

Groundfish Committee

Wakefield, MA
September 18, 2018

Meeting Motions

Framework Adjustment 58: Specifications and Management Measures

United States/Canada Total Allowable Catches

Motion 1: Alexander/McKenzie

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council 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 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee.

Motion 1 *carried* 8/0/0.

Rebuilding Strategies

Motion 2: Alexander/Etrie

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council 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.

Motion 2a: Alexander/Etrie as friendly amended

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates. To develop options for:

- Stocks with projections (Georges Bank winter flounder and Southern New England/Mid - Atlantic yellowtail flounder) at 50% F_{MSY} and 75% F_{MSY} , up to 10 years.
- Stocks without projections (witch flounder, Northern windowpane flounder, and ocean pout) at 50% F_{MSY} and 75% F_{MSY} , consider undefined.

Motion 2b: McKenzie/Pappalardo

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that revised rebuilding plans follow guidance and flexibility as prescribed by National Standard 1, specifically, to focus attention on fishing mortality rates. To develop options for:

- Stocks with projections (Georges Bank winter flounder and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder) at 25% F_{MSY} , 50% F_{MSY} and 75% F_{MSY} , up to 10 years.

- Stocks without projections (witch flounder, Northern windowpane flounder, and ocean pout) at 25% F_{MSY} , 50% F_{MSY} and 75% F_{MSY} , consider undefined.

Motion 2b to amend *failed* 1/6/1.

Motion 2a *carried* 6/1/1.

Annual Catch Limits

Motion 3: Alexander/Etrie

For the stocks examined by the Plan Development Team (PDT), the Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that the state waters sub-component percentages remain at status quo and recommend the PDT further refine the other sub-components.

Motion 3a: Griffin/XX

For the stocks examined by the Plan Development Team (PDT), the Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that the state waters sub-component percentages remain at status quo except state waters GOM cod be set at 12.5% and recommend the PDT further refine the other sub-components.

Motion 3a *failed* due to lack of second.

Motion 3 *carried* 5/0/3.

NAFO Regulated Area

Motion 4: Etrie/Alexander

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council to add 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. It would be clarified under Option 2 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* 8/0/0.

Guidance on Sector Overages

By consensus, the Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council discontinuing work on guidance on sector overages in Framework Adjustment 58.

Amendment 23: Groundfish Monitoring

Motion 5: Pappalardo/McKenzie

The Groundfish Committee reaffirms to the Council that improving catch accounting should be the primary goal of this action. The Committee does not know at this time what level to which to improve catch accounting as a standard for this action. The Committee recommends convening a “Committee of the whole session” or extra time for the discussion at the December Council meeting.

Motion 5a to amend: Mendelson/Heil

The Groundfish Committee reaffirms to the Council that improving catch accounting should be the primary goal of this action. The Committee does not know at this time what level to which to improve catch accounting as a standard for this action. The Committee recommends to the Council convening a joint Plan Development Team, Groundfish Advisory Panel, and Committee meeting to establish standards for improving catch accounting and monitoring.

Motion 5a *carried* 7/0/1.

Motion 5a as the main motion *carried* 8/0/0.