

**New England Fishery Management Council
Groundfish Committee Meeting**

By Webinar
June 10, 2020

Meeting Motions

COVID-19 Commercial Fishery Impacts

Motion 1: Ware/Alexander

The Groundfish Committee recommends the Council request 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 on June 3, 2020.
- 2) Request GARFO evaluate the *de minimis* carryover provision to enable sectors to allow *de minimis* carryover of FY2019 ACE to be more than 1% of the FY2020 sector sub-ACL of stocks without fear of triggering a pound for pound payback in FY2021. 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).

Motion 1 *carried* by unanimous consent, without objection.

Motion 2: Alexander/Griffin

The Groundfish Committee tasks the Groundfish Plan Development Team to look at the data used by GARFO to modify the redfish exemption area and report back to the Council at the June Council meeting.

Motion 2 *carried* by unanimous consent, without objection.

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

Motion 3: Ware/Alexander

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council that the public comment period for Amendment 23 be extended by 60 days to allow for the scheduling of in-person public hearings (as state restrictions allow), and as a back-up webinars public hearings, in the locations listed in the public hearing document. Efforts should be made to schedule in-person public hearings as the preferred method to collect comment over webinar public hearings. Final action should be targeted for the September 2020 Council meeting.

Motion 4: Pappalardo/McKenzie
Move to table Motion 3.

Rationale: The discussion should continue and occur at the June 2020 Council meeting. A motion will be brought forward from Council members at the meeting.

Motion 4 carried by unanimous consent, without objection.

Framework Adjustment 61/Specifications

Motion 5: Griffin/Bellavance

The Groundfish Committee recommends 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. Recreational MRIP data updates include the GOM and SNE/MA winter flounder and wolffish stocks.

Roll call vote for Motion #5		VOTE RECORD		
First Name	Last Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Terry	Alexander (v. chair)			
Rick	Bellavance	X		
Pete	Christopher	X		
Megan	Ware	X		
Peter	Kendall	X		
Matt	McKenzie	X		
Melanie	Griffin	X		
John	Pappalardo	X		
Laurie	Nolan	X		
Steve	Heins	X		

Motion 5 carried unanimously 9/0/0.

Executive Order – possible items (plan to continue discussion at a future meeting)

- End illegal recreational fishing charters