

Passed without objection.

Possible 2022 Council Priorities.

Consensus Statement #2: Add in "begin adjustments to management measures needed as a result of revised understanding of cod stock structure. This may require an amendment."

Passed without objection.

Motion 6: Plaia/Tower

The RAP does not support a GB cod recreational sub-ACL until the Council addresses the results of cod stock structure working group.

Passed without objection.

Adjourned at 2:13pm