

New England Fishery Management Council**Groundfish Committee**

By Webinar

January 20, 2026

Meeting Motions**Attendance****Groundfish Committee**

All Present: John Pappalardo (Chair), Terry Alexander (Vice-Chair), Pete Christopher (GARFO), Andy Dangelo, Jim Gilmore (MAFMC), Melanie Griffin, Jackie Odell, Mike Pierdinock, Paul Risi (MAFMC), Geoff Smith, Megan Ware, Peter Whelan

The meeting started at approximately 1:00 pm.

Recreational Measures for Fishing Year 2026**Motion 1** (Pierdinock/Odell):

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council the following for recreational measures for fishing year 2026 for WGOM cod (status quo from what was proposed for FY2025):

Western Gulf of Maine Cod:

- Open season: May 1-31; September 1 - October 31
- Minimum size: 23 inches
- Possession limit: 1 fish per day

And requests a sensitivity analysis of the for-hire fleet on cod mortality with more than a one fish bag limit (for all open seasons) to assess if feasible at the Council meeting next week.

Motion 2 (Ware/Whelan):

Move to split Motion 1 to take up the three bullet points for WGOM cod recreational measures first.

Western Gulf of Maine Cod:

- Open season: May 1-31; September 1 - October 31

- Minimum size: 23 inches
- Possession limit: 1 fish per day

Motion *passed* unanimously.

Motion 3 (Ware/Whelan):

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council the following for recreational measures for fishing year 2026 for WGOM cod (status quo from what was proposed for FY2025):

Western Gulf of Maine Cod:

- Open season: May 1-31; September 1 - October 31
- Minimum size: 23 inches
- Possession limit: 1 fish per day

Motion *passed* unanimously with one abstention (GARFO)

Motion 4 as friendly amended (Alexander/Pierdinock):

The Groundfish Committee requests a sensitivity analysis of the for-hire fleet on cod mortality with a two or three fish bag limit (for all open seasons) to assess if feasible at the Council meeting next week.

Roll Call:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Jackie Odell	X		
Melanie Griffin		X	
Megan Ware		X	
Geoff Smith		X	
Mike Pierdinock	X		
Peter Whelan		X	
Pete Christopher			X
Terry Alexander	X		
Andy Dangelo	X		
Paul Risi			X
Jim Gilmore			X

Motion *failed* for lack of a majority (4/4/3).

Motion 5 (Odell/Alexander):

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council the following for recreational measures for fishing year 2026 for GOM haddock (status quo from what was proposed for FY2025):

Gulf of Maine Haddock:

- Open season: May 1 – February 28/29; April 1–30
- Minimum size: 17 inches
- Possession limit: 15 fish per day

Motion *passed* unanimously with one abstention (GARFO).

The meeting ended at approximately 4:10 pm.