

New England Fishery Management Council

**Groundfish Advisory Panel**

Boston, MA

May 8, 2018

DRAFT Meeting Motions

**Motion 1:** Goethel/Odell

That the Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends that the Groundfish Committee have the Plan Development Team (PDT) create an option that does the following:

- 1) Requires all vessels, both common pool and sector, to register using the PTNS system to achieve the NEFOP level of coverage.
- 2) Return groundfish fishermen to the status of other Americas in our legal system of innocent until proven guilty by doing the following:
  - a. Suspend ASM and dockside monitoring for all vessels with no fishing violations or unresolved NOVAs
  - b. Instruct the PDT to work with NOAA enforcement and the Council's Enforcement Committee to create a penalty schedule of ASM and dockside monitoring percentages to be paid for by the vessels and dealer violators based on the severity of the infraction. The schedule will have a maximum penalty of 100% vessel and dealer funded monitoring, including dealer outbound shipments, for egregious violations.

Motion 1 *failed* (2/4/1).

**Motion 2:** Smith/Odell

As it relates to the proposed Amendment 23 timeline as presented, the Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee to delay the decision on the range of alternatives to at least the September Council meeting. This would allow for the alternatives to be aligned with completed Plan Development Team analyses and final reports with recommendations offered by the Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group.

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

**Motion 3:** Odell/Raymond

As it relates to Section 4.1.3.1 (Additional Options for Industry Funded Cost of Monitoring) - while the fishery continues to operate under historically low annual catch limits, the Groundfish Advisory Panel does not support approaches that would reduce quota essential to the viability of the groundfish sector management program.

Motion 3 *carried* (5/1/2).

**Motion 4:** Odell/Goethel

The Groundfish Advisory Panel is concerned that discussions and analysis surrounding improving accuracy of catch have not clearly identified the benefits (e.g. degree to which improvements to stock abundance estimates will occur) and the costs associated of doing so.

Motion 4 *carried* (5/0/1).

**Motion 5:** Odell/Goethel

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that they request the Plan Development Team under their analysis of quantifying accuracy through observer bias, review behavior of fishing vessels during fishing years 2010 to 2012 when monitoring and annual catch limits were higher in comparison to recent years.

*Rationale:* Accuracy of catch data is connected to the accuracy of biomass estimates. Significant underestimation of biomass may negatively impact accuracy. Connecting catch data to estimates of abundance may resolve issues of observer bias.

Motion 5 *carried* (5/0/1).

**Motion 6:** Odell/Goethel

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee that they request the Plan Development Team provide a stock specific analysis of the scale of missing catch (in pounds and percentages) necessary to account for the retrospective pattern on a stock by stock basis.

Motion 6 *carried* 5/0/1.