

# DECISION DOCUMENT<sup>1</sup>

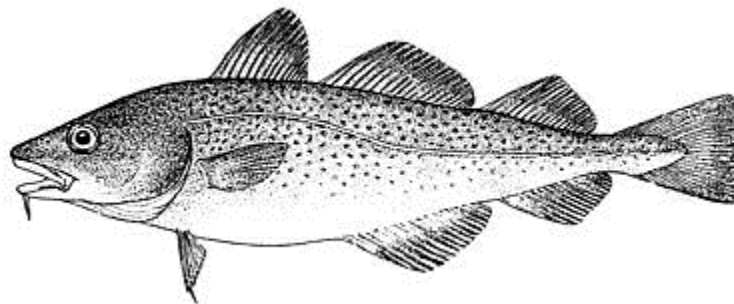
for

**Amendment 18 DEIS**

to the

**Northeast Multispecies**

**Fishery Management Plan (FMP)**



**Council Meeting**

**September 29 – October 1, 2015**

*Updated August 26, 2015. Additional updates will be made after September 3 Groundfish Committee meeting.*

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<sup>1</sup> The decision tables herein are in the same order as the measures in the Amendment 18 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, dated June 30 2015; page numbers are provided for reference.



## Section 4.1.2 – Limit the Holdings of PSC (p. 39-44, DEIS)

### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.1.2 (Limit the holdings of the PSC), the Council selects Alternative 6 (Limit collective holdings of PSC to an average of 15.5% of the PSC for all allocated stocks) as the preferred alternative (11/6/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative. If Alternative 4 is selected, choose one option.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Limit holdings of stock-specific PSC at the maximum held as of the control date (4/7/2011; Table 8).
<b>Alternative 3</b>	Limit holdings of stock-specific PSC to the same level for each stock in the fishery (15.5 for all stocks).  <b>May choose:</b> Option A - Can hold permits, but must divest excess PSC. PSC would be removed from the permit and redistributed to the remainder of the fleet.
<b>Alternative 4</b>	Limit holdings of stock-specific PSC by stock type:  <b>Choose one:</b> Option A - Limit the PSC holdings at 15 for the Gulf of Maine, Cape Cod, Southern New England, and Mid-Atlantic stocks, at 20 for the unit stocks, and at 30 for the Georges Bank stocks (Table 9). Option B - Limit the PSC holdings of GB cod at 30, GOM cod at 15, and pollock at 20.
<b>Alternative 5</b>	Limit holdings of stock-specific PSC (30 of GB winter flounder and 20 for all other stocks).
<b>Alternative 6</b>	Limit collective holdings of PSC (average of the PSC for all allocated stocks m15.5 ; total m232.5).
<b>Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
PDT recommends deleting Option A from Alternative 3, as it conflicts with the section 9a Disposition of Current Holdings in Excess of what is Allowed+(p. 42, DEIS).	
GARFO suggests clarifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What should happen to excess PSC under Alternative 6, i.e. which stock would have PSC withheld? Who would make the decision?</li> <li>Should an entity exceed a cap mid-year, what is the timing for enforcing the cap, Mid-year or at the beginning of the next year?</li> </ul>	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<i>March 2015 Motion:</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.1.2 (Limit the holdings of the PSC), Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (5/3/2).	
<i>Rationale:</i> The Council examined National Standard 4 by commissioning the Compass Lexecon report, which indicated no evidence of excessive shares in the fishery today in the markets for fish or ACE and noted that it is unlikely in the future for the market for fish given the nature of the fishery. The peer review recommended monitoring the fishery for evidence of excessive shares rather than implementing caps now.	
<b>Groundfish AP Recommendation</b>	
<i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> That Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (7/2/0).	
<i>Rationale:</i> Go no further with developing accumulation limits until inter-annual stability in ACLs is achieved and increases in catches are witnessed for a few years. Excessive shares are not a problem in the fishery today.	
<i>March 2015 Motion:</i> That the GAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that, if the Council moves forward with an accumulation limit (against the advice of the Advisors), in Section 4.1.2, Alternative 6 be selected as the preferred alternative (7/2/0).	
<i>Rationale:</i> Alternative 6, of all of the accumulation limit alternatives, provides the most flexibility given the ever-swinging ACE levels.	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
If an accumulation limit is selected, it may be modified in a future framework due to a federal permit buyback or buyout. FY2010 . FY 2014 PSC holdings data: p. 153-160, DEIS Summary of Compass Lexecon report: p. 161-163, DEIS	
Impacts analysis in DEIS: Target species: p. 204; Nontarget species: p. 216; Physical and habitat: p. 229-231; Protected resources: p. 242; Human communities: p. 255-273	

Update as of August 26, 2015

## Section 4.1.2.2 – Disposition of Current Holdings in Excess of what is Allowed (p. 39-40, DEIS)

### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.1.2.2, the Council selects Option A (Can hold permits, but not use excess PSC; PSC would be redistributed annually to the remainder of the fleet.), for both the *Disposition of current holdings in excess of what is allowed* and the *Acquisition of future holdings* (17/0/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one option if one of Alternatives 2-6 is selected in Section 4.1.2.</i>
<b>Option A</b>	Can hold permits, but not use excess PSC. PSC would be redistributed annually to the remainder of the fleet.
<b>Option B</b>	Must divest permits with excess PSC. Time would be provided to sell the permit. In the interim, the excess PSC cannot be used.
<b>Option C</b>	Can hold permits, but must divest excess PSC. PSC would be removed from the permit and redistributed to the remainder of the fleet.
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
If one of the PSC cap Alternatives 2-6 is selected (Section 4.1.2), there may be cases where the current PSC held by an individual or entity exceeds the accumulation limit. These options pertain to how to treat holdings at the implementation of this action that are in excess of a PSC accumulation limit which are not grandfathered.	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<i>March 2015:</i> the Committee voted for no action on PSC caps (Section 4.1.2) and did not make a recommendation for Section 4.1.2.2.	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b>	
<i>March 2015 Motion:</i> That the GAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that, if the Council moves forward with an accumulation limit (against the advice of the Advisors), it should grandfather anyone with holdings above the accumulation limit on the day of implementation, and that grandfathering provision would be transferable (i.e., no forced divestiture) in perpetuity (7/2/0).	
<i>March 2015 Motion:</i> That the GAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that, if the Council moves forward with an accumulation limit (against the advice of the Advisors), for current and future holdings that are above the limit (Section 4.1.2.2), the GAP supports Option A+(8/0/1).	
<i>Rationale:</i> The GAP has been concerned about forcing divestiture. This would allow the rest of the fleet to access that excess amount on an annual basis.	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
All holdings as of the control date would be grandfathered. This only pertains to PSC cap Alternative 3, where one individual had holdings for one stock on the control date that is above the cap level.	
Impacts analysis in DEIS: Target species: p. 203-204 Nontarget species: p. 215-216 Physical and habitat: p. 228-229 Protected resources: p. 241-242 Human communities: p. 261-264	

Update as of August 26, 2015

### Section 4.1.2.2 – Acquisition of Future Holdings (p. 40-41, DEIS)

#### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.1.2.2, the Council selects Option A (Can hold permits, but not use excess PSC; PSC would be redistributed annually to the remainder of the fleet.), for both the *Disposition of current holdings in excess of what is allowed* and the *Acquisition of future holdings* (17/0/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one option if one of Alternatives 2-6 is selected in Section 4.1.2.</i>
<b>Option A</b>	Can hold permits, but not use excess PSC. PSC would be redistributed annually to the remainder of the fleet.
<b>Option B</b>	Can hold permits, but must divest excess PSC. PSC would be removed from the permit and redistributed to the remainder of the fleet.
<b>Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
If one of the PSC cap Alternatives 2-6 is selected (Section 4.1.2), these options pertain to the acquisition of future holdings, after A18 is implemented.	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<i>March 2015:</i> The Committee voted for no action on PSC caps (Section 4.1.2) and did not make a recommendation for this section.	
<b>Groundfish AP Recommendation</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion:</i> That the GAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that, if the Council moves forward with an accumulation limit (against the advice of the Advisors), for current and future holdings that are above the limit (Section 4.1.2.2), the GAP supports Option A. (8/0/1)</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The GAP has been concerned about forcing divestiture. This would allow the rest of the fleet to access that excess amount on an annual basis.</p>	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
<p>Impacts analysis in DEIS:            Target species: p. 203-204            Nontarget species: p. 215-216            Physical and habitat: p. 229            Protected resources: p. 241-242            Human communities: p. 264-265</p>	

Update as of August 26, 2015

### Section 4.1.3 – Limit the Holdings of Permits (p. 44, DEIS)

#### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.1.4 (Limit the holdings of permits), the Council selects Alternative 2 (Limit the holdings of permits to no more than 5%) as the preferred alternative (17/0/3).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Limit the holdings of permits (to no more than 5%).
<b>Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
Since PSC is allocated to the Moratorium Right Identifier (MRI) number associated with each multispecies permit, it is the number of MRIs that would, in fact, be limited.	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion:</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.1.3 (Limit the holdings of permits), Alternative 2 (Limit the holdings of permits to no more than 5%) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (7/0/3).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Of the accumulation limit alternatives, this would be the simplest and least disruptive to the fishery. A 5% cap on permits equates to ~70 MRIs. If the number of permits declines in the future, however, the 5% cap could become too restrictive and may warrant revisiting in a future action.</p>	
<b>Groundfish AP Recommendation</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion:</i> That the GAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that, if the Council moves forward with an accumulation limit (against the advice of the Advisors), in Section 4.1.3., Alternative 2 be selected as the Preferred Alternative+ (7/2/0).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> This approach would be consistent with what the Council has done with other fisheries in this region (i.e., LA scallops) and likely less disruptive to fishing businesses than the PSC cap alternatives.</p>	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
<p>If an accumulation limit is selected, it may be modified in a future framework due to a federal permit buyback or buyout.</p> <p>FY 2010-2014 permit holdings data: p. 152-153, DEIS</p> <p>Impacts analysis in DEIS:  Target species: p. 204  Nontarget species: p. 216-217  Physical and habitat: p. 231  Protected resources: p. 242  Human communities: p. 273-275</p>	

Update as of August 26, 2015

## Section 4.2.1 – Establish a Handgear A Permit sub-ACL (p. 45-49, DEIS)

### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.2.1 (Establish Handgear A permit sub-ACL), the Council selects Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative, modified to make the carryover provision language consistent with that proposed for sectors in Framework 53. The following options are preferred:
  - Discards . Option A (calculate an annual discard rate using available longline/hook gear data and subtract from sub-ACL at beginning of year)
  - In-season AMs . Option B (close the Handgear A sub-ACL for a stock when 90% of sub-ACL is reached)
  - Reactive AMs . Option A (triggered if the HA sub-ACL is exceeded) (11/6/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative. If Alternative 2 is selected, choose one option within the three sections.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	<p>Establish a sub-ACL for Handgear A permits. This would have an annual sub-ACL with 10% carryover.</p> <p><b>Discards</b> (<i>choose one</i>)            Option A . Calculate an annual discard rate and subtract from sub-ACL at beginning of year.            Option B . Assume discards to be de minimus and not account for them under the sub-ACL.</p> <p><b>In-season AMs</b> (<i>choose one</i>)            Option A . Close the HA sub-ACL for a stock when 100% of sub-ACL is reached.            Option B - Close the HA sub-ACL for a stock when 90% of sub-ACL is reached.</p> <p><b>Reactive AMs</b> (<i>choose one</i>)            Option A . Triggered if HA sub-ACL is exceeded.            Option B - Triggered if HA sub-ACL and total ACL are exceeded.</p>
<b>Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
None	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion:</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.2.1 (Establish a Handgear A permit sub-ACL), Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (8/1/1).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The anticipated Handgear A sub-ACLs would be prohibitively low, rendering administration of the fishery and monitoring difficult, especially in-season.</p>	
<b>Groundfish AP Recommendation</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> That Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (7/0/2).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The GAP is concerned that the sub-ACL would be too small to monitor and accurate discard calculations would be difficult. The same goals could be accomplished by joining a sector.</p>	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
<p>Handgear fishing activity: p. 178-183</p> <p>Impacts analysis in DEIS:            Target species: p. 205-207            Nontarget species: p. 217-219            Physical and habitat: p. 231            Protected resources: p. 242            Human communities: p. 275-282</p>	

Update as of August 26, 2015

## Section 4.2.2 – Removal of the March 1-20 HA Closure (p. 49-50, DEIS)

### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.2.2 (Removal of the March 1-20 Handgear A closure), 4.2.3 (Removal of the standard fish tote requirement), and 4.2.4 (Sector exemption from VMS requirements), the Council selects Alternative 2 in these sections (remove closure and tote requirement, allow exemption) as the preferred alternative (17/0/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Removal of the March 1-20 HA closure (for the common pool).
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.2.2 (Removal of the March 1-20 HA closure), Alternative 2 be selected as the Preferred Alternative (9/0/1).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> This would give Handgear A vessels some of the flexibility they are requesting.</p>	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> That Alternative 2 be selected as the Preferred Alternative (8/1/0).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> HA vessels in the common pool can get shut-down on a trimester basis if the TAC is reached, so there is no need for the additional input controls.</p>	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
<p>Handgear fishing activity: p. 178-183</p> <p>Impacts analysis in DEIS:</p> <p>Target species: p. 207</p> <p>Nontarget species: p. 219-220</p> <p>Physical and habitat: p. 231</p> <p>Protected resources: p. 242</p> <p>Human communities: p. 282</p>	



Update as of August 26, 2015

## Section 4.2.3 – Removal of Standard Fish Tote Requirement (p. 50, DEIS)

### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.2.2 (Removal of the March 1-20 Handgear A closure), 4.2.3 (Removal of the standard fish tote requirement), and 4.2.4 (Sector exemption from VMS requirements), the Council selects Alternative 2 in these sections (remove closure and tote requirement, allow exemption) as the preferred alternative (17/0/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Removal of the standard fish tote requirement.
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.2.3 (Removal of standard fish tote requirement), Alternative 2 be selected as the Preferred Alternative (9/0/1).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> This would give Handgear A vessels some of the flexibility they are requesting. The fish tote requirement is not actively enforced.</p>	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> That Alternative 2 be selected as the Preferred Alternative (8/1/0).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The fish tote requirement is not actively enforced.</p>	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
<p>Handgear fishing activity: p. 178-183 History of tote requirement: 183</p> <p>Impacts analysis in DEIS: Target species: p. 207-208 Nontarget species: p. 220 Physical and habitat: p. 231 Protected resources: p. 242 Human communities: p. 282-283</p>	

Update as of August 26, 2015

## Section 4.2.4 – Sector Exemption from VMS Requirements (p. 50-51, DEIS)

### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.2.2 (Removal of the March 1-20 Handgear A closure), 4.2.3 (Removal of the standard fish tote requirement), and 4.2.4 (Sector exemption from VMS requirements), the Council selects Alternative 2 in these sections (remove closure and tote requirement, allow exemption) as the preferred alternative (17/0/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Sector exemption (annual) from Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements.
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion:</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.2.4 (Sector exemption from VMS requirements), Alternative 2 (Sector exemption for VMS requirements) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (9/0/1).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Handgear A vessels are small and should be exempt from VMS requirements should they wish to join a sector. Handgear A does have an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) requirement for trip notification.</p>	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> That Alternative 2 be selected as the Preferred Alternative (7/0/2).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The VMS exemption would ease the way for HA vessels to enroll in sectors. For this fleet, there are alternative ways to get at the information VMS provides.</p>	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
<p>Handgear fishing activity: p. 178-183</p> <p>Impacts analysis in DEIS:  Target species: p. 208  Nontarget species: p. 220  Physical and habitat: p. 231  Protected resources: p. 242  Human communities: p. 283-284</p>	

## Section 4.3 – Data Confidentiality (p. 51, DEIS)

### April 2015 Motion:

- That in Section 4.3 (Data Confidentiality), Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (13/4/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No Action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	ACE disposition data (specifically, the price of ACE transfers) would be exempt from the confidentiality requirement.
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion:</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.3 (Data confidentiality), Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (5/3/2).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> If this information is disclosed, there is concern that correct/accurate price information would not be reported. A March 27, 2014 letter from the Regional Administrator indicates that this information must be confidential based on NMFS's interpretation of MSA. Sectors could work together on their own to improve inter-sector transparency on leasing/trades.</p>	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> That Alternative 1 be selected as the Preferred Alternative (9/0/0).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> It is not clear how Alternative 2 would lead to better management of the fishery. In addition, the GAP is concerned about the legality of Alternative 2.</p>	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
<p>See related letter on data confidentiality from the Regional Administrator, March 27, 2014.</p> <p>Impacts analysis in DEIS:                      Target species: p. 208                      Nontarget species: p. 221                      Physical and habitat: p. 232                      Protected resources: p. 243                      Human communities: p. 284-285</p>	

Update as of August 26, 2015

### Section 4.4.1 – Inshore/Offshore Gulf of Maine Boundary (p. 52-54, DEIS)

#### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.4 (Inshore/offshore GOM), the Council selects Alternative 1 (No Action) as the preferred alternative in all sub-sections (10/7/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative. If Alternative 2 is selected, choose one option.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Establish an inshore/offshore boundary within the Gulf of Maine.  <b>Boundary options (choose one)</b> Option A . Boundary at 70°W longitude. Option B . Boundary at 70°15'W longitude. Option C . Boundary where 42°N intersects Cape Cod, Massachusetts, runs east to 69°50'W, runs north along 69°50'W to the 12 nm territorial sea line, then follows Maine's 12 nm territorial sea line northeast to the Hague Line.
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
A portion of Option C considered %ashore+is in the GB Broad Stock Area. The PDT recommends either aligning Option C to match the GOM/GB BSA boundary for the area in question for purposes of the sub-ACL alternatives (Section 4.4.2) or for all alternatives in Section 4.4.	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion:</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.4.1 (Inshore/Offshore Gulf of Maine Boundary), Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (6/1/1).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> A purpose for creating an inshore/offshore boundary should be identified before doing so. If a line is needed, it should be a logical result that stems from an identified problem and be a solution to address the problem. That is not how any of the boundaries in this section were developed. Additionally, some of the options would include as %ashore,+deep water areas that have traditionally been fished by %offshore+vessels.</p>	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> That Alternative 1 be selected as the Preferred Alternative (7/1/0).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> There are unintended consequences of drawing the line and splitting the ACL of cod. It could lead to localized depletion of GOM cod. There were also safety concerns with encouraging small vessels to fish offshore.</p>	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
Impacts analysis in DEIS: Target species: p. 209 Nontarget species: p. 221 Physical and habitat: p. 232-234 Protected resources: p. 243 Human communities: p. 285-287	

Update as of August 26, 2015

## Section 4.4.2 – Inshore/Offshore Gulf of Maine Cod sub-ACLs (p. 54-57, DEIS)

### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.4 (Inshore/offshore GOM), the Council selects Alternative 1 (No Action) as the preferred alternative in all sub-sections (10/7/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative. Alternative 2 may only be selected if Alternative 2 in Section 4.4.1 is selected. If so, choose one option and sub-option for determining the inshore/offshore split.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	<p>Establish inshore/offshore commercial GOM cod sub-ACLs. Allocations would be unchanged.</p> <p><b>Determining the sub-ACLs inshore/offshore split. (choose one)</b></p> <p>Option A . Set during specifications with no pre-determined rule.</p> <p>Option B . Set proportional to the level of commercial catch in each sub-area.  Sub-Option A . the last 10 fishing years prior to specifications.  Sub-Option B . the last 20 fishing years prior to specifications.</p> <p>Option C . Set proportional to the level of GOM cod distribution in each sub-area.  Sub-Option A . the last 10 calendar years prior to specifications.  Sub-Option B . the last 20 calendar years prior to specifications.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>With an observer:</i> If a commercial trip carries an observer or monitor, the vessel may declare into and fish in both the inshore and offshore areas.</li> <li><i>Without an observer:</i> Commercial vessels would be prohibited from fishing in both the inshore and offshore Gulf of Maine areas on a single trip without an observer.</li> </ul> <p>*Mirrors the Inshore Gulf of Maine Declaration Plan in sector operations plans since FY 2014.</p>
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
The PDT recommends articulating why the Council is considering creating an inshore and offshore sub-ACL, to better inform the public of the Council's intent; such rationale should be linked to the goals of Amendment 18. The existing rationale states that doing so would limit catch to more specific areas within the Gulf of Maine.+This is an outcome more than a rationale.	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<i>March 2015 Motion:</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.4.2 (Inshore/offshore GOM cod sub-ACLs), Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (9/0/0).	
<i>Rationale:</i> After reviewing the PDT analyses, the Committee was concerned that splitting the sub-ACL would result in picking winners and losers in the fishery, depending on the percentages on either side of the line. Future fish distribution changes could be problematic, since the percentages would be static. Data has not been explicitly collected for the purpose of creating the line. Under Alternative 2, inshore boats would lose access to quota in the inshore area and would potentially have to lease their eastern quota to offshore boats. Sectors are working cooperatively now on developing approaches to avoid GOM cod in FY 2015.	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b>	
<i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> That Alternative 1 be selected as the Preferred Alternative (7/1/0).	
<i>Rationale:</i> There are unintended consequences of drawing the line and splitting the ACL of cod. It could lead to localized depletion of GOM cod. There were also safety concerns with encouraging small vessels to fish offshore.	
<i>March 2015 Motion:</i> That the GAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the Council should not recommend implementation of the Inshore Gulf of Maine Declaration Plan through regulation (8/0/1).	
<i>Rationale:</i> Implementing sector solutions through regulations stifles the sectors creative process, and removes flexibility that the sectors have. Sectors can solve problems much faster.	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
Impacts analysis in DEIS: Target species: p. 209-212, Appendix I; Nontarget species: p. 221-223; Physical and habitat: p. 235-238; Protected resources: p. 243-246; Human communities: p. 287-295	

Update as of August 26, 2015

### Section 4.4.3 – GOM/GB Inshore Restricted Roller Gear Area (p. 57-58, DEIS)

#### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.4 (Inshore/offshore GOM), the Council selects Alternative 1 (No Action) as the preferred alternative in all sub-sections (10/7/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	<b>Description</b> Choose between Alternative 1 and 2. Alternative 2 may only be selected if Alternative 2 in Section 4.4.1 is selected.
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action. Area applies to all trawls fishing under a groundfish DAS or sector trip (incl. monkfish; not shrimp). Potential no action. Pending Habitat OA2 implementation. Potentially applying the area to all bottom trawl gear (preferred by the Council April 2015).
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Revise Gulf of Maine Gear Restricted Area to align with the inshore/offshore GOM boundary option.
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b> March 2015 Motion: The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.4.3 (GOM/GB Inshore Restricted Roller Gear Area), Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (7/1/0). Rationale: Alternatives for gear restrictions would be best addressed through a Habitat amendment.	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b> March 2015 Motion: That the GAP recommends to the Groundfish Committee that Alternative 2 in Section 4.4.3. (GOM/GB Inshore Restricted Roller Gear Area) be referred to the Habitat Committee for consideration in the next habitat action, as it is not consistent with the goals of Amendment 18 (8/0/0). Rationale: Inshore roller gear restrictions would be more appropriate to review in a Habitat action. Goals of this are inconsistent with A18.	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b> Impacts analysis in DEIS: Target species: p. 212 Nontarget species: p. 223-224 Physical and habitat: p. 238-239 Protected resources: p. 247-248 Human communities: p. 295-296	

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### Section 4.4.4 – Declaration Time Periods for the Commercial Fishery (p. 58-60, DEIS)

#### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.4 (Inshore/offshore GOM), the Council selects Alternative 1 (No Action) as the preferred alternative in all sub-sections (10/7/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description
	<i>Choose one alternative. Alternative 2 may only be selected if Alternative 2 in Section 4.4.1 is selected.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	No action.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	<u>Annually</u> , vessels must declare their intent to and fish in either the inshore or offshore GOM area.
<b>Alternative 3</b>	<u>Seasonally</u> (by trimesters), vessels must declare their intent to and fish in either the inshore or offshore GOM area.
<b>Alternative 4</b>	<u>Each trip</u> , vessels must declare their intent to and fish in either the inshore or offshore GOM area.
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion:</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that in Section 4.4.4 (Declaration time periods for the commercial fishery), Alternative 1 (No Action) be selected as the Preferred Alternative (8/0/1).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Declaring into a time period would limit flexibility to avoid GOM cod under the proposed low ACLs for FY 2015.</p>	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b>	
<p><i>March 2015 Motion (paraphrase):</i> That Alternative 1 be selected as the Preferred Alternative (8/0/0).</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Alternative 2 would decrease flexibility for the fleet. Most vessels would likely declare inshore for safety considerations, resulting in concentrated effort inshore.</p>	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
<p>Impacts analysis in DEIS:</p> <p>Target species: p. 212</p> <p>Nontarget species: p. 224</p> <p>Physical and habitat: p. 239</p> <p>Protected resources: p. 248-251</p> <p>Human communities: p. 296-301</p>	

## Section 4.5 – Redfish Exemption Area (p. 60-62, DEIS)

### April 2015 Council Motion:

- That in Section 4.5 (Redfish Exemption Area), the Council selects Alternative 2 (Establish a Redfish Exemption Area) as the preferred alternative, modified to be identical to the exemption in the FY 2015-2016 sector proposed rule (15/1/0).

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description <i>Choose one alternative.</i>
<b>Alternative 1</b>	<i>No action.</i> No Redfish Exemption Area. <i>Proposed status quo.</i> Proposed FY 2015-2016 Redfish Exemption Area for sectors.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Establish a Redfish Exemption Area.  <b>Monitoring.</b> <i>(choose one)</i> Option A . No Action. Do not require additional observers beyond the standard rates for the commercial groundfish fishery when fishing under the redfish exemption.  Option B . Require 100% observer coverage when fishing under the redfish exemption.
<b>Decisions/Questions to Consider</b>	
Alternative 2, Option A would be consistent with the April 2015 motion. Since Alternative 2 was revised, there should be a Council motion in September to confirm its preference.	
<b>Groundfish Committee Recommendations</b>	
<i>March 2015 Motion:</i> The Committee recommends to the Council that, if the Redfish Exemption in the FY 2015-2016 Sector Proposed Rule is disapproved by NMFS, in Section 4.5 (Redfish Exemption Area), Alternative 2 (Establish a Redfish Exemption Area) be revised to be identical to the FY2015-2016 Sector Proposed Rule and selected as the Preferred Alternative.  <i>March 2015 Motion:</i> Table the above motion to the April 2015 Council meeting (8/0/0).  <i>Rationale:</i> There was support for the exemption as in the Proposed Rule. The Final Rule will likely be published prior to the Council meeting. The Committee preferred to not make a recommendation on Section 4.5 until seeing the Final Rule.	
<b>Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations</b>	
A motion to support Alternative 2 was made, but later withdrawn, due to concerns that establishing the exemption in the FMP would remove the ability to annually review it. Members of the GAP felt that the regular sector exemption process gives the industry and NMFS more flexibility to address changes in the fishery.	
<b>Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations</b>	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
<b>Other Important Considerations/DEIS References</b>	
Impacts analysis in DEIS: Target species: p. 213-214 Nontarget species: p. 224-225 Physical and habitat: p. 239-240 Protected resources: p. 251-252 Human communities: p. 301-304	



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Table 1 - Potential impact of the accumulation limit alternatives (Section 4.1)

Alternatives/Options (shaded = Council preferred)		VEC: Target Species	VEC: Nontarget Species	VEC: Physical and EFH	VEC: Protected Resources	VEC: Human Communities
<b>Section 4.1.2.</b> Limit PSC holdings	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	Short-term <b>neutral</b> . Potentially <b>negative</b> long-term if market power is not prevented.
<b>Section 4.1.2.2.</b> Disposition of current holdings in excess of what is allowed (applies if one of Alts. 2-6 is selected)	<b>Option A</b> (hold permits but not use excess PSC)	<b>Neutral</b> to <b>uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral</b> to <b>uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Effort redistribution unknown. <b>Neutral</b> re Option C.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort unchanged.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. <b>Positive</b> re Option B, <b>low positive</b> re Option C for permit holder. <b>Low negative</b> re Option B, <b>neutral</b> re Option C for fishery. Both permit holder and fishery benefit.
	Option B (divest permits with excess PSC)	Short-term <b>low positive</b> while PSC is unused. Long-term <b>neutral</b> .	Short-term <b>low positive</b> while PSC is unused. Long-term <b>neutral</b> .	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort unchanged.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. <b>Negative</b> re Options A and C for permit holder & <b>low positive</b> for fishery. Permit holder relinquishes entire permit, though fishery benefits.
	Option C (hold permits but divest excess PSC)	<b>Neutral</b> to <b>uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral</b> to <b>uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Effort redistribution unknown. <b>Neutral</b> re Option A.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort unchanged.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. <b>Low negative</b> re Option A, <b>positive</b> re Option B for permit holder. <b>Neutral</b> re Option A & <b>low negative</b> re Option C for fishery. Permit holder loses value of excess PSC when sold, though fishery benefits.

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16	<b>Section 4.1.2.2.</b> Acquisition of future holdings (applies if one of Alts. 2-6 is selected)	<b>Option A</b> (hold permits but not use excess PSC)	<b>Neutral to uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral to uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Effort redistribution unknown. <b>Neutral</b> re Option B.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort unchanged.	<b>Low positive</b> for permit holder, <b>neutral</b> for fishery re Option B. Both permit holder and fishery benefit.
		<b>Option B</b> (hold permits but divest excess PSC)	<b>Neutral to uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral to uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Effort redistribution unknown. <b>Neutral</b> re Option A.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort unchanged.	<b>Low negative</b> for permit holder, <b>neutral</b> for fishery re Option A. Permit holder loses value of excess PSC when sold, though fishery benefits.
	<b>Section 4.1.2. cont.</b> Limit PSC holdings	Alternative 2 (to control date maximum)	<b>Neutral to uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral to uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort unchanged.	Short-term <b>low negative</b> to <b>negative</b> to those constrained, <b>low positive</b> to fishery re Alt. 1. Long-term <b>low negative</b> , but potentially <b>high positive</b> . Would allow consolidation, but prevent market power.
		Alternative 3 (to 15.5 for each stock)	<b>Neutral to uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral to uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort unchanged.	Short-term <b>low negative</b> to those constrained, <b>low positive</b> to fishery re Alt. 1. Long-term <b>low negative</b> , but potentially <b>high positive</b> . Would allow consolidation, but prevent market power.

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4.1.2. cont.	Alternative 3, Option A (divest excess PSC)	<b>Neutral</b> to <b>uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral</b> to <b>uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort unchanged.	Short-term <b>uncertain.</b> Long-term low <b>negative</b> to fishery. Could acquire additional permits, but excess would be redistributed.
	Alternative 4, Option A (by stock type, limit for all stocks)	<b>Neutral</b> to <b>uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral</b> to <b>uncertain</b> but minor. Total fishing effort unchanged. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Effort redistribution unknown.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort unchanged.	Short-term <b>neutral</b> to <b>low</b> <b>neg.</b> re Alt. 1. Long-term <b>low neg.</b> , but potentially <b>high pos. Pos.</b> for fishery re Opt. B. Allows consolidation; prevents market power.
	Alternative 4, Option B (by stock type, limit for 3 stocks)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	Short-term <b>neutral</b> re Alt. 1. Long-term <b>low negative</b> to fishery, but may be <b>positive. Negative</b> for the fishery re Option A. Would allow consolidation, but prevent market power for only 3 stocks.
	Alternative 5 (to 30 for GB winterflounder, 20 for other stocks)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	Short-term <b>neutral</b> to <b>low</b> <b>negative</b> re Alt. 1. Long- term <b>low negative</b> , but potentially <b>high positive.</b> <b>Positive</b> for the fishery re Option B. Would allow consolidation, but prevent market power.

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<b>4.1.2. cont.</b>	<b>Alternative 6</b> (limit collective PSC holdings)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	Short-term <b>neutral</b> . Long-term <b>negative</b> to fishery. Would allow consolidation and not prevent market power.
<b>Section 4.1.3</b> Limit permit holdings	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	Short-term <b>neutral</b> . Long-term potentially <b>negative</b> .
	<b>Alternative 2</b> (limit permits to 5%)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral</b> re Alt. 1. Would allow consolidation and not prevent market power. Would allow more consolidation than PSC Alts. 2-5.

Table 2 - Potential impact of the Handgear A permit alternatives (Section 4.2)

<b>Alternatives/Options</b> (shaded = Council preferred)		<b>VEC: Target Species</b>	<b>VEC: Nontarget Species</b>	<b>VEC: Physical and EFH</b>	<b>VEC: Protected Resources</b>	<b>VEC: Human Communities</b>
<b>Section 4.2.1.</b> Establish HA permit sub-ACL	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<u>Economic</u> : <b>Neutral</b> . <u>Social</u> : <b>Neutral. Low negative</b> re Alt. 2.
	<b>Alternative 2</b> (establish)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<u>Economic</u> : <b>Neutral to low positive</b> . <u>Social</u> : <b>Low positive</b> . Increases choices for HA permit holders. Removes PSC for others and may seem to be unfair.

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4.2.1. cont.	Alternative 2, <u>Discards</u> <b>Option A</b> (estimate annual rate and subtract)	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b><u>Economic:</u> Neutral.</b> <b><u>Social:</u> Negative</b> for HA fishery re Option B; <b>positive</b> for others as it may seem more fair.
	Alternative 2, <u>Discards</u> <b>Option B</b> (assume de minimus discards)	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b><u>Economic:</u> Neutral.</b> <b><u>Social:</u> Positive</b> for HA fishery re Option A; <b>negative</b> for others as it may seem less fair.
	Alternative 2, <u>In-season AMs</u> <b>Option A</b> (close fishery when 100% is caught)	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b><u>Economic:</u> Positive</b> re Alt. 1 and Option B. <b><u>Social:</u> Positive</b> for HA fishery re Option B. Re Alt. 1, <b>neutral</b> for HA sector members & <b>uncertain</b> for common pool.
	Alternative 2, <u>In-season AMs</u> <b>Option B</b> (close fishery when 90% is caught)	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b><u>Economic:</u> Negative</b> re Alt. 1 & Option B. <b><u>Social:</u> Negative</b> for HA fishery re Option A, but may better prevent overages. Re Alt. 1, <b>low negative</b> for HA sector members & <b>uncertain</b> for common pool.

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	Alternative 2, <u>Reactive AMs</u> <b>Option A</b> (trigger if HA sub-ACL is exceeded)	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b>Economic: Negative</b> re Option B; <b>low positive</b> re Alt. 1. <b>Social: Low negative</b> re Option B for HA fishery; <b>positive</b> for others as it may seem more fair.
4.2.1. cont.	Alternative 2, <u>Reactive AMs</u> <b>Option B</b> (trigger if HA sub-ACL & total ACL are exceeded)	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Size of HA sub-ACL is very small.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b>Economic: Positive</b> re Alt. 1 & Option A. <b>Social: Low positive</b> re Option A for HA fishery; <b>negative</b> for others as it may seem less fair.
Section 4.2.2. Remove March 1-20 HA closure	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Neutral. Low positive</b> re Alt. 2. Spawning protections remain.	<b>Neutral. Low positive</b> re Alt. 2. Spawning protections remain.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b>Neutral. Low negative</b> re Alt. 2. Common pool HA vessels continue to be unable to fish March 1-20.
	<b>Alternative 2</b> (remove)	<b>Low negative.</b> Some target species spawn in March.	<b>Low negative.</b> Some nontarget species spawn in March.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b>Economic: Low positive.</b> <b>Social: Neutral</b> for current sector vessels, <b>positive</b> for common pool.
Section 4.2.3. Remove std. tote requirement	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Neutral.</b> Tote not used for enforcement.	<b>Neutral.</b> Tote not used for enforcement.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b>Neutral. Low negative</b> re Alt. 2. Would continue a regulation considered unnecessary.

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	<b>Alternative 2</b> (remove)	<b>Neutral.</b> Fish tote requirement is not enforced.	<b>Neutral.</b> Fish tote requirement is not enforced.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b><i>Economic:</i> Neutral. <i>Social:</i> Positive.</b> Improve deck operations.
<b>Section 4.2.4.</b> Exempt HA permits in sectors from VMS use	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Neutral. Low positive</b> re Alt. 2. Catch attribution better w/ VMS.	<b>Neutral. Low positive</b> re Alt. 2. Catch attribution better w/ VMS.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b>Neutral. Low negative</b> re Alternative 2. Sectors may be cost-prohibitive for HA vessels.
<b>4.2.4. cont.</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b> (exempt)	<b>Low negative.</b> IVR may be used for catch attribution.	<b>Low negative.</b> IVR may be used for catch attribution.	<b>Neutral.</b> Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	<b>Neutral.</b> No significant risk from hook gear in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<b><i>Economic:</i> Neutral to low positive. <i>Social:</i> Positive.</b> Incentivize participation in sectors.

Table 3 - Potential impact of the data confidentiality alternatives (Section 4.3)

<b>Alternatives</b> (shaded = Council preferred)		<b>VEC: Target Species</b>	<b>VEC: Nontarget Species</b>	<b>VEC: Physical and EFH</b>	<b>VEC: Protected Resources</b>	<b>VEC: Human Communities</b>
<b>Section 4.3.</b> Data confidentiality	<b>Alternative 1</b> (No Action)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Trading unaffected. <b>Uncertain</b> but minor to <b>low negative</b> re Alt. 2.
	Alternative 2 (value of ACE movement would be non-confidential)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b><i>Economic:</i> Uncertain, potentially low-positive. <i>Social:</i> Low positive.</b> May help fishery-wide participation in ACE markets & ACE use; may be seen as an overreach of management.



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Table 4 - Potential impact of the inshore/offshore Gulf of Maine alternatives (Section 4.4)

Alternatives (shaded = Council preferred)		VEC: Target Species	VEC: Nontarget Species	VEC: Physical and EFH	VEC: Protected Resources	VEC: Human Communities
Section 4.4.1 Inshore/ Offshore Boundary	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.
	Alternative 2, Option A (@ 70°W)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<i>Economic:</i> Short-term <b>neutral</b> ; long-term <b>uncertain</b> . <i>Social:</i> <b>Neutral</b> re Alt. 1, but may be <b>low negative</b> .
	Alternative 2, Option B (@ 70°15'W)	<b>Neutral.</b> No change to total fishing effort or behavior.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.
	Alternative 2, Option C (@ 69°50'W & ME coast)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort. Inshore area covers more EFH than Opt. A or B.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<i>Economic:</i> Short-term <b>neutral</b> ; long-term <b>uncertain</b> . <i>Social:</i> <b>Neutral</b> re Alt. 1, but may be <b>low negative</b> .
Section 4.4.2. Inshore/ Offshore GOM cod sub-ACLs	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> No change to total fishing effort or behavior.
	Alternative 2, Option A (split set during specs)	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Allocation method to be determined.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort.	<b>Negative.</b> Increase reliance on leasing. <b>Low negative</b> re Options B & C.



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<b>4.4.2. cont.</b>	Alternative 2, Option B, sub-Option A (split based on last 10 years of catch)	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative. Perhaps more positive than sub-Option B.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort.	<b>Negative.</b> Increase reliance on leasing. <b>Low positive</b> re Option A & C & sub-Option B.
	Alternative 2, Option B, sub-Option B (split based on last 20 years of catch)	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative. Perhaps less positive than sub-Option A.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort.	<b>Negative.</b> Increase reliance on leasing. <b>Low positive</b> re Option A & C; <b>negative</b> re sub-Option A.
	Alternative 2, Option C, sub-Option A (split based on last 10 years of cod distribution)	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative. Perhaps more positive than sub-Option B.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort.	<b>Negative.</b> Increase reliance on leasing. <b>Low positive</b> re Option A; <b>low negative</b> re Option B; <b>positive</b> re sub-Option B.
	Alternative 2, Option C, sub-Option B (split based on last 20 years of cod distribution)	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor. Could be positive or negative. Perhaps less positive than sub-Option A.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort.	<b>Negative.</b> Increase reliance on leasing. <b>Low positive</b> re Option A; <b>low negative</b> re B; <b>low negative</b> re sub-Option A.
<b>Section 4.4.3</b> GOM/GB Inshore Restricted Roller	<b>Alternative 1</b> (No Action)	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.	<b>Neutral.</b> No impact of roller gear size on protected resources.	<b>Neutral.</b> Increase reliance on leasing. Total fishing effort and behavior unchanged.

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Gear Area	Alternative 2 (revise to match inshore/offshore boundary)	<b>Varies. Negative</b> re Options A and B. Reduced area. <b>Positive</b> re C. Increased area.	<b>Varies. Negative</b> re Options A and B. Reduced area. <b>Positive</b> re C. Increased area.	<b>Varies. Negative</b> re Options A and B. Reduced area. <b>Positive</b> re C. Increased area.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort. No impact of roller gear size on protected resources.	<i>Economic:</i> Long-term <b>uncertain.</b> A ó <b>Low positive.</b> B ó <b>Low positive.</b> C ó <b>Low negative.</b> <i>Social:</i> <b>Mixed. Unclear</b> if fishery operations would substantially change. A ó <b>Low positive</b> for large rockhopper vessels, <b>low negative</b> for the fishery. B ó <b>Positive</b> for large rockhopper vessels, <b>negative</b> for the fishery. C - <b>Negative</b> for large rockhopper vessels, <b>positive</b> for the fishery.
Section 4.4.4 Declaration Time Periods	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Neutral.</b> Annual sub-ACLs limit removals.	<b>Neutral.</b> Annual sub-ACLs limit removals.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort.	Short-term <b>neutral.</b> Long-term <b>low positive.</b>	<b>Neutral.</b> Vessels would not have a time restriction. <b>Positive</b> re. Alt 2 - 4.
	Alternative 2 (annual declaration)	<b>Neutral.</b> Annual sub-ACLs limit removals.	<b>Neutral.</b> Annual sub-ACLs limit removals.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort.	Short-term <b>neutral.</b> Long-term <b>low negative.</b>	<b>Negative</b> re Alt. 1, 3 & 4. The most restrictive alternative, impacting larger vessels the most.
	Alternative 3 (seasonal declaration)	<b>Neutral.</b> Annual sub-ACLs limit removals.	<b>Neutral.</b> Annual sub-ACLs limit removals.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort.	Short-term <b>neutral.</b> Long-term <b>low negative.</b>	<b>Negative</b> re Alt. 1 & Alt 4; <b>positive</b> re Alt. 2. Forgo opportunity to fish in other area on a trimester basis.
	Alternative 4 (trip declaration)	<b>Neutral.</b> Annual sub-ACLs limit removals.	<b>Neutral.</b> Annual sub-ACLs limit removals.	<b>Neutral.</b> Status quo effort.	Short-term <b>neutral.</b> Long-term <b>low negative.</b>	<b>Low negative</b> re Alt. 1; <b>positive</b> re Alts. 2 & 3. Fishing location on a trip constrained.

*Update as of August 26, 2015***Table 5 - Potential impact of the Redfish Exemption Area alternatives (Section 4.5)**

<b>Alternatives (shaded = Council preferred)</b>		<b>VEC: Target Species</b>	<b>VEC: Nontarget Species</b>	<b>VEC: Physical and EFH</b>	<b>VEC: Protected Resources</b>	<b>VEC: Human Communities</b>
<b>Section 4.5. Redfish Exemption Area</b>	Alternative 1 (No Action)	<b>Uncertain to Low negative.</b> Greater retention of sub-legal fish.	<b>Uncertain to Low negative.</b> Greater retention of sub-legal fish.	<b>Varies.</b> Magnitude and direction of impacts more uncertain re Alt 2.	<b>Neutral.</b> Trawl gear interaction in Area currently low.	<b>Neutral</b> re Alt 2. Sectors could still benefit from annual exemptions.
	<b>Alternative 2</b> (establish in FMP)	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor.	<b>Uncertain</b> but minor.	<b>Positive</b> re Alt. 1; <b>neutral</b> re status quo sector exemption.	<b>Neutral.</b> Trawl gear interaction in Area currently low.	<b>Positive to neutral</b> re Alt 1.
	<i>Monitoring</i> Option A (status quo observer coverage)	<b>Neutral</b> re Alt. 1; <b>positive</b> re Option B.	<b>Neutral</b> re Alt. 1; <b>positive</b> re Option B.	<b>Negative</b> re Option B.	<b>Neutral.</b> Trawl gear interaction in Area currently low.	<b>Low positive</b> re Option B.
	Alternative 2, <i>Monitoring</i> Option B (100% observed)	<b>Negative</b> re Alt. 1 and Option A.	<b>Negative</b> re Alt. 1 and Option A.	<b>Neutral</b> re status quo sector exemption; <b>positive</b> re Option A.	<b>Neutral.</b> Trawl gear interaction in Area currently low.	<b>Low negative</b> re Alt. 1 and Option A.