

#7d

New England Fishery Management Council

Groundfish Committee

September 22, 2020

By Webinar

Meeting Motions

Amendment 23/Groundfish Committee**Motion 1:** Etrie/Ware

To refer all Groundfish Advisory Panel motions (that carried at their meeting on Sept. 21, 2020) to the full Council for discussion and consideration during their Amendment 23 deliberations.

[**NOTES:** GAP motions that carried on A23: 1, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24]

Rationale: The GAP had a robust and detailed discussion on the DEIS analysis and alternatives under consideration in Amendment 23. I anticipate we will have a robust discussion about this action at the full Council. Since there is a lot to digest, I am proposing we refer all of these motions to the full Council for discussion and consideration. My intent is that at the full Council folks can decide if they want to bring all, some or none of the GAP motions to the table for consideration.

Roll-Call Vote on Motion 1:

Terry Alexander (1st Vice-Chair)	-
Rick Bellavance (2nd Vice-Chair)	No
Pete Christopher	No
<i>Tony DiLernia</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Libby Etrie	Abstain
Mark Godfroy	No
Melanie Griffin	No
Matt McKenzie	No
John Pappalardo	No
Wes Townsend	Abstain
Megan Ware	No

Motion 1 fails 0/7/2.

Motion 2: Ware/Etrie

Move that the Groundfish Committee recommends to the full Council that the Amendment 23 DEIS be remanded back to the Groundfish Plan Development Team to complete the following analysis and tasks:

- Analyze:
 - The magnitude of less efficient trips/vessels leaving the groundfish fishery by ports and vessel size categories.
 - The solvency of different sectors in the fishery based on percent reductions in profit calculated in the DEIS.
 - The operating profit model in the DEIS to account for the economic impacts of unreported GOM cod catch.
- Provide additional background on the:
 - The review process for the calculation of the magnitude of GOM cod discards and the purpose/context of this analysis
 - The current status of the max retention model in terms of testing and approval by GARFO

Rationale: The DEIS should be as comprehensive as possible. These specific topics address areas of concern addressed in the public comment and represent areas where additional analysis, that is currently not in the document, could inform the DEIS.

For the specific analysis tasks:

- Pg 399 of the DEIS notes that “increased costs may induce higher aggregate gross revenues as fisherman with higher operating expenses to exit the fishery, freeing up ACE to be used by more efficient fisherman”; however, the DEIS does not provide greater detail on which fishermen may exit the fishery, where this fishermen are homeported, or the magnitude of this impact. If the Quota Change Model is unable to show this information at the vessel level, it would be helpful to know this at the trip level (i.e. how many less efficient trips are not being taken at a specific port)
- The DEIS provides percent reductions in profit as the result of increased ASM coverage but no context is given to determine if, or to what extent, fishermen can continue to be “in the black” for their operation. If fixed costs cannot be determined, then a range of costs should be explored to provide some context for the economic resilience of the fleet.
- If, as the DEIS suggests, GOM cod discards have not been fully reported, greater observer coverage will result in either an earlier termination to the groundfish season in GOM or drastically different fishing practices. The economic impacts of this are not shown in the DEIS.

For the additional background:

- It is unclear what level of peer review was conducted on the DEIS’s estimation of the magnitude of GOM cod discards and additional explanation is warranted (pg 300 of the DEIS)
- Additional explanation would be helpful on the status of the max retention model as an available sector tool

Roll-Call Vote on Motion 2:

Terry Alexander (1st Vice-Chair)	-
Rick Bellavance (2nd Vice-Chair)	No
Pete Christopher	No
<i>Tony DiLernia</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Libby Etrie	Yes
Mark Godfroy	No
Melanie Griffin	No
Matt McKenzie	No
John Pappalardo	No
Wes Townsend	Abstain
Megan Ware	Yes

Motion 2 *fails* 2/6/1.

Framework Adjustment 61/Specifications and Management Measures

Motion 3: Etrie/Christopher

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council approval of TMGC's recommendations on US/CA TACs for 2021:

1. GB yellowtail flounder 125mt
2. EGB haddock 14,100 mt
3. EGB cod 635 mt

Roll-Call Vote on Motion 3:

Terry Alexander (1st Vice-Chair)	-
Rick Bellavance (2nd Vice-Chair)	Yes
Pete Christopher	Yes
<i>Tony DiLernia</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Libby Etrie	Yes
Mark Godfroy	Yes
Melanie Griffin	Yes
Matt McKenzie	Yes
John Pappalardo	Yes
<i>Wes Townsend</i>	<i>Out of Room</i>
Megan Ware	Yes

Motion 3 *carried* 8/0/0.

Possible 2021 Council Priorities

Motion 4: Etrie/Ware

The Groundfish Committee recommends to the Council to add a multi-year priority that the next phase of catch share review include a thorough examination of the self-management aspects of the sector system, and describe the trends in vessels that have not left the system, but instead have become no longer active.

Roll-Call Vote on Motion 4:

Terry Alexander (1st Vice-Chair)	-
Rick Bellavance (2nd Vice-Chair)	Yes
Pete Christopher	Yes
<i>Tony DiLernia</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Libby Etrie	Yes
Mark Godfroy	Yes
Melanie Griffin	Yes
Matt McKenzie	Yes
John Pappalardo	Yes
<i>Wes Townsend</i>	<i>Out of Room</i>
Megan Ware	Yes

Motion 4 *carried 8/0/0.*