



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2021

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Council Decides Against Limited Entry for Party/Charter Component of Recreational Groundfish Fishery

The New England Fishery Management Council will not be developing a limited entry program for party/charter vessels that participate in the recreational groundfish fishery. The decision was made during the Council's [April 13-15, 2021](#) webinar meeting.

The Council debated a motion to move ahead with limited entry and thoroughly discussed the advantages and potential drawbacks of using limited entry to manage the for-hire groundfish fleet. The final vote was 7-to-7 with two abstentions. Therefore, the motion failed for lack of a majority and, as such, the Council will not pursue work on a limited entry amendment. Here is a recap of how the Council got to this point.

- The Council voted in January 2018 to ask NOAA Fisheries to publish a [revised control date](#) for the party/charter fishery. The new control date became [March 19, 2018](#), replacing March 30, 2006.
- The Council conducted [listening sessions](#) in April and May of 2019 to gauge public support for potential party/charter limited entry and then received a summery report about those sessions in December 2019.
- The Council made it a [2020 groundfish priority](#) to develop a simple strawman limited entry program for the party/charter fleet and hired a contractor to help with this work.
- The Council made it a [2021 priority](#) to receive the strawman report and decide if an amendment should be initiated.
- The Council received a [presentation](#) during its January 2021 meeting on the Party/Charter Limited Entry [Strawman Proposal](#), which was prepared by [Tidal Bay Consulting](#).
- The Council took time following its January meeting to consider feedback on the proposal and next steps before casting its deciding vote on April 15, 2021.
- Here are the April 2021 [meeting materials](#) and [audio](#) related to this discussion.
- Questions? Contact Dr. Jamie Cournane, the Council's groundfish coordinator, at (978) 465-0492 ext. 103, jcournane@nefmc.org.



A successful recreational fishing trip aboard the Lady Tracey Ann, which sails from Eastman's Docks in Seabrook, NH. The large cod were caught in May 2007 on Jeffrey's Ledge in the Gulf of Maine. – Mark Godfroy photo