

Groundfish Advisory Panel

Wakefield, MA
September 18, 2018

Meeting Motions

Framework Adjustment 58: Specifications and Management Measures

United States/Canada Total Allowable Catches

Motion 1: Goethel/Odell

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to accept the US/CA 2019 quotas for Eastern Georges Bank cod (650mt), Eastern Georges Bank haddock (30,000mt), and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder (140mt) as carefully negotiated by the US TMGC.

Motion 1 *carried* 6/0/0.

Rebuilding Strategies

Motion 2: Odell/Goethel

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates rather than fixed rebuilding time periods.

Rationale: Variability outside of the control of managers, such as changing environmental conditions, have been prevalent. Concerns are also consistently raised about the reliability of projections. Therefore, offering more rather than less flexibility is important. For example, applying 75%F_{MSY} and considering each stock on a case-by-case basis.

Motion 2 *carried* 6/0/0.

Annual Catch Limits

Motion 3: Goethel/Odell

For the stocks examined by the Plan Development Team (PDT), the Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the state waters component percentages remain at status quo and accept the PDT recommendations (Table 1 of PDT memo dated September 14, 2018) for the other components (i.e., other federal fisheries) except for the use of research catch of GOM cod in 2017 in the evaluation.

Rationale: We have a good handle on other federal fisheries - in terms of observer data and estimated catches - contributing to the other sub-component. For the state waters sub-component, we should continue to make clear that the states should control these catches as planned.

Motion 3 *carried* 6/0/0.

NAFO Regulated Area

Motion 4: Odell/Russo.

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to support in Section 4.2.1.2 Option 2: Exempt vessels fishing in NAFO waters from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes.

Rationale: To allow U.S. fishermen, including associated businesses and vessels, the opportunity to compete in a frozen H & G market consistent with the June 7, 2018 industry letter to the Council that the GAP discussed. It would be clarified in the alternative that the minimum fish sizes would be as specified in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) – which may change on an annual basis. NAFO regulations would still apply.

Motion 4 carried 6/0/0.

Amendment 23: Groundfish Monitoring

Dockside Monitoring

Motion 5: Goethel/Brady

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that dockside monitoring is a function of enforcement and should continue to be done by enforcement.

Rationale: This is an enforcement issue – landing illegal fish could occur in any fishery – not just groundfish – DSM would too narrowly focus on groundfish. More resources should be put in enforcement activities.

Motion 5 carried 3/0/3.

Motion 6: Parker/Smith

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to develop alternatives for dockside monitoring that compliment at-sea monitoring (e.g., observers/EM) to increase affordability and value for the commercial groundfish fishing industry.

Motion 6 carried 3/2/1.

Motion 7: Martens/Odell

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the Plan Development Team analyze coverage levels with and without NEFOP as a component of the target coverage level.

Motion 7 carried 5/0/1.

Initial Discussion of 2019 Priorities

Motion 8: Goethel/Brady

To add to the list for discussion, examine the issue of leased fish and possible changes to management system.

Motion 8 *carried* 4/0/2.

Motion 9: Odell/Brady

To add to the list for discussion, process for U.S./Canada quota trading.

Motion 9 *carried* 5/0/1.