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# CORRESPONDENCE





New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

March 19, 2019

Mr. Michael Pentony  
Greater Atlantic Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

Today, my staff electronically sent a formal submission of Framework Adjustment 58 to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan, including the Environmental Assessment and associated Appendices to your staff in the Sustainable Fisheries Division at the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office.

After reviewing the comments received by my staff on March 8, 2019 on the preliminary submission sent on February 1, 2019, the framework document has been updated to incorporate the changes requested as well as those indicated in our preliminary submission letter.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281 – 9315

[www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov)  
Date Issued:3/12/2019

## Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Possession and Trip Limit Increase

for Gulf of Maine Cod and Witch Flounder

*Effective Date: March 13, 2019, through April 30, 2019*

Effective at 0001 hours on March 13, 2019, the possession and trip limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and witch flounder are increased, as summarized in the table below, for the remainder of the 2018 fishing year, through April 30, 2019.

Stock	Permit	Current	New
GOM cod	A Days-at-Sea (DAS)	50 lb per DAS, up to 100 lb per trip	100 lb per DAS, up to 200 lb per trip
	Handgear A	50 lb per trip	100 lb per trip
	Handgear B	25 lb per trip	25 lb per trip
	Small Vessel Category*	50 lb per trip	100 lb trip
Witch flounder	A DAS	400 lb per trip	600 lb per trip
	Handgear A		
	Handgear B		
	Small Vessel Category*		

\*The Small Vessel Category trip limit of 300 lb of cod, yellowtail flounder, and haddock combined remains in place.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
<b>Why is this action being taken?</b>	We are increasing the possession and trip limits to provide additional fishing opportunities and facilitate harvest of the quota for GOM cod and witch flounder.
<b>How much of the quota has been caught?</b>	Based on recent catch information, only 44.9 percent of the GOM cod annual quota has been caught, and only 28.2 percent of the witch flounder annual quota has been caught. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at <a href="http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/">http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/</a> .
<b>Is there a chance that the trip limit will go back down?</b>	We will set initial trip limits for the 2019 fishing year beginning on May 1, 2019, in a separate upcoming action based on the final annual catch limits approved. More information on the proposed 2019 trip limits will be made available here: <a href="http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/">http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/</a> .
<b>What happens if the Trimester TAC is Underharvested?</b>	Any unused portion of the Trimester 1 or Trimester 2 TAC for these stocks are carried forward to the following trimester. No unused portion of the total annual quota may be carried over to the following fishing year.

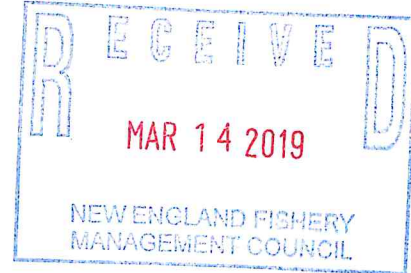
*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

**MAR - 8 2019**

Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street, Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950



RE: Comments on Framework Adjustment 58 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan

Dear Tom:

We completed our review of the draft Framework 58 document that the Council submitted on February 1, 2019. Attached are substantive comments that must be addressed to ensure the document is consistent with applicable law, as well as suggestions that may clarify the text and improve the document. Our staffs have already discussed the attached comments and have coordinated on how to incorporate the necessary changes. If you have additional questions on the comments provided, or on the review of Framework 58, please contact Mark Grant at (978) 281-9145. We appreciate your quick turnaround of this document, given the compressed timeline for this action.

Sincerely,

*for* Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure





Framework Adjustment 58 EA Comments

Section	Page	Comment	Type
Global		<p>Please update the scallop impacts discussion in light of the recent changes to the Scallop FMP AM for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder made by scallop Framework 29.</p>	Substantive
Global (e.g., Executive Summary, 8.1.3.3		<p>Please update habitat impacts to reference Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2, rather than Amendment 13. Here is some example text: "The area affected by the proposed action in the Northeast multispecies fishery has been identified as EFH for species managed under the following FMPs: Northeast Multispecies; Atlantic Sea Scallop; Monkfish; Atlantic Herring; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; Squid, Atlantic Mackerel, and Butterfish; Spiny Dogfish; Tilefish; Deep-Sea Red Crab; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; Atlantic Bluefish; Northeast Skates; Atlantic Billfish; and Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks. Analysis described in the Framework 58 EA demonstrates that the overall habitat impacts of all of the measures combined in this proposed action are unlikely to have more than minimal adverse impacts on EFH and are expected to have neutral impacts relative to the baseline habitat protections established under Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2 (OHA2). As such, additional measures to mitigate or minimize adverse effects of the multispecies fishery on EFH beyond those established under OHA2 are not necessary. "</p>	Substantive
Global		<p>We suggest clarifying in the document that the Council is choosing to revise, rather than end, the rebuilding plan for Georges Bank winter flounder as a precaution because the stock is now approaching an overfished condition, not because it was determined to be making inadequate rebuilding progress.</p>	Suggestion
1	3-7	<p>Please revise the executive summary to match any changes in the document.</p>	Substantive

Framework Adjustment 58 EA Comments

		<p>Please revise the Purpose and Need for the Action to clarify that the purpose is to “revise or establish rebuilding plans for several groundfish stocks, set specifications for U.S./Canada stocks, and adjust management measures for commercial fisheries that catch groundfish stocks <i>while meeting regulatory requirements</i>. Please clarify that <i>the need for the action is to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the commercial and recreational fishery consistent with the status of stocks and the requirements of the M-S Act of 2006, and to provide additional flexibility within the management system in the face of changing regulations.</i>”</p>	
3.2	24		Substantive
4.0	27	<p>We suggest clarifying that the framework establishes a <i>new</i> rebuilding plan for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, rather than revising an existing rebuilding plan. This stock was previously rebuilt, but was determined to now be overfished and subject to overfishing based on the 2015 operational assessment.</p>	Suggestion
4.1.1	28	<p>Move the NS 1 guidance about determining <math>T_{max}</math> when <math>T_{min}</math> is greater than 10 years to page 27 as part of the definition of <math>T_{max}</math>.</p>	Suggestion
Global (e.g., 4.1.1)		<p>When possible, please include the probability of achieving <math>B_{msy}</math> in the preferred alternative text for rebuilding plans.</p>	Suggestion
Global (e.g., 4.1.1)		<p>In the rationale for rebuilding plans, briefly explain how the probability of achieving <math>B_{msy}</math> is derived.</p>	Substantive
Global (e.g., 4.1.1)		<p>Please expand the rationale for the rebuilding plans for stocks without projections to explain why the Council's preferred alternative uses a <math>T_{target}</math> of 10 years.</p>	Substantive
Global (e.g., 4.1.2)		<p>For clarity, please insert the word “new” before FY 2019 quotas when discussing the quotas proposed by Framework 58.</p>	Suggestion
Global (e.g., 4.2)		<p>Please clarify that the minimum size exemption applies to any <i>trip</i> exclusively fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area, and only applies to species managed under the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.</p>	Substantive



Framework Adjustment 58 EA Comments

Global (e.g., 4.3)	<p>Please expand the rationale provided for the temporary change to the trigger for the scallop fishery AM for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. Here is suggested text: "This measure continues to meet conservation objectives, provides an incentive to avoid yellowtail flounder, and corrects the cause of an overage because the AM will still be triggered if the ACL is exceeded."</p>	Suggestion	
6.1.4	<p>The text regarding EFH designations should be updated to match Table 8 by referring to all species managed by the NEFMC and MAFMC. Please remove the sentence regarding the mapper being updated as that has been completed and the mapper is now up to date.</p>	Substantive	
Table 8	<p>Please revise the table caption to remove temperature and salinity because that information is not contained in the table.</p>	Suggestion	
Global (e.g., 6.2)	<p>When discussing stock status, please clarify that the official legal stock status determinations made by NMFS are in Table 87 and differ from the determinations from assessments listed in Table 10.</p>	Substantive	
6.6.1	111	<p>We suggest clarifying, or adding text explaining, that "groundfish limited access eligibilities" includes CPH as well as permits issued to vessels.</p>	Suggestion
Global (e.g., 7.1.1)	<p>When discussing the impacts of rebuilding plan alternatives, please explain how the current rebuilding plans (No Action) would affect the stock, not just in comparison to the other alternatives. For example, would the stock be expected to rebuild or decline under the current rebuilding plan?</p>	Substantive	
Global (e.g., 7.1.1.1.1)	<p>When discussing the impacts of rebuilding plans, please remove the statement, "It is difficult to assess the potential biological impacts of the No Action, relative to the alternatives under consideration, because it is unknown how the No Action alternative will be implemented."</p>	Suggestion	
Global (e.g., 7.1.2.1)	<p>Please make some conclusions about how the exemption from the U.S. domestic minimum fish sizes will affect the NAFO stocks. Even though we do not manage the NAFO stocks, NEPA requires we analyze the impact.</p>	Substantive	

Framework Adjustment 58 EA Comments

Global (e.g., 7.2)		When discussing the impacts of rebuilding plan alternatives, please indicate that the current management strategy would continue under the no action alternative.	Substantive
7.2.1.1.1	200	Please change the conclusion about EFH impacts from "a larger magnitude of negative EFH impacts" to "low negative EFH impacts as the current management strategy would continue."	Substantive
7.4.1.1.2	223	Please revise text discussion of price. The estimated NPV for all yellowtail flounder alternatives was based on a linear regression of yellowtail prices on quantities supplied as shown in Figure 24. The approach is valid, but the simple price regression has no explanatory power with an r-square of 0.00283. This means that the predicted price using the regression result would be no different than the simple average price.	Substantive
8.0	285	In the response to question 5, we suggest adding the exemption for trips fishing exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area.	Suggestion
8.1.3.4	291	We suggest replacing the word 'noticeable' with 'substantial' when referring to habitat impacts.	Suggestion
8.2.2	295	In the response to question 11 of the FONSI, replace "protected species" with "marine mammals" and delete paragraphs 2 and 3. This question only applies to marine mammals and not to animals listed under the Endangered Species Act.	Substantive
8.2.2	295	We suggest adding a conclusory sentence to the revised answer. "Based on this, and the information provided in section 7.3, this action is not expected to adversely affect stocks of marine mammals as defined in the Marine Mammal Protection Act."	Suggestion



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116

John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

March 8, 2019

Mr. Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator  
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

Consistent with the consultation requirements of 50 CFR 648.89(f)(3), I am forwarding Council recommendations for proactive accountability measures (AMs) for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock for fishing year 2019. These AMs are developed by the Regional Administrator (RA) because the appropriate suite of measures (e.g., bag limit, minimum fish size, season) depends on the Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) specified for the upcoming fishing year. The RA may adjust measures to ensure the recreational fishery will achieve, but not exceed, its sub-ACLs. In addition, as part of the consultation process adopted in Framework Adjustment 57, I am also forwarding recommended recreational measures for Georges Bank cod for fishing year 2019 to achieve the target catch of 138mt. These recommendations for Georges Bank cod would remain in place until changed through a future Council action.

Typically, the Council makes recommendations to GARFO at its January Council meeting, after the Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) and Groundfish Committee review possible management measures. However, this year meetings of the RAP and Groundfish Committee were postponed because key personnel from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center were unavailable due to the partial government shutdown and as a result, necessary analyses could not be conducted. Therefore, at its January 2019 meeting, the Council authorized the Executive Committee to forward recommendations to GARFO.

The Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) met on Feb. 22, 2019 to discuss potential measures for Gulf of Maine cod, Gulf of Maine haddock, and Georges Bank cod for fishing year 2019. The RAP passed several motions that are included in the attachment. The RAP identified two alternatives that it preferred. These options were not analyzed until after the RAP meeting, which is why the RAP included two alternatives.

- Option 6A, the RAP's primary recommendation:

- Gulf of Maine haddock: 15-inch minimum fish size, season open year-round season, and a 15 fish bag limit, and
- Gulf of Maine cod: 19-inch minimum fish size, season open April and August, and a 1-fish bag limit
- Option 6B, an alternative recommended if analyses showed that Option 6A did not meet mortality objectives.
  - Gulf of Maine haddock: 15-inch minimum fish size, season open year-round, and a 15-fish bag limit, and
  - Gulf of Maine cod: 21-inch minimum fish size, season open April and August, 1-fish bag limit

Both of these options addressed several important RAP concerns. There was strong interest in allowing possession of cod, and doing so at different times of the year to reflect the preferences of the different components of the fishery. The low cod possession limit was chosen in part to facilitate year-round access to haddock and also to minimize cod mortality. Option 6B increased the minimum size of cod in order to reduce cod mortality, if analysis of Option 6A showed this was necessary. Subsequent analyses show that both of these options would meet mortality objectives.

In addition to these specific options, the RAP also emphasized that its intent was to allow possession of one Gulf of Maine cod for some portion of the year. For GB cod, the RAP recommended decreasing the minimum size to 19 inches and retaining the 10 fish bag limit for all fishing modes.

The Groundfish Committee discussed but did not fully adopt the RAP's recommendations on Feb. 26, 2019. For GOM cod and haddock, the Committee passed the following motion:

**Motion:** The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council, for fishing year 2019 management measures:

- Gulf of Maine haddock: a 17-inch minimum fish size, a 15-fish bag limit, and an open season of May 1 to February 28 then open again April 15 to April 30 (i.e., a closed season March 1 to April 14), and
- Gulf of Maine cod: a 21-inch minimum fish size, a 1-fish bag limit, and an open season of September 15 to September 30 and then open again April 15 to April 30 (i.e., a closed season May 1 to September 14 and then closed again October 1 to April 14).

Groundfish Committee motion *carried* 7/0/2.

The Committee recommendation provides an opportunity to land cod at two different times of the year but for a shorter period than recommended by the RAP. The Committee also adopted the 21-inch cod size recommended by the RAP for Option 6B. In addition, the Committee recommendation would prohibit retention of haddock for a month and a half in the spring.

The Groundfish Committee considered all of the available information from the NEFSC, PDT, and RAP in its recommendation to the Council. The Committee raised concerns about the uncertainty in the data and recreational measures model runs and past model performance. First, for GOM cod and GOM haddock the input data was from years when cod possession was prohibited. They felt these catch and effort inputs to the model may underestimate what could be expected if cod can be retained for two months. Second, the Committee felt that continuing the haddock March and early April closure was important to reduce cod bycatch. Third, the Committee considered the RAP's recommendation that keeping cod in a split season was important to the advisors to allow for local variations in fishing activity. The Committee adopted a recommendation for two-week openings in April and September to reduce the likelihood that cod would once again be exceeded while providing an opportunity to retain cod during two different times of the year as recommended by the RAP. The Committee's approach attempts to balance as much access to haddock while being precautionary with access to cod. The last time cod was open in August and September overages occurred.

The Groundfish Committee passed the following motion for GB cod:

**Motion:** The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council, for fishing year 2019 management measures, for Georges Bank cod: a 21 inch minimum fish size and a 10 fish bag limit.

Groundfish Committee Motion *carried* 9/0/0.

The Committee considered the RAP's recommendations, recent low catches of GB cod, and the information provided by the PDT and NEFSC. A decrease in the minimum fish size from 23 to 21 inches would allow for additional landings while still staying within the catch target. The 10 fish bag limit would remain unchanged.

The Executive Committee, by correspondence, then reviewed the RAP and Committee recommendations, including several management measure scenarios, and the expected impacts of those scenarios. The Executive Committee on behalf of the Council recommends fishing year 2019 recreational management measures consistent with the Groundfish Committee's recommendations:

- Gulf of Maine cod: a 21 inch minimum fish size, a 1-fish bag limit, and an open season of an open season of September 15 to September 30 and then open again April 15 to April 30 (i.e., a closed season May 1 to September 14 and then closed again October 1 to April 14).
- Gulf of Maine haddock: 17-inch minimum fish size, a 15-fish bag limit, and an open season of May 1 to February 28 then open again April 15 to April 30 (i.e., a closed season March 1 to April 14)
- Georges Bank cod: a 21-inch minimum fish size, a 10-fish bag limit, and an open season year-round.

As a reminder at its June 2018 meeting, the Council discussed the methods (i.e., the three-year average) used by GARFO to evaluate the proposed FY2018 recreational management measures for GB cod relative to the recreational catch target. The Council expressed concern that if the same methods were used for FY2019 that low catches in recent years would be not considered and could lead to an additional year of restrictive measures even after operational issues were addressed in FY2018. The Council suggested that GARFO should consider the recent declines in recreational catches of GB cod in FY2017 and preliminary FY2018 relatively to the high catches in FY2016, such that catch reductions in the fishery have already occurred and are well-below the catch target.

The Council appreciates the continued support from GARFP staff to address information needs in advance of the RAP, Groundfish Committee, and Executive Committee meetings and for holding management measure consultations with the RAP and Committee in February as soon as possible once the partial Federal government shutdown ended.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. John Quinn  
Chairman

cc: Dr. Jon Hare, NEFSC  
Attachment: RAP Motions and rationale

**New England Fishery Management Council**  
**Recreational Advisory Panel**  
Boston, Massachusetts  
February 22, 2019

**Fishing Year 2019 Management Measures**

**Motion 1: Gibson/DePersia**

The Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) recommends to the Groundfish Committee an additional option, “option 6a”, to consider for fishing year 2019 management measures:

- Gulf of Maine haddock: 15 in minimum fish size, season open year-round season, and a 15 fish bag limit, and
- Gulf of Maine cod: 19 in minimum fish size, season open April and August, and a 1 fish bag limit

The RAP recommends “option 6a” as its primary recommendation if the model run projects achieving but not exceeding the Gulf of Maine haddock and Gulf of Maine cod sub-annual catch limits.

*Rationale:* Most of the RAP supported a 15 fish possession limit and 15 in. minimum fish size with a year-round open season for haddock, in an effort to allow anglers to more fully utilize the haddock resource. Some advisors were concerned that a 15 in. minimum fish size for haddock would result in increased discard mortality of both cod and haddock, as they felt that anglers might prefer keeping haddock that are larger than 15 in. The RAP was interested in looking at a model run with an option to allow cod possession in both the spring and the fall, in order to balance the needs of different constituents of the party/charter fishery for their customers’ preferred seasons for fishing. The RAP felt that opening April and August for a one fish cod possession limit at 19 in. minimum fish size would be a good compromise between generally lower fishing effort in April and higher effort in August, which they hope should keep catches below the sub-ACL. Some advisors said that allowing cod possession, even if only one fish, is very important to drawing in customers for charter vessels. Others felt that one fish cod possession is not enough of a draw for a fishery, and particularly given the uncertainty over cod stock status, thought the RAP should focus instead on allowing the fishery greater access to haddock.

Motion 1 *carried* 6/2/0.

**Motion 2: Pierdinock/DePersia**

The Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) recommends to the Groundfish Committee an additional option, “option 6b”, as a back-up recommendation for fishing year 2019 management measures:

- Gulf of Maine haddock: 15 in minimum fish size, season open year-round, and a 15 fish bag limit, and
- Gulf of Maine cod: 21 in. minimum fish size, season open April and August, 1 fish bag limit

The RAP recommends “Option 6b” as a back-up to “Option 6a” if the model run projects achieving but not exceeding the Gulf of Maine haddock and Gulf of Maine cod sub-annual catch limits.

*Rationale:* The RAP discussed the need for a back-up recommendation in case the model run for their preferred option would not work. Mr. Steinback indicated that raising the minimum fish size for cod from 19 in. to 21 in. should result in lower cod mortality and increase the likelihood of staying under the sub-ACL.

*Motion 2 carried 6/2/0.*

**Motion 3:** Plaia/Paquette as friendly amended

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that for fishing year 2019 management measures for Georges Bank cod: decrease the minimum fish size to 19 in and retain the 10 fish bag limit.

*Rationale:* The RAP felt that nothing in the data presented by Mr. Steinback suggested a need to restrict the GB cod fishery, given that no trips in the data had reached the 10 cod possession limit in FY 2018 and that the 2018 catches seemed to be below the catch target. They felt that lowering the minimum fish size from the current 23 in. to 21 in. would allow the fishery to achieve but not exceed the GB cod catch target. Some advisors were uncomfortable with the idea of relaxing the measures for the GB cod fishery while the GOM fishery is currently at zero possession, and a discussion on cod stock structure followed.

*Motion 3 carried 7/0/1.*

**Motion 4:** Twombly/Pierdinock

The Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) clarifies to the Groundfish Committee the intent of the RAP's proposed Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock measures is to maintain one fish cod possession for some portion of the year.

*Rationale:* The RAP clarified that while year-round haddock access is important to the fishery, the RAP's priority is to allow one fish cod possession for part of the year.

*Motion 4 carried 6/2/0.*





New England  
Fishery Management  
Council



MID-ATLANTIC  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 25, 2019

Mr. Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator  
NMFS/GARFO  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike,

The Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils request involvement in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation for the North Atlantic Right Whale.

National Marine Fisheries Service Policy Directive 01-117 describes the integration of ESA Section 7 with Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions. Ongoing discussions by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) will consider measures that could affect fixed gear fisheries managed by the two Councils. While we are members of the TRT, we request that we also be involved in the Section 7 process as authorized by the policy directive. Specific tasks that we are interested in include:

- Identifying feasible alternatives
- Providing Council views on “best scientific information available”
- Reviewing the draft Biological Opinion, including a review of draft Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPAs) or Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPMs)

Should you grant this request, please work with our Executive Directors to define the level of coordination and identify points of contact. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Luisi  
Chairman, MAFMC

Dr. John Quinn  
Chairman, NEFMC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

FEB 25 2019

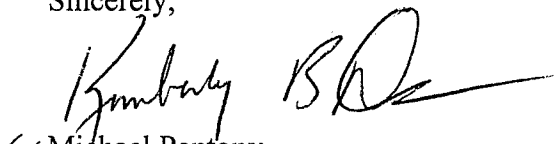
Dr. John F. Quinn, Chairman  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear John:

I am writing to inform you that Moira Kelly will be my delegate to the Council's Groundfish Committee for the February 26, 2019, meeting to develop recreational measures for the upcoming 2019 fishing year and discuss other recreational priorities. Moira is the Recreational Fisheries Coordinator for the Sustainable Fisheries Division. Sarah Heil will continue to be my delegate for future Groundfish Committee meetings.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Sarah Heil, Acting Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, at (978) 281-9257.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator

cc: Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

