

DECISION DOCUMENT

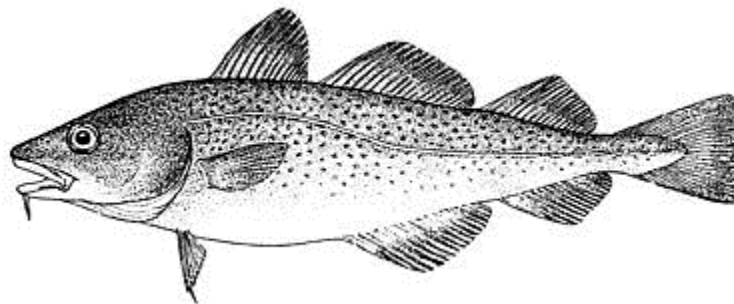
for

Amendment 18

to the

Northeast Multispecies

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)



Groundfish Committee Meeting
March 26, 2015

The following decision tables in this document appear in the same order as the sections in the Amendment 18 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, dated March 18, 2015; page numbers are provided for reference.

The document will be updated with GAP recommendations and Committee motions after the March 25 GAP and March 26 Committee meetings.

Section 4.1.3.2 – Disposition of Current Holdings in Excess of what is Allowed (p. 47-48)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one option.)
Option A	Can hold permits, but not use excess PSC.
Option B	Must divest permits with excess PSC.
Option C	Can hold permits, but must divest excess PSC.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
If one of the PSC cap Alternatives 2-6 is selected, there may be cases where the current PSC held by an individual or entity exceeds the accumulation limit. This section pertains to how to treat holdings at the implementation of this action that are in excess of a PSC accumulation limit which are not grandfathered.	
The PDT advises that additional rationale needs to be added to the DEIS for why there would be potentially different treatments of excess PSC between what is held post control date through implementation of the action (p. 47-48) versus what is acquired post-implementation (p. 49).	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<u>Impacts Analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 226 Protected resources impacts: p. 242-3 Human communities: p. 260-2	

Section 4.1.3.2 – Acquisition of Future Holdings (p. 49)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one option.)
Option A	Can hold permits, but not use excess PSC.
Option B	Can hold permits, but must divest excess PSC.
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
If one of the PSC cap Alternatives 2-6 is selected, this section pertains to the acquisition of future holdings, after A18 is implemented.	
The PDT advises that additional rationale needs to be added to the DEIS for why there would be potentially different treatments of excess PSC between what is held post control date through implementation of the action (April 7, 2011 . potentially May 1, 2016) versus what is acquired post-implementation.	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<u>Impacts Analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 226-7 Protected resources impacts: p. 242-3 Human communities: p. 262-3	

Section 4.1.3 – Limit the Holdings of PSC (p. 47-53)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative. If Alternative 4 is selected, choose one option.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	Limit Holdings of Stock-specific PSC at the Maximum Held by an Individual or Permit Bank as of the Control Date (4/7/2011; Table 9 has stock-specific caps, ranging from 5-23).
Alternative 3	Limit Holdings of Stock-Specific PSC to the Same Level for each Stock in the Fishery (15.5 for all stocks) May choose: Option A - Can hold permits, but must divest excess PSC
Alternative 4	Limit Holdings of Stock-Specific PSC by Stock Type: Choose one: 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, as in Error! Reference source not found. Option B - Limit the PSC holdings of GB cod at 30, GOM cod at 15, and pollock at 20.
Alternative 5	Limit Holdings of Stock-Specific PSC (to 30 of GB winter flounder and 20 for all other stocks)
Alternative 6	Limit Collective Holdings of PSC (to 15.5 of all the PSC for all allocated stocks; total must m232.5)
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
PDT recommends deleting Option A from Alternative 3, as it conflicts with the section %Disposition of Current Holdings in Excess of what is Allowed+(p. 47-48).	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<u>Provisions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMFS likely to apply alternatives to individuals and state-operated permit banks (p. 46). If an accumulation limit is selected, it may be modified in a future framework due to a federal permit buyback or buyout. <u>Background:</u> PSC holdings data: p. 173-80 <u>Impacts Analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 227 Protected resources impacts: p. 242-3 Human communities: p. 263-7	

Section 4.1.4 – Limit the Holdings of Permits (p. 54)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	Limit the Holdings of Permits (to no more than 5%).
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
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. 5% equates to ~70 MRIs	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<u>Provisions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMFS likely to apply alternatives to individuals and state-operated permit banks (p. 46). If an accumulation limit is selected, it may be modified in a future framework due to a federal permit buyback or buyout. <u>Background:</u> Permit holdings data: p. 172-3 <u>Impacts Analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 228-9 Protected resources impacts: p. 243 Human communities: p. 267-8	

Section 4.2.1 – Establish a Fishery for Handgear A Permits (p. 55-59)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative. If Alternative 2 is selected, choose one option within the three sections.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	<p>Establish a Fishery for Handgear A Permit.</p> <p>Discards (choose one) 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>In-season AMs (choose one) Option A . Close the HA fishery for a stock when 100% of sub-ACL is reached. Option B - Close the HA fishery for a stock when 90% of sub-ACL is reached.</p> <p>Reactive AMs (choose one) Option A . Triggered if HA sub-ACL is exceeded. Option B - Triggered if HA sub-ACL and total ACL are exceeded.</p>
Additional Decisions/Questions to Consider	
In Alternative 2, the PDT recommends revising the carryover provision to be consistent to that which the Council recommended for sectors in FW53. Current language would likely be considered invalid due to a recent court decision.	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Recommendation	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p><u>Alternative 2 provisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% carryover. • Annual sub-ACL. <p><u>Background:</u> Handgear fishing activity: p. 197-202</p> <p><u>Impacts analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 229-30 Protected resources impacts: p. 243 Human communities: p. 268-75</p>	

Section 4.2.2 – Removal of the March 1-20 HA Closure (p. 60)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	Removal of the March 1-20 HA closure.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<u>Background:</u> Handgear fishing activity: p. 197-202 <u>Impacts Analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 230 Protected resources impacts: p. 275 Human communities: p. 273	

Section 4.2.3 – Removal of Standard Fish Tote Requirement (p. 60)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	Removal of the Standard Fish Tote Requirement.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p><u>Background:</u> Handgear fishing activity: p. 197-202 Tote requirement: 202</p> <p><u>Impacts analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 231 Protected resources impacts: p. 243 Human communities: p. 276</p>	

Section 4.2.4 – Sector Exemption from VMS Requirements (p. 61)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	Sector Exemption from VMS Requirements.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
For Alternative 2, the PDT encourages the Committee to consider whether it would prefer making it a universal exemption rather than an annual request.	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p><u>Background:</u> Handgear fishing activity: p. 197-202</p> <p><u>Impacts analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 231 Protected resources impacts: p. 243 Human communities: p. 276-7</p>	

Section 4.3 – Data Confidentiality (p. 62)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	ACE Disposition Data Would be Exempt from the Confidentiality Requirement.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<u>Impacts analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 231-2 Protected resources impacts: p. 243 Human communities: p. 277-8	

Section 4.4.1 – Inshore/Offshore Gulf of Maine Boundary (p. 63-65)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative. If Alternative 2 is selected, choose one option.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	Establish an Inshore/Offshore Boundary. Boundary options (choose one) 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.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
The PDT recommends clarifying the following: A portion of Option C is in the GB Broad Stock Area. Option C could be aligned to match the GOM/GB BSA boundary for the area in question for purposes of the sub-ACL alternatives in Section 4.4.2. Alternately, a revision of Option C could be applied to all alternatives in Section 4.4.	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
Impacts analysis: Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 232-4 Protected resources impacts: p. 243-4 Human communities: p. 278-80	

Section 4.4.2 – Inshore/Offshore Gulf of Maine Cod sub-ACL (p. 66-68)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (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.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	Establish an Inshore/Offshore Commercial GOM Cod sub-ACL. Determining the sub-ACL inshore/offshore split. (choose one) Option A . Set during specifications with no pre-determined rule. 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. 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.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
The PDT feels that the rationale is weak for why inshore and offshore sub-ACL would be created. The 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. The PDT suggests articulating why the Council is considering creating a sub-ACL, to better inform the public of the Council's intent. The rationale should be linked to the goals of Amendment 18.	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
Alternative 2 provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocations are unchanged. • <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. • <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. <u>Impacts analysis</u> : Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 235-8 Protected resources impacts: p. 244-7 Human communities: p. 280-8	

Section 4.4.3 –Gulf of Maine Gear Restricted Area (p. 69)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose between Alternative 1/1A and 2. Alternative 2 may only be selected if Alternative 2 in Section 4.4.1 is selected.)
Alternative 1	No Action. Area applies to all trawls fishing under a groundfish DAS or sector trip (incl. monkfish; not shrimp).
Alternative 1A	No Action pending Habitat OA2 final action. Potentially applying the area to all bottom trawl gear.
Alternative 2	Revise Gulf of Maine Gear Restricted Area to align with the inshore/offshore GOM boundary option.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
The boundary revision in Alternative 2 would apply to all fisheries that the GOM Gear Restricted Area applies to.	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
Impacts analysis: Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 238 Protected resources impacts: p. 247-9 Human communities: p. 288-9	

Section 4.4.4 – Declaration Time Periods for the Commercial Fishery (p. 70-71)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative. Alternative 2 may only be selected if Alternative 2 in Section 4.4.1 is selected.)
Alternative 1	No Action.
Alternative 2	Annual Declaration.
Alternative 3	Seasonal Declaration (trimesters).
Alternative 4	Trip Declaration.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<u>Impacts analysis:</u> Target species impacts: to be provided Nontarget species impacts: to be provided Physical and habitat impacts: p. 239-40 Protected resources impacts: p. 249-52 Human communities: p. 289-92	

Section 4.5 – Redfish Exemption Area (p. 72)

Groundfish Committee Motions:

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Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description (Choose one alternative.)
Alternative 1	No Action. No Redfish Exemption Area. Proposed Status Quo. Proposed FY 2015-2016 Redfish Exemption Area for Sectors.
Alternative 2	Establish a Redfish Exemption Area.
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
Alternative 2 was drafted to mirror the original FY 2015 sector exemption request. The Council could revise Alternative 2 to mirror what is proposed in the <i>Federal Register</i> or create additional alternatives.	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
To be provided.	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
N/A . measures do not affect the recreational fishery.	
Other Important Considerations/DEIS References	
<p><u>Note:</u></p> <p><i>Differences between Alternative 2 and the proposed FY 2015 and 2016 Sector Rule:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative 2 would incorporate this exemption into the FMP, so that sectors would no longer need to make annual exemption requests (though they could still do so). Alternative 2 would include the common pool. Alternative 2 would not have bycatch and discarding standards. Alternative 2 could only allow fishing under this exemption if an observer is on-board (see Option B below). The boundaries of the Redfish Exemption Area are different. The proposed sector rule boundary excludes Statistical Reporting Areas 138 for the entire year and 131 in February and March. Codend mesh size may only be 5.5+, not larger sizes. <p><u>Impacts analysis:</u></p> <p>Target species impacts: to be provided</p> <p>Nontarget species impacts: to be provided</p> <p>Physical and habitat impacts: p. 240-1</p> <p>Protected resources impacts: p. 252-3</p> <p>Human communities: p. 293-5</p>	

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

Accumulation Limit Alternatives/Options	VEC: Target Species	VEC: Nontarget Species	VEC: Physical and EFH	VEC: Protected Resources	VEC: Human Communities
Section 4.1.3.2 Disposition of current holdings in excess of what is allowed 6 Option A (hold permits but not use excess PSC)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Unknown how effort would change.	Neutral Administrative.	<u>Economic</u> : Positive re Option B, low positive re Option C. <u>Social</u> : Low positive re Options B and C. Both permit holder and fishery benefit.
Section 4.1.3.2 Disposition of current holdings in excess of what is allowed 6 Option B (divest permits with excess PSC)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Unknown how effort would change.	Neutral Administrative.	<u>Economic</u> : Negative re Options A and C. <u>Social</u> : Negative re Options A and C. Permit holder loses entire permit, though fishery benefits.
Section 4.1.3.2 Disposition of current holdings in excess of what is allowed 6 Option C (hold permits but divest excess PSC)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Unknown how effort would change.	Neutral Administrative.	<u>Economic</u> : Low positive re Option A, positive re Option B. <u>Social</u> : Low positive re Option A, positive re Option B. Permit holder loses value of excess PSC when sold, though fishery benefits.
Section 4.1.3.2 Acquisition of future holdings 6 Option A (hold permits but not use excess PSC)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Unknown how effort would change, though greatest potential for change relative to Alts. 3-6.	Neutral Administrative.	<u>Economic</u> : Low positive re Option B. <u>Social</u> : Low positive re Option B. Both permit holder and fishery benefit.

Section 4.1.3.2 Acquisition of future holdings 6 Option B (hold permits but divest excess PSC)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Unknown how effort would change, though any changes expected to be minimal.	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Low negative re Option A. <i>Social:</i> Low negative re Option A. Permit holder loses value of excess PSC when sold, though fishery benefits.
Section 4.1.3.3 Limit PSC holdings 6 Alternative 2 (to control date maximum)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Unknown how effort would change, though any changes expected to be minimal.	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Low negative to negative to those constrained. <i>Social:</i> Short-term positive for fishery re Alt. 1; negative to those constrained. Long-term negative to fishery.
Section 4.1.3.4 Limit PSC holdings 6 Alternative 3 (to 15.5 for all stocks)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Unknown how effort would change, though any changes expected to be minimal.	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Short-term neutral ; low negative to negative to those constrained. <i>Social:</i> Short-term positive for fishery re Alt. 1; negative to those constrained. Long-term negative to fishery.
Section 4.1.3.4 Limit PSC holdings 6 Alternative 3, Option A (to 15.5 for all stocks; divest excess PSC)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral No divestiture, status quo effort.	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Low negative to those constrained. <i>Social:</i> Short-term positive for fishery re Alts. 1; negative to those constrained. Long-term negative to fishery. Positive for the fishery re Option B.

Section 4.1.3.5 Limit PSC holdings 6 Alternative 4, Option A (by stock type, limit for all stocks)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral No divestiture, status quo effort.	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Short-term neutral . <i>Social:</i> Short-term positive for fishery re Alt. 1; negative to those constrained. Long-term negative to fishery. Positive for the fishery re Option B.
Section 4.1.3.5 Limit PSC holdings 6 Alternative 4, Option B (by stock type, limit for 3 stocks)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral No divestiture, status quo effort.	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Short-term neutral . <i>Social:</i> Short-term positive for fishery re Alt. 1; neutral to individuals. Long-term negative to fishery. Negative for the fishery re Option B.
Section 4.1.3.6 Limit PSC holdings 6 Alternative 5 (to 30 for GB winterflounder, 20 for other stocks)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral No divestiture, status quo effort.	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Short-term neutral . <i>Social:</i> Short-term positive for fishery as a whole re Alt. 1; neutral to individuals. Long-term negative to fishery.
Section 4.1.3.7 Limit PSC holdings 6 Alternative 6 (limit collective PSC holdings)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Unknown how effort would change.	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Short-term neutral . <i>Social:</i> Short-term low positive for fishery re Alt. 1, negative re Alts 2-5. Neutral for individuals. Long-term negative to fishery.

Section 4.1.4.2 Limit permit holdings - Alternative 2 (to 5%)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Unknown how effort would change.	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Short-term neutral . <i>Social:</i> Neutral in the short-term for fishery and individuals re Alt. 1. Long-term negative to fishery.
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Table 2 - Potential impact of the Handgear A Permit Alternatives (Section 4.2)

Handgear A Alternatives/Options	VEC: Target Species	VEC: Nontarget Species	VEC: Physical and EFH	VEC: Protected Resources	VEC: Human Communities
Section 4.2.1.2 Establish HA permit fishery 6 Alternative 2 (create sub-ACL)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk to protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Neutral to low positive . <i>Social:</i> Low positive . Increases choices for HA permit holders. Removes PSC for others and may seem to be unfair.
Section 4.2.1.2 Establish HA permit fishery 6 Alternative 2 Discards Option A (estimate annual rate and subtract from sub- ACL)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk to protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Neutral . <i>Social:</i> Negative for HA fishery participants re Option B; positive for others as it may seem more fair.
Section 4.2.1.2 Establish HA permit fishery 6 Alternative 2 Discards Option B (assume <i>de minimus</i> discards)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk to protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Neutral . <i>Social:</i> Positive for HA fishery participants re Option A; negative for others as it may seem less fair.

Section 4.2.1.2 Establish HA permit fishery 6 Alternative 2 In-season AMs Option A (close fishery when 100% is caught)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk to protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Low positive. <i>Social:</i> Positive for HA fishery participants re Option B. Re Alt. 1, neutral for HA sector members & uncertain for common pool.
Section 4.2.1.2 Establish HA permit fishery 6 Alternative 2 In-season AMs Option B (close fishery when 90% is caught)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk to protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Low negative. <i>Social:</i> Negative for HA fishery re Option A, but may better prevent overages. Re No Action, low negative for HA sector members & uncertain for common pool.
Section 4.2.1.2 Establish HA permit fishery 6 Alternative 2 Reactive AMs Option A (trigger if HA sub-ACL is exceeded)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk to protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Low negative re Option B; low positive re Alt. 1. <i>Social:</i> Low negative re Option B for HA fishery; positive for others as it may seem more fair.
Section 4.2.1.2 Establish HA permit fishery 6 Alternative 2 Reactive AMs Option B (trigger if HA sub-ACL & total ACL are exceeded)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk to protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Low positive to positive. <i>Social:</i> Low positive re Option A for HA fishery; positive for others as it may seem more fair.

Section 4.2.2.2 Remove March 1-20 HA closure - Alternative 2 (remove)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Low positive. <i>Social:</i> Neutral for current sector vessels, positive for common pool.
Section 4.2.3.2 Remove standard tote requirement - Alternative 2 (remove)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Low positive. <i>Social:</i> Positive. Improve deck operations
Section 4.2.1.2 Exempt HA permits in sectors from VMS use - Alternative 2 (exempt)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Hook gear does not generate adverse impacts to EFH.	Neutral Hook gear does not pose significant risk protected resources in the area. Protected species interactions with hook gear are rare.	<i>Economic:</i> Neutral to low positive. <i>Social:</i> Positive. Incentivize participation in sectors.

Table 3 - Potential impact of the Data Confidentiality Alternatives (Section 4.3)

Data Confidentiality Alternatives	VEC: Target Species	VEC: Nontarget Species	VEC: Physical and EFH	VEC: Protected Resources	VEC: Human Communities
Section 4.3.2 Data confidentiality - Alternative 2 (value of ACE movement would be non-confidential)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Administrative .	Neutral Administrative.	<i>Economic:</i> Uncertain, potentially low-positive. <i>Social:</i> Low positive. May help fishery-wide participation in ACE markets & ACE use; may be seen as an overreach of management.

Table 4 - Potential impact of the Inshore/Offshore Gulf of Maine Alternatives (Section 4.4)

Inshore/Offshore Alternatives/Options	VEC: Target Species	VEC: Nontarget Species	VEC: Physical and EFH	VEC: Protected Resources	VEC: Human Communities
Section 4.4.1.2 Inshore/Offshore Boundary 6 Alternative 2 Option A (@ 70°W)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Status quo effort.	Neutral Administrative.	<u>Economic</u> : Neutral . <u>Social</u> : Neutral re Alt. 1, but may be low negative .
Section 4.4.1.2 Inshore/Offshore Boundary 6 Alternative 2 Option B (@ 70°15'W)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Status quo effort.	Neutral Administrative.	<u>Economic</u> : Neutral . <u>Social</u> : Neutral re Alt. 1, but may be low negative .
Section 4.4.1.2 Inshore/Offshore Boundary 6 Alternative 2 Option C (@ 69°50'W & ME coast)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Status quo effort. Inshore are covers more EFH than Options A and B.	Neutral Administrative.	<u>Economic</u> : Neutral . <u>Social</u> : Neutral re Alt. 1, but may be low negative .
Section 4.4.2.2 Inshore/Offshore GOM cod sub-ACLs 6 Alternative 2 Option A (split set during specs)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Allocation method to be determined.	Neutral Status quo effort.	<u>Economic</u> : Negative re Alt. 1; low negative re Options B & C. <u>Social</u> : Negative re Alt. 1 & Options B & C.
Section 4.4.2.2 Inshore/Offshore GOM cod sub-ACLs 6 Alternative 2 Option B sub-Option A (split set based on last 10 years of catch)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Could be positive or negative. Potentially more positive than sub-Option B.	Neutral Status quo effort.	<u>Economic</u> : Negative re Alt. 1, low positive re Option A & B & sub-Option B. <u>Social</u> : Negative re Alt. 1, positive re Option B, negative re Option C. Positive re sub-Option B.
Section 4.4.2.2 Inshore/Offshore GOM cod sub-ACLs 6 Alternative 2 Option B sub-Option B (split set based on last 20 years of catch)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Could be positive or negative. Potentially less positive than sub-Option A.	Neutral Status quo effort.	<u>Economic</u> : Negative re Alt. 1, low negative re Option A & B & sub-Option A. <u>Social</u> : Negative re Alt. 1, positive re Option B, negative re Option C. Negative re sub-Option A.

Section 4.4.2.2 Inshore/Offshore GOM cod sub-ACLs ó Alternative 2 Option C sub-Option A (split set based on last 10 years of catch)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Could be positive or negative. Potentially more positive than sub- Option B.	Neutral Status quo effort.	<i>Economic:</i> Negative re Alt. 1, low positive re Option A; low negative re B & sub-Option B. <i>Social:</i> Negative re Alt. 1; low positive re sub-Option A; negative re Option B; positive re sub-Option B.
Section 4.4.2.2 Inshore/Offshore GOM cod sub-ACLs ó Alternative 2 Option C sub-Option B (split set based on last 20 years of catch)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Uncertain Could be positive or negative. Potentially less positive than sub- Option A.	Neutral Status quo effort.	<i>Economic:</i> Negative re Alt. 1, low positive re Option A; low negative re B; low positive re sub-Option B. <i>Social:</i> Negative re Alt. 1, low positive re sub-Option A; negative re Option B; negative re sub-Option A.
Section 4.4.3.3 GOM Gear Restricted Area ó Alternative 2 (revise to match inshore/offshore boundary)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Varies Negative re A. Reduced area. Negative re B. Reduced area. Positive re C. Increased area.	Neutral Status quo effort. No impact of roller gear size on protected resources.	<i>Economic:</i> Long-term uncertain. A ó Low positive. B ó Low positive. C ó Low negative. <i>Social:</i> Mixed. Unclear if fishery operations would substantially change. A ó Low positive for large rockhopper vessels, low negative for the fishery. B ó Positive for large rockhopper vessels, negative for the fishery. C - Negative for large rockhopper vessels, positive for the fishery.
Section 4.4.4.2	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral	Short term:	<i>Economic:</i> Negative re Alt. 1,

Declaration Time Periods 6 Alternative 2 (annual declaration)			Status quo effort.	Neutral Long-term: Low negative	3 & 4. <u>Social</u> : Negative re Alt. 1, 3 & 4.
Section 4.4.4.3 Declaration Time Periods 6 Alternative 3 (seasonal declaration)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Status quo effort.	Short term: Neutral Long-term: Low negative	<u>Economic</u> : Negative re Alt. 1 & Alt 4; positive re Alt 2. <u>Social</u> : Negative re Alt. 1 & Alt 4; positive re Alt 2.
Section 4.4.4.3 Declaration Time Periods 6 Alternative 4 (trip declaration)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Neutral Status quo effort.	Short term: Neutral Long-term: Low negative	<u>Economic</u> : Low negative re Alt. 1; positive re Alts 2 & 3. <u>Social</u> : Negative re Alt. 1; positive re Alts 2 & 3.

Table 5 - Potential impact of the Redfish Exemption Area Alternatives (Section 4.5)

Redfish Exemption Alternatives/Options	VEC: Target Species	VEC: Nontarget Species	VEC: Physical and EFH	VEC: Protected Resources	VEC: Human Communities
Section 4.5.2 Redfish Exemption Area 6 Alternative 2 Option A (status quo for observer coverage)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Positive - re No Action. Neutral - re status quo sector exemption. Negative - re Option B.	Neutral Trawl gear interaction in Area currently low.	<u>Economic</u> : Positive re Alt 1. Option A neutral re Alt. 1; low positive re Option B. <u>Social</u> : Positive re Alt 1. Option A neutral re Alt. 1; low positive re Option B.
Section 4.5.2 Redfish Exemption Area 6 Alternative 2 Option B (100% observer coverage)	[to be provided]	[to be provided]	Positive - re No Action. Neutral - re status quo sector exemption. Positive 6 re Option A.	Neutral Trawl gear interaction in Area currently low.	<u>Economic</u> : Positive re Alt 1. Option B low negative re Alt. 1 and Option A. <u>Social</u> : Positive re Alt 1. Option B low negative re Alt. 1 and Option A.