

Final Motions
New England Fishery Management Council Meeting
December 2-4, 2025
Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina, Newport, RI
Hybrid meeting with remote participants

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Whiting Committee Report

1. Ms. Odell moved and Mr. Platz seconded:
to approve the Whiting Plan Development Team's (PDT) recommendation to defer application of the red hake post-season accountability measure that would otherwise be applied to the TAL trigger and possession limits in fishing year 2026. A letter should be sent to GARFO following this request.

The motion *carried* with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Spiny Dogfish Report

Framework Adjustment

Specifications for 2026-2027

2. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:
to select as the preferred alternative in Alternative Set 6 – Considers 2026-2027 Specifications: Alternative 6C Re-suspend the Council's risk policy and set 2026 and 2027 ABCs = 2025 OFL (projected and implemented) but use the assessment ratio approach for discard set-asides. This is consistent with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's recommendations.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Accountability Measures

3. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as the preferred alternative in Alternative Set 1 – Considers whether ACL paybacks should depend on biomass level: Alternative 1B Middle cautionary modified payback scaling. This is consistent with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's recommendation.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands with one abstention, Mr. Pentony (14/2/1).

4. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as the preferred alternative in Alternative Set 3 – Considers whether relaxation of ACL paybacks should depend on if stock is in a rebuilding plan or not: Alternative 3A Always pay back ACL overages fully if stock is in a rebuilding plan. This is consistent with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's recommendation.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

5. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as the preferred alternative in Alternative Set 4 – Considers whether ACL paybacks should depend on one year or an average of years: Alternative 4B Calculate paybacks based on average ACLs and average catches, and if paybacks are scaled based on biomass, use the most recent projected biomass. This is consistent with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s recommendation.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands with one abstention, Mr. Pentony (16/0/1).

6. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as the preferred alternative in Alternative Set 5 – Considers whether specifications should be modified to allow for a closure buffer of federal waters (the EEZ) at up to 105% of the landings quota: Alternative 5A Clarify that specifications can set closures of federal waters (the EEZ) at up to 105% of the landings quota when biomass is projected to be greater than 50% of the biomass target in the relevant fishing year AND SET to 105% for 2026-2027 specifications. This is consistent with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s recommendation.

The motion *failed* on a show of hands (1/16/0).

7. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Pentony seconded:
to adopt no action in Alternative Set 5.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

8. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as the preferred alternative in Alternative Set 2 – Considers whether ACL paybacks should depend on the source (catch type) of the overage: No Action/Status Quo. This is consistent with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s recommendation.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

9. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
to submit the Spiny Dogfish Framework to NOAA Fisheries.

The motion *carried* with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Scallop Committee Report

Framework 40

Action 1: Overfishing Limit and Acceptable Biological Catch

1. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.1, Alternative 4.1.2, Updated OFL (Overfishing Limit) and ABC (Acceptable Biological Catch) for FY 2026 and FY 2027, as the preferred alternative.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Action 2: Northern Gulf of Maine Management and Total Allowable Landings (TAL) Setting

2. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.2.1, Alternative 3, Set the NGOM (Northern Gulf of Maine) TAL, with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery. Set NGOM TAL at $F=0.18$ using Stellwagen, Ipswich, Jeffreys, Platts, and Machias Seal Island, as the preferred alternative.
- FY 2026 NGOM TAL would be set at 417,642 lb.
 - FY 2026 NGOM Set-Aside would be set at 372,756 lb.
 - FY 2027 NGOM Set-Aside would be set at 186,378 lb.
- 2a. Mr. Pappalardo moved to amend and Mr. Hansen seconded:
that the Council add and adopt in Section 4.2.1, Alternative 4, Set the NGOM (Northern Gulf of Maine) TAL, with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery. Set NGOM TAL at $F=0.21$ using Stellwagen, Ipswich, Jeffreys, Platts, and Machias Seal Island, as the preferred alternative.
- FY 2026 NGOM TAL would be set at 482,753lb.

Yes: Mr. Gates, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Platz, Mr. Dangelo and Mr. Alexander

No: Ms. Brawn, Ms. Zobel, Ms. Ware, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Smith and Mr. Whelan
Abstain:

The motion to amend *carried* on a roll call (11/6/0).

- 2b. The main motion as amended:
that the Council add and adopt in Section 4.2.1, Alternative 4, Set the Northern Gulf of Maine (Northern Gulf of Maine) TAL, with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery. Set NGOM TAL at $F=0.21$ using Stellwagen, Ipswich, Jeffreys, Platts, and Machias Seal Island, as the preferred alternative.
- FY 2026 NGOM TAL would be set at 482,753lb.

The main motion as amended *carried* on a show of hands (14/3/0).

Action 3: Fishery Specifications

3. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.3, Alternative 2, 34 Days-at-Sea, as the preferred alternative:
- 34 Days-at-Sea to full-time Limited Access permit holders and 13.6 days-at-sea to part-time Limited Access permit holders.
 - Closure of Area II (Closed Area II – South and Extension) and Nantucket Lightship (South and North).
 - 60-day carryover period for FY 2025 access area trips to Area I would begin on April 1. Area I would not have a delayed opening from April 1, 2026 – May 15, 2026.
- 3a. Mr. Hansen moved to amend and Mr. Platz seconded:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.3, Alternative 3, 36 Days-at-Sea, as the preferred alternative:

- 36 Days-at-Sea for full-time Limited Access permit holders (Open area F=0.36) and 14.4 Days-at-Sea to part-time Limited Access permit holders
- Closure of Area II (Closed Area II – South and Extension) and Nantucket Lightship (South and North).
- 60-day carryover period for FY 2025 access area trips to Area I would begin on April 1. Area I would not have a delayed opening from April 1, 2026 – May 15, 2026.

Yes: Mr. Alexander, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Dangelo, Mr. Platz, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen and Mr. Gates

No: Mr. Smith, Ms. Ware, Ms. Zobel and Ms. Brawn

Abstain:

The motion to amend *carried* on a roll call vote (13/4/0).

3b. The main motion as amended:

that the Council adopt in Section 4.3, Alternative 3, 36 Days-at-Sea, as the preferred alternative:

- 36 Days-at-Sea for full-time Limited Access permit holders (Open area F=0.36) and 14.4 Days-at-Sea to part-time Limited Access permit holders
- Closure of Area II (Closed Area II – South and Extension) and Nantucket Lightship (South and North).
- 60-day carryover period for FY 2025 access area trips to Area I would begin on April 1. Area I would not have a delayed opening from April 1, 2026 – May 15, 2026.

The main motion as amended *carried* on a show of hands (15/2/0).

4. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:

to submit Framework 40 to the Scallop FMP to NMFS, as modified and recommended by the Council today.

The motion *carried* with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Long-Term Strategic Plan

5. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee

that the Council accept the Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan as complete and satisfying the 2025 work priority.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Groundfish Committee Report

Transboundary Management Guidance Committee

6. Mr. Pappalardo moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:

that the Council approve the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee's recommendations for United States/Canada total allowable catches (TACs) for 2026 as:

- Eastern Georges Bank cod at a TAC of 473 mt,
- Eastern Georges Bank haddock at a TAC of 4,750 mt, and

- Georges Bank yellowtail flounder at a TAC of 57 mt.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Framework 72 / Specifications and Management Measures

Action 1 – Status Determination Criteria

7. Mr. Pappalardo moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as preferred alternative in Section 4.1 Action 1 – Status Determination Criteria: Section 4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Updated Status Determination Criteria for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Action 3 – Recreational Fishery Management Measures

8. Mr. Pappalardo moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as preferred alternative in Section 4.3 Action 3 – Recreational Fishery Management Measures: Section 4.3.2 Alternative 2 – Establish a regulatory process for the Regional Administrator to adjust recreational measures for cod and haddock.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Action 2 – Revised Specifications

9. Mr. Pappalardo moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as preferred alternative in Section 4.2 Action 2 – Revised Specifications: Section 4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications, except for the white hake specifications. This includes:
- Fishing year (FY) 2026 specifications for Georges Bank (GB) cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder,
 - FY2026-FY2030 specifications for Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine (CC/GOM) yellowtail flounder (as recommended by the Committee to set constant ABCs), Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder, GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, redfish, ocean pout, and Atlantic wolffish (refer to Table 12 in the draft Framework 72 discussion document).

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0)

10. Ms. Odell moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
that the Council:
- 1) Preliminarily, approve white hake OFLs/ABCs for FY2026-2030 as recommended by the SSC
 - 2) Request the SSC consider FY2026-2030 ABCs for white hake based on 75% Fmsy, taking into consideration the Council's Risk Policy and rebuilding plan. The Council accepts any revised SSC recommendations without discussion for adoption in Framework 72.

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Alexander, Ms. Brawn, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Zobel, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pierdinock and Mr. Platz

No: Mr. Smith, Mr. Aarrestad, Mr. Pappalardo and Mr. Pentony
Abstain: Mr. Dangelo

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote with one abstention, Mr. Dangelo (12/4/1).

11. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Ware seconded:
that the Council select as preferred in Section 4.2 Action 2 – Revised Specifications:
Section 4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications Option A – Remove the
management uncertainty buffer for sectors for white hake if the ASM target coverage
rate is set at 90% or greater for FY 2026-2030.

- 11a. Ms. Odell moved to amend and Mr. Alexander seconded:
that the Council select as preferred in Section 4.2 Action 2 – Revised Specifications:
Section 4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications, Option A – Remove the
management uncertainty buffer for sectors for white hake and redfish if the ASM
target coverage rate is set at 90% or greater for FY 2026-2030.

The motion to amend was *withdrawn* by its maker.

- 11b. The main motion:
that the Council select as preferred in Section 4.2 Action 2 – Revised Specifications:
Section 4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications Option A – Remove the
management uncertainty buffer for sectors for white hake if the ASM target coverage
rate is set at 90% or greater for FY 2026-2030.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

12. Mr. Pappalardo moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
to submit Framework Adjustment 72 to GARFO, as amended today.

The motion *carried* with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Thursday, December 4, 2025

2026 Council Priorities

1. Mr. Salerno moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:
that the Council approve the Executive Committee recommendations for 2026
priorities including amendments if any made today.
- 1a. Ms. Odell moved to amend and Mr. Alexander seconded:
to amend the Council's 2026 priority work items for Groundfish by adding a review
of white hake rebuilding plan and reference points as a multiyear priority.

The motion to *amend* carried by unanimous consent.

- 1b. Ms. Ware moved to amend and Mr. Smith seconded:
to amend the Council's 2026 priority work items for scallops by adding Ref #SC8 -
develop sub-management units in NGOM (combine with SC3).

The motion to *amend* carried by unanimous consent.

- 1c. Mr. Hansen moved to amend and Mr. Pentony seconded:
to amend the Council's 2026 priority work items for Scallops by adding Ref #SC10
– restart development of a scallop rotational area on the Northern Edge.

Yes: Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz and Mr. Alexander

No: Mr. Arrestad, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Zobel, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Smith, Mr. Dangelo and Mr. Whelan

Abstain:

The motion to amend *failed* on a roll call vote (5/12/0).

- 1d. Mr. Pappalardo moved to amend and Mr. Smith seconded:
to amend the Council's 2026 priority work items for herring – Ref #HE1 to include
River Herring and Shad Management Measures.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands with one abstention, Mr. Pentony (15/0/1).

- 1e. Mr. Platz moved to amend and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:
to amend the Council's 2026 priority work items for Monkfish/Skates by dropping
Ref #M/SK2 (to explore options for skate possession limits based on DAS charged
to replace trip-based limits) and Ref #M/SK4 (to Develop a 3-season approach for
the skate wing fishery) to prioritize Ref #M/SK9 to scope for an IFQ program for
monkfish and/or skate wing fisheries.

The motion to amend *carried* on a show of hands with one abstention, Ms. Ware
(14/1/1).

- 1f. Ms. Griffin moved to amend and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:
to amend the Council's 2026 priority work items for IRA 3 to add the following
language: "evaluate possible management approaches for cusk to inform ESA listing
review".

The motion to amend *carried* by unanimous consent.

- 1g. Mr. Platz moved to amend and Mr. Olszewski seconded:
to amend the Council's 2026 priority work items for EO14276 by adding Ref #EO6 -
revisions to the Southern New England Spiny Dogfish Gillnet Exemption Area.

The motion to amend *failed* on a show of hands with one abstention, Mr. Hansen
(6/9/1).

- 1h. Mr. Pappalardo moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
to amend the Council's 2026 priority work items for EO14276 to remove Ref #EO3
- Monkfish management modifications.

The motion to amend *carried* by unanimous consent.

- 1i. Mr. Alexander moved to amend and Ms. Ware seconded:
to amend the Council's 2026 priority work items for Inter-Agency Ref #IA6 -
International Fisheries Management (US/CA TMGC, Steering Committee, ICCAT,
HMS, NAFO) to revisit TMGC biomass apportionment methodology.

The motion to amend *carried* on a show of hands (15/1/0).

- 1j. Main motion as amended:
that the Council approve the Executive Committee recommendations for 2026 priorities as amended today to include the following:
- Groundfish - to add a review of white hake rebuilding plan and reference points as a multiyear priority.
 - Scallops – to add Ref # SC8 - develop sub-management units in NGOM (combine with SC3).
 - Herring – to add to Ref# HE1 - to include River Herring and Shad Management Measures
 - Skates/Monkfish - drop Ref # M/SK2 (to explore options for skate possession limits based on DAS charged to replace trip-based limits) and Ref # M/SK4 (to Develop a 3-season approach for the skate wing fishery) to prioritize Ref # M/SK9 to scope for an IFQ program for monkfish and/or skate wing fisheries.
 - IRA 3 - to add the following language: “evaluate possible management approaches for cusk to inform ESA listing review”.
 - Inter-Agency – to add to Ref #IA6 - International Fisheries Management (US/CA TMGC, Steering Committee, ICCAT, HMS, NAFO) to revisit TMGC biomass apportionment methodology
 - EO14276 - to remove Ref #EO3 - Monkfish management modifications

The main motion as amended *carried* by unanimous consent.