

**New England Fishery Management Council**

**Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP)**

Meeting by Webinar

September 22, 2021

**DRAFT MOTIONS**

**Attendance**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	

*Meeting started at 1 pm.*

**Framework Adjustment 63**

**Motion 1: Goethel/Odell**

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to add an alternative under the default specification process with a:

9 months duration, 75% rollover of the previous year's specifications, no holdback provision, and 2-year US/CA TACs.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Ben Martens (Chair)	X		
Jackie Odell (Vice-Chair)		X	
Bonnie Brady			X
Gib Brogan			X
David Goethel	X		
Maggie Raymond	X		
Hank Soule		X	

*Motion 1 carried 3/2/2.*

**Motion 2:** Raymond/Goethel

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to add an alternative under the default specification process with a:

6 months duration, 75% rollover of the previous year’s specifications, no holdback provision, and 2-year US/CA TACs.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Ben Martens (Chair)			
Jackie Odell (Vice-Chair)	X		
Bonnie Brady	X		
Gib Brogan			X
David Goethel	X		
Maggie Raymond	X		
Hank Soule	X		

Motion 2 carried 5/0/1.

**Motion 3:** Soule/Raymond

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to add an alternative under the default specification process with a:

4 months duration, 75% rollover of the previous year’s specifications, no holdback provision, and 2-year US/CA TACs.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Ben Martens (Chair)			
Jackie Odell (Vice-Chair)	X		
Bonnie Brady	X		
Cassie Canastra	X		
Gib Brogan			X
David Goethel	X		
Maggie Raymond	X		
Hank Soule	X		

Motion 3 carried 6/0/1

**Motion 4: Odell/Raymond**

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that due to the potential outcome of the pending 2021 Management Track for GB cod, GB cod be considered as a priority under Framework Adjustment 63 under additional measures to promote stock rebuilding with a specific focus on recreational measures to rebuild cod.

*Rationale:*

- The GAP discussed the potential outcome and ramifications of the GB cod assessment, which included the recreational measures likely not being reconsidered under the new assessment unless specified under FW 63.
- A final 2021 Management Track Report is not yet available, likely not available until the SSC Meeting in October, but the PlanBSmooth assessment approach is calculating a much lower ABC than anticipated.
- When coupled with the TMGC negotiated GB cod east for 2022, there is concern a significant reduction in the west may likely occur.
- Unfortunately, the release of this assessment information will not be made available until a subsequent GAP / Committee meeting (November) with the final Council vote on Framework 63 scheduled for the Council’s December meeting.
- Concerns on the timing of Council taking final action, Agency rule-making and default specifications has been an ongoing discussion and has been prioritized measure under Framework 63.
- It seems prudent to be proactive now and not wait until the final release of information when there will be reportedly no time to problem solve.
- A Research Track for Atlantic cod is in the process of being finalized, with final results expected in 2023. Until such time as a more thorough assessment process occurs and this assessment can better reflect fishery dependent data and research at large, the PlanBSmooth is the assessment approach followed – and GB cod will have a very low ABC set under Framework 63 for 2022 and 2023 that will be detrimental to the fishery at large.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Ben Martens (Chair)			
Jackie Odell (Vice-Chair)	X		
Bonnie Brady	X		
Cassie Canastra	X		
Gib Brogan ( <i>out of room</i> )			
David Goethel	X		
Maggie Raymond	X		
Hank Soule	X		

Motion 4 carried 6/0/0.

**2022 Possible Priorities**

**Motion 5: Raymond/Canastra**

The GAP recommends that the Committee agree to the following priority: as a first step in evaluating alternative control rules for groundfish, the PDT should develop explicit criteria for the use of the constant ABC approach as candidates for OFLs/ABC's, including rationale for holding the lowest projection constant. The criteria developed will be approved by the Council and provided to the SSC. The criteria can be used by the SSC until the Council completes its multi-year priority to address revised control rules for groundfish.

*Rationale:*

- 1) The control rule is currently silent on criteria for use of the constant ABC approach.
- 2) In November 2019, the Groundfish committee passed a unanimous motion to include as a 2020 priority a task for the PDT to develop explicit criteria on the use of the constant ABC approach.
- 3) The SSC has requested clear guidance on the use of the constant ABC approach. Some was provided in a recent memo to the SSC Chair in support of the December 2019 Council motion to remand the ABC recommendations for plaice and both haddock stocks. However, despite the Char's memo no explicit criteria has yet been established.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Ben Martens (Chair)			
Jackie Odell (Vice-Chair)	X		
Bonnie Brady	X		
Cassie Canastra	X		
Gib Brogan		X	
David Goethel	X		
Maggie Raymond	X		
Hank Soule	X		

Motion *carried* 6/1/0.

**Motion 6:** Raymond/Brady

The GAP supports the priority suggested by the Groundfish Committee on August 18, 2021:

Develop a protocol for timely review and revision, as appropriate, of biological reference points relative to prevailing environmental conditions.

*Rationale:* By way of example, lack of progress on rebuilding SNE winter flounder is not impeded by fishing mortality, so is likely impeded by prevailing environmental conditions. Additional restrictions on fishing are not likely to improve stock status, therefore it is prudent to review and possibly revise the biological reference points for this stock and others under prevailing environmental conditions.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Ben Martens (Chair)			
Jackie Odell (Vice-Chair)	X		
Bonnie Brady	X		
Cassie Canastra	X		
Gib Brogan		X	
David Goethel	X		
Maggie Raymond	X		
Hank Soule	X		

Motion 6 carried 6/1/0.

**Motion 7:** Martens/Goethel

The GAP supports the priority suggested by the Groundfish Committee on August 18, 2021, with a revision to include sector and common pool

Examine vessel upgrade restrictions for horsepower and length for groundfish vessels [possible white paper]

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Ben Martens (Chair)			
Jackie Odell (Vice-Chair) <i>out of room</i>			
Bonnie Brady	X		
Cassie Canastra	X		
Gib Brogan	X		
David Goethel	X		
Maggie Raymond		X	
Hank Soule	X		

Motion 7 carried 5/1/0

**Motion 8:** Soule/Raymond

The GAP supports the priority suggested by the Groundfish Committee on August 18, 2021:

Develop a recreational angler permit with reporting requirements for cod

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Ben Martens (Chair)			
Jackie Odell (Vice-Chair) <i>out of room</i>			
Bonnie Brady	X		
Cassie Canastra	X		
Gib Brogan	X		
David Goethel	X		
Maggie Raymond	X		
Hank Soule	X		

Motion 8 *carried* 6/0/0.

*Meeting ended at 4:26 pm.*