

**New England Fishery Management Council  
Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting**

By Webinar  
June 9, 2020

**Meeting Motions**

**COVID-19 Emergency Action Requests**

**Motion 1:** Odell/Raymond

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends the Committee request the Council to request that GARFO initiate an Emergency Action for the groundfish fishery in light of COVID-19 measures to include:

- 1) Allow sectors to carryover more than 10% of their unused FY2019 into FY2020 for GOM haddock, GB haddock, American plaice and witch flounder, consistent with GARFO memo to Council, dated June 3, 2020.
- 2) Request GARFO evaluate the *de minimis* carryover provision to enable sectors to use more than 1% of their FY2019 carryover of stocks without fear of triggering a pound for pound payback in FY2020. This analysis should look at all stocks with carryover.
- 3) Upon conclusion of the FY2019 reconciliation process, allow sectors who do not have the maximum allowed carryover of the stocks above to trade with sectors who do in order to allow all sectors the chance of replenishing their carryover in light of COVID-19 (within the same trading window).

*Rationale:* Reflective of the PDT memo and Agency letter regarding carryover, as a blended approach considering both options put forward by the PDT for sectors.

<b>Roll call vote for Motion #1</b>		<b>VOTE RECORD</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Ben	Martens (chair)			
Jackie	Odell	X		
Bonnie	Brady	X		
Gib	Brogan		X	
Cassie	Canastra	X		
David	Goethel	X		
Maggie	Raymond	X		
Dan	Salerno	X		
Geoffrey	Smith	X		
Hank	Soule	X		

**Motion 1** carried 8/1/0.

**Motion 2:** Odell/Soule

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends the Committee request to the Council to request that GARFO initiate an Emergency Action for the groundfish fishery in light of COVID-19 measures to immediately reinstate the Redfish Exemption Area back to the FY2019 geographic range.

*Rationale:*

- Industry has expressed great concern with the data and process used to modify the redfish exemption for the 2020 fishing year.
- These concerns are reflected in the NSC and NESSN letters under correspondence.
- These modifications have been implemented already for this fishing year.
- Since this is an Interim Final Rule, there is concern the Agency will decide not to respond - as has been the experience with past Interim Final Actions.
- The Interim Final Rule goes against the relief being considered by the Council for the groundfish fishery in light of COVID-19 and national directives to increase opportunities, not minimize opportunities, to target healthy and underutilized stocks.

<b>Roll call vote for Motion #2</b>		<b>VOTE RECORD</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Ben	Martens (chair)			
Jackie	Odell	X		
Bonnie	Brady	X		
Gib	Brogan		X	
Cassie	Canastra	X		
David	Goethel	X		
Maggie	Raymond	X		
Dan	Salerno	X		
Geoffrey	Smith		X	
Hank	Soule	X		

**Motion 2** carried 7/2/0.

**Motion 3: Raymond/Soule**

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends the Groundfish Committee request the Council to request the Regional Administrator to allow trawl fishermen, along with a requirement to fish with a Ruhle trawl, or a haddock separator trawl, or a rope trawl or other gear approved by the Regional Administrator for use in the Regular B DAS Program, to use the same mesh size as Canadian fishermen within the eastern US/CA area. Enforcement of this small mesh exemption would be administered in a similar way to the redfish exemption.

- Declare on trip start hail you might go small mesh haddock fishing in eastern US/CA area.
- Once you steam in the area you send a notice to NMFS then switch cod ends
- You must stay there for the rest of your trip (you could actually switch back to a larger mesh, but have to stay in the zone)
- Threshold limit of at least 50% haddock catch

*Rationale:* Fishermen need new fishing opportunities in order to recover from the pandemic. The Georges Bank haddock resource is grossly underutilized. US fishermen are disadvantaged in catch by using less efficient/effective gear and economically by Canadian catch of haddock shipped into US markets. Mesh size in Canada of the Cod end is 125mm sq. (4.9" sq.).

Roll call vote for Motion #3		VOTE RECORD		
First Name	Last Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Ben	Martens (chair)			
Jackie	Odell	X		
Bonnie	Brady	X		
Gib	Brogan		X	
Cassie	Canastra	X		
David	Goethel	X		
Maggie	Raymond	X		
Dan	Salerno	X		
Geoffrey	Smith		X	
Hank	Soule	X		

**Motion 3** carried 7/2/0.

**Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring**

**Motion 4:** Odell/Raymond

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that the Council schedule in-person meetings in accordance with the public hearing document list of locations and webinar meetings as public hearings for Amendment 23 over the summer and target the September 2020 Council meeting for final action. The public comment period should be extended to better align with this revised schedule.

Roll call vote for Motion #4		VOTE RECORD		
First Name	Last Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Ben	Martens (chair)			
Jackie	Odell	X		
Bonnie	Brady	X		
Gib	Brogan		X	
Cassie	Canastra	X		
David	Goethel	X		
Maggie	Raymond	X		
Dan	Salerno	X		
Geoffrey	Smith		X	
Hank	Soule	X		

**Motion 4** carried 7/2/0.

**Motion 5:** Goethel/ Brady

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that no final action on Amendment 23 be taken until at least one public hearing can be held in-person in each affected state.

Roll call vote for Motion #5		VOTE RECORD		
First Name	Last Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Ben	Martens (chair)*		X	
Jackie	Odell	X		
Bonnie	Brady	X		
Gib	Brogan		X	
Cassie	Canastra	X		
David	Goethel	X		
Maggie	Raymond			X
Dan	Salerno	X		
Geoffrey	Smith		X	
Hank	Soule		X	

**Motion 5** carried 5/4/1. (\*The AP Chair decided to vote on this motion.)

**Framework Adjustment 61**

**Motion 6:** Raymond/Soule

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee initiating Framework Adjustment 61 to include:

- 2021 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder.
- 2021-2023 specifications for roughly half of the groundfish stocks:
  - Winter flounders (GB, GOM, and SNE/MA), redfish, halibut, windowpane flounders (northern and southern), ocean pout, and wolffish.
- Other measures:
  - address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data, and
  - investigate ways to increase GB haddock utilization, including modification of gear requirements

*Rationale:* Supporting the Council’s 2020 mandatory and discretionary measures.

<b>Roll call vote for Motion #6</b>		<b>VOTE RECORD</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Ben	Martens (chair)			
Jackie	Odell	X		
Bonnie	Brady	X		
Gib	Brogan	X		
Cassie	Canastra	X		
David	Goethel	X		
Maggie	Raymond	X		
Dan	Salerno	X		
Geoffrey	Smith	X		
Hank	Soule	X		

**Motion 6** carried unanimously (9/0/0).

**Executive Order – general discussion of possible ideas (not a consensus list, rather a “brainstormed” list)**

- A list was already created with the previous EO – can we know what happening with the list? Maybe bring it forward again for discussion
- Hold seafood imported from other countries to same conservation and management standards at US seafood
- Remove AMs on southern and northern windowpane flounder – it is holding back retention of market species
- Working waterfront – flood insurance policy as a barrier to shoreside businesses
- Promote wild-harvest US seafood products
- Sectors operate more efficiently and improve access to healthy stocks (e.g., Gulf of Maine haddock)
- For sectors remove the input controls
- Basket TACs for multispecies management
- Overarching Goal of NMFS should be feeding American public
- Create Seafood marketing branch in NMFS – that encourages Americans to buy/cook American caught seafood
- To create change in MSA reauthorization to allow some of these ideas to occur
- Full funding of the at-sea monitoring program

**Other Business**

**Motion 7:** Smith/Salerno

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends the Groundfish Committee recommend that the Council request that the Northeast Fishery Science Center formally incorporate a survey of fishermen similar to the one used in the North Sea (Appendix 6 of Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group Report) to formally incorporate fishermen’s on-the-water observations into the stock assessment process

*Rationale:* Recommendation #5 of Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group Report.

<b>Roll call vote for Motion #7</b>		<b>VOTE RECORD</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Ben	Martens (chair)			
Jackie	Odell	X		
Bonnie	Brady	X		
Gib	Brogan			X
Cassie	Canastra	X		
David	Goethel	X		
Maggie	Raymond*			
Dan	Salerno	X		
Geoffrey	Smith	X		
Hank	Soule	X		

**Motion 7** carried 7/0/1. (\*one member out of the room).