

**New England Fishery Management Council
Groundfish Committee
November 30, 2021**

Meeting Motions

Committee Attendance

	Present	Absent
Rick Bellavance (Chair)	X	
Libby Etrie (Vice Chair)	X	
Togue Brawn	X	
Mark Godfroy	X	
Peter Christopher (GARFO)	X	
Melanie Griffin	X	
Megan Ware	X	
John Pappalardo	X	
Mike Pierdinock	X	
Paul Risi (MAFMC)	X	
Dan Salerno	X	
Geoff Smith	X	
Wes Townsend (MAFMC)	X	
Alan Tracy	X	

The meeting started at 9:30 am.

Framework Adjustment 63 / Specifications and Management Measures

Motion 1: Ware/Etrie

Under 4.1.4 *Alternative 4 - Changes to the Default Specifications Process* for Framework Adjustment 63, the Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Council 4.1.4.3 *Option 3: 5 months duration, 75% of the previous year's specifications, no holdback provision, and 2-year US/CA TACs* as the preferred alternative.

	Yes	No	Abstain
Rick Bellavance (Chair)			
Libby Etrie (Vice Chair)	X		
Togue Brawn	X		
Mark Godfroy	X		
Peter Christopher (GARFO)	X		
Melanie Griffin	X		
Megan Ware	X		
John Pappalardo	X		
Mike Pierdinock	X		
Paul Risi (MAFMC)			X
Dan Salerno		X	
Geoff Smith	X		
Wes Townsend (MAFMC)			X
Alan Tracy	X		

Motion 1 *carried* 10/1/2.

Motion 2: Etrie/Salerno (as friendly amended)

The Groundfish Committee recommends that the Council remand the Georges Bank cod Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) back to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for reconsideration of the ramp-down approach articulated by the minority at the SSC meeting. Social and economic analysis of this approach should be provided along with National Standard 1 guidelines. The new information on FY2020 catch data was not available to SSC. The remand request should be written to avoid delay of Framework Adjustment 63 (e.g., the Council will accept the SSC's Overfishing Limit (OFL) and ABC final recommendations once made and without objection for fishing years 2022-2024).

	Yes	No	Abstain
Rick Bellavance (Chair)			
Libby Etrie (Vice Chair)	X		
Togue Brawn	X		
Mark Godfroy	X		
Peter Christopher (GARFO)		X	
Melanie Griffin	X		
Megan Ware	X		
John Pappalardo		X	
Mike Pierdinock	X		
Paul Risi (MAFMC)			X
Dan Salerno	X		
Geoff Smith		X	
Wes Townsend (MAFMC)			X
Alan Tracy	X		

Motion 2 *carried* 8/3/2.

Motion 3: Etrie/Griffin

To include under Framework Adjustment 63 the temporary authority for the Regional Administrator to modify the Georges Bank cod recreational measures to stay within the Georges Bank cod recreational catch target for fishing years 2022 to 2024. This provision will follow the Framework 57 process that included direct consultation with the Council.

	Yes	No	Abstain
Rick Bellavance (Chair)			
Libby Etrie (Vice Chair)	X		
Togue Brawn	X		
Mark Godfroy	X		
Peter Christopher (GARFO)			X
Melanie Griffin	X		
Megan Ware	X		
John Pappalardo	X		
Mike Pierdinock	X		
Paul Risi (MAFMC)			X
Dan Salerno	X		
Geoff Smith	X		
Wes Townsend (MAFMC)			X
Alan Tracy	X		

Motion 3 *carried* 10/0/3

Motion 4: Pierdinock/Godfroy (as friendly amended)

The Groundfish Committee recommends the approach under Option 3 (Groundfish PDT memo)

Option 3 – 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, for example a 343 mt US ABC results in a GB cod recreational catch target of 71 mt.

Motion 4a to amend Motion 4: Etrie/Pierdinock

To include Option 2 and Option 3 approaches outlined in the Groundfish PDT memo

Option 2 – For FY2022-FY2024

The 3-year (CY2018-CY2020) average of recreational catch (163mt), reduced by the percent change between FY2021 US ABC to the proposed FY2022 US ABC (73.8%), for example results in a GB cod recreational catch target of 43 mt.

Option 3 – 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, for example a 343 mt US ABC results in a GB cod recreational catch target of 71 mt.

	Yes	No	Abstain
Rick Bellavance (Chair)			
Libby Etrie (Vice Chair)	X		
Togue Brawn	X		
Mark Godfroy	X		
Peter Christopher (GARFO)	X		
Melanie Griffin	X		
Megan Ware	X		
John Pappalardo	X		
Mike Pierdinock	X		
Paul Risi (MAFMC)			X
Dan Salerno	X		
Geoff Smith	X		
Wes Townsend (MAFMC)			X
Alan Tracy	X		

Motion 4a to amend *carried* 11/0/2

Motion 4a as the main motion.

To include Option 2 and Option 3 approaches outlined in the Groundfish PDT memo

Option 2 – For FY2022-FY2024

The 3-year (CY2018-CY2020) average of recreational catch (163mt), reduced by the percent change between FY2021 US ABC to the proposed FY2022 US ABC (73.8%), for example results in a GB cod recreational catch target of 43 mt.

Option 3 – 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, for example a 343 mt US ABC results in a GB cod recreational catch target of 71 mt.

Motion 4a as the main motion *passed without objection*.

Motion 5: Etrie/Pierdinock

To add an alternative for analysis 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)

Motion 5a to amend: Pierdinock/Smith

To add an alternative for analysis 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)

To add an additional alternative

- 23 min fish size
- 5 fish bag limit
- Closed season March 1 to June 30 (Waves 2 and 3)

Motion 5a to amend *passed without objection.*

Motion 5a main motion

To add an alternative for analysis 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)

To add an additional alternative

- 23 min fish size
- 5 fish bag limit
- Closed season March 1 to June 30 (Waves 2 and 3)

Motion 5a as the main motion *passed without objection.*

Motion 6: Etrie/Ware

GF Committee recommends 4.1.2 Alternative 2 Revised Specifications as the preferred alternative (excluding specifications for FY2022 to FY2024 for GB cod)

Annual specifications for FY2022 - FY2024 for GOM cod, FY2022- FY2023 for GB yellowtail flounder, and FY2022 for white hake. Specify total allowable catches (TACs) for the U.S./Canada Management Area for FY2022 for Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder.

Motion 6 passed without objection.

Motion 7: Salerno/Etrie

The Groundfish Committee recommends to add for additional alternative for analysis for Georges Bank cod recreational measures

- 24"-28" slot size
- 1 fish bag limit
- seasonal closure - Wave 4 (July 1 - August 31)

	Yes	No	Abstain
Rick Bellavance (Chair)			
Libby Etrie (Vice Chair)	X		
Togue Brawn		X	
Mark Godfroy		X	
Peter Christopher (GARFO)		X	
Melanie Griffin		X	
Megan Ware	X		
John Pappalardo		X	
Mike Pierdinock		X	
Paul Risi (MAFMC)			X
Dan Salerno	X		
Geoff Smith		X	
Wes Townsend (MAFMC)			X
Alan Tracy		X	

Motion 7 failed 3/8/2.

Possible 2022 Council Priorities for Groundfish

Motion 8: Etrie/Salerno

The Groundfish Committee puts forward the following list of priorities for 2022, in order of priority for 1-4, for consideration by the Council in December:

1. Set ABCs/ACLs for roughly half of groundfish stocks for FY2023-2025 and US/CA stocks for FY 2023, revise rebuilding plans for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder; adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding
2. Develop metrics to be used in the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, as per A23 (Multi-year Priority)
3. In consultation with SSC, Revise ABC Control Rules for Northeast Multispecies Stocks
4. Allocate GB Cod to the Recreational fishery and establish Accountability Measures; this would be a multi-year priority informed by the Cod Stock structure work.
5. Staff: Research Track Assessments: Haddock, American Plaice, Atlantic Cod
6. Staff: Groundfish management track assessments
7. Staff: TRAC/TMGC

	Yes	No	Abstain
Rick Bellavance (Chair)			
Libby Etrie (Vice Chair)	X		
Togue Brawn	X		
Mark Godfroy	X		
Peter Christopher (GARFO)			X
Melanie Griffin			X
Megan Ware	X		
John Pappalardo		X	
Mike Pierdinock		X	
Paul Risi (MAFMC)			X
Dan Salerno	X		
Geoff Smith		X	
Wes Townsend (MAFMC)			X
Alan Tracy	X		

Motion 8 *carried* 6/3/4.

The meeting ended at 4:50 pm.